

**Speeding up judicial process**

†723. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is contemplating any plan to address people's grievances against slow paced justice delivery system in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government is considering allowing e-petitions and e-filing of cases as part of an effort to speed up judicial processes and to modernize judicial systems through digital technology, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA) :  
(a) and (b) The overall goal of the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms is timely delivery of justice and enhancing accountability through structural changes. The National Mission was set up in August, 2011 and has a time frame of five years. The major initiative under the National Mission relate to Infrastructure Development for Subordinate Judiciary and Computerization of Courts. The Central Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of ₹2,198 crores to State Governments and Union Territories for upgradation/construction of court complexes and residential units for judicial officers in the last three years. In order to reduce government litigation in courts the Central Government has encouraged the States to notify their litigation policies which contain provisions for weeding out infructuous cases and promote dispute resolution through alternative mechanisms. The Government has also identified the areas prone to excessive litigation for adopting suitable policy and legislative measures to curb such litigation.

The e-Courts Mission Mode Project of the Government targets computerisation of 14,249 district and subordinate courts in the country by March, 2015. The next phase of the project envisages further enhancement of ICT enablement of courts through initiatives such as e-filing of cases, e-payment of court fees etc, SMS and mobile application based service delivery and information kiosks in Court Complexes.

**Pending court cases**

724. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending in courts in the country, State-wise, including Odisha and Court-wise;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Law Commission has submitted its report wherein certain suggestions to clear the backlog of pending cases have been given, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of other recommendations / suggestions made by the Law Commission in their report;

(d) whether Government has accepted the recommendations of the Law Commission; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) to (e) Data on pendency of cases is maintained by the High Courts and Supreme Court. As per information available, details of pending cases including cases pending in High Court and the District and Subordinate Courts in the State of Odisha are given in the Statement (*See below*).

The Supreme Court, in its order dated 1st February, 2012, in the case of *Imtiyaz Ahmed versus State of Uttar Pradesh and Others*, *inter-alia* asked the Law Commission of India to evolve a method for scientific assessment of the number of additional courts to clear the backlog of cases. The Law Commission, in its 245th Report, titled “Arrears and Backlog Creating Additional Judicial (wo) manpower”, *inter-alia*, recommended ‘Rate of Disposal Method’ for calculating adequate judge strength for District and Subordinate Courts. The other recommendations of the Law Commission in the Report include increasing the retirement age of judges of subordinate courts, creation of special morning and evening courts for traffic/police challan cases, provision of adequate staff and infrastructure for the working of additional courts and enabling uniform data collection and data management method by High Courts in order to ensure transparency and to facilitate data based policy prescriptions for the Judicial System.

As the subject matter of creation and filling up of posts in subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of State Governments and High Courts, the recommendations of the Law Commission have been forwarded to them. Supreme Court has directed State Governments and High Courts concerned to file their response in the matter before them.

***Statement***

*Pendency in High Courts in the year 2013*

Sl.No.	Name of High Court	2013 Pendency
1.	Allahabad	1043398
2.	Andhra Pradesh	232459
3.	Bombay	349837

Sl.No.	Name of High Court	2013 Pendency
4.	Calcutta	280006
5.	Delhi	64652
6.	Gujarat	91953
7.	Gauhati	40912
8.	Himachal Pradesh	60073
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	93038
10.	Karnataka	196972
11.	Kerala	132159
12.	Madras	557479
13.	Madhya Pradesh	261611
14.	Orissa	206822
15.	Patna	132155
16.	Punjab and Haryana	262760
17.	Rajasthan	307640
18.	Sikkim	120
19.	Uttarakhand	20686
20.	Chhattisgarh	44139
21.	Jharkhand	72958
22.	Tripura	5834
23.	Manipur	3853
24.	Meghalaya	1189
	TOTAL	4462705

*Pendency of cases in District and Subordinate Courts in the year 2013*

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2013 Pendency
1.	Andhra Pradesh	983882
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6076
3.	Assam	248472
4.	Bihar	1807782
5.	Chhattisgarh	269116

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2013 Pendency
6.	Goa	31703
7.	Gujarat	2226371
8.	Haryana	555669
9.	Himachal Pradesh	258791
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	175647
11.	Jharkhand	307853
12.	Karnataka	1190335
13.	Kerala	1354379
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1097658
15.	Maharashtra	2884398
16.	Manipur	12907
17.	Meghalaya	4441
18.	Mizoram	3100
19.	Nagaland	3318
20.	Orissa	1134448
21.	Punjab	523759
22.	Rajasthan	1451881
23.	Sikkim	845
24.	Tamil Nadu	1288315
25.	Tripura	69715
26.	Uttar Pradesh	5604985
27.	Uttarakhand	152654
28.	West Bengal and A and N Island	2572667
29.	Chandigarh	59712
30.	D and N Haveli and Daman and Diu	4712
31.	Delhi	522167
32.	Lakshadweep	354
33.	Pondicherry	30749
	TOTAL	26838861