

Regional Benches of Supreme Court

†749. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that lakhs of people in the country have to travel from remote areas to New Delhi to file appeals in the Supreme Court against the verdicts/judgements of High Courts of States;

(b) if so, whether Government, on advice of the Supreme Court, will take initiative *de novo* to establish regional Benches of the Supreme Court in four regions of the country in view of various representations, recommendations of Law Commission and in the interest of general public; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to Article 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

Representations have been received from time to time from various quarters for establishment of Benches of Supreme Court in various parts of the country. The Law Commission, in its 229th Report had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, the Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, the Eastern region at Kolkata and the Western region at Mumbai.

The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who has informed that after consideration of the matter, the Full Court in its meeting held on 18th February, 2010, found no justification for setting up of benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

A Writ Petition (Civil) No. 36 of 2016, filed in the Supreme Court on the subject of establishment of National Court of Appeal, is *sub-judice*.

Computerization of courts

750. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of courts computerized in the country till date the details thereof with special emphasis to the courts in NE States;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of Judicial Service Centres currently being operated by the Ministry and out of them, the number of those constructed in the last three years;

(c) whether all the court proceedings, judgments and information on pending cases are made online by the courts in the country including High Courts, District and Subordinate Courts, if so the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated by the Ministry for computerization of courts in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Government of India is implementing the eCourts Mission Mode Project for computerization of district and subordinate courts. As per information provided by eCommittee of Supreme Court of India, funds have been released to 16089 courts for computerization till date. The High Court-wise details of such district and subordinate courts, including the courts in NE States are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	No. of computerised courts
1.	Allahabad	1733
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1078
3.	Bombay	2079
4.	Calcutta	772
5.	Chhattisgarh	340
6.	Delhi	427
7.	Gauhati	442
8.	Gujarat	1108
9.	Himachal Pradesh	118
10.	Jabalpur	1203
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	218
12.	Jharkhand	351
13.	Jodhpur	978
14.	Karnataka	897

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	No. of computerised courts
15.	Kerala	486
16.	Madras	988
17.	Odisha	509
18.	Patna	1025
19.	Punjab and Haryana	1018
20.	Sikkim	15
21.	Uttarakhand	185
22.	Tripura	62
23.	Manipur	30
24.	Meghalaya	27
TOTAL		16089

(b) Judicial Service Centres are not operated by the Ministry. However, Judicial Service Centres have been established at the computerised district and subordinate courts which serve as a single window for filing petitions and applications by litigants/ lawyers as also obtaining information on ongoing cases and copies of orders and judgments etc.

(c) Court proceedings, judgments and information on pending cases of 16089 courts are provided online by the district and subordinate courts in the country. All the district and subordinate courts computerized under eCourts project have been linked to National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), which is a common repository of case records across the country. The portal also provides online information to litigants such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders, and final judgments. Currently litigants can access case status information in respect of over 7 crore pending and decided cases and more than 4 crore orders / judgements pertaining to the computerized district and subordinate courts.

(d) The funds allocated by the Ministry for computerization of courts in the country during the last three years are as under:—

Year (financial)	Funds released under eCourts Project for computerization of courts (Rupees in Crores)
2014-15	9.89
2015-16	212.23
2016-17	357.50
2017-18 (till date)	231.40

Steps to increase Subordinate and District judiciary

751. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to increase the strength of Subordinate and District judiciary considering the large number of pending cases, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, in what manner does the Government propose to deal with this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Appointment of Judges and Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts falls within the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. The Central Government has no role in the matter.

The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, *inter-alia*, involves better court infrastructure including computerisation, increase in the strength of subordinate judiciary and initiating policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development. In the case of *Imtiyaz Ahmed versus State of Uttar Pradesh* and others, the Supreme Court had 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. In its 245th report (2014), the Law Commission has observed that filing of cases *per capita* varies substantially across geographic units as filings are associated with economic and social conditions of the population. As such the Law Commission did not consider the judge population ratio to be a scientific criterion for determining the adequacy of the judge strength in