Role of e-Courts in disposal of pending cases

2515. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps initiated by Government for introduction of e-Courts throughout the country;
- (b) whether e-Courts shall also take care of the disposal of pending cases in various courts and make available valuable information to the petitioners and respondents speedily; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The steps initiated by Government for introduction of e-Courts are as under:—

- (i) The Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. The e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase I was implemented during 2011 - 2015 wherein ₹ 251 crores was released for computerisation of district and subordinate courts. At the end of Phase-I, out of the Total target of computerisation of 14,249 district and subordinate courts, sites for all 14,249 courts (100%) were made ready for computerisation, out of which LAN was installed at 13,643 courts, hardware provided in 13,436 courts and software was installed in 13,672 courts. Laptops were provided to 14,309 judicial officers and change management exercise was completed in all the High Courts. Over 14,000 Judicial Officers were trained in the use of UBUNTU-Linux Operating System and more than 4000 court staff have been trained in Case Information System (CIS) as System Administrators. Video Conferencing facility was operationalised between 488 court complexes and 342 corresponding jails.
- (ii) Under the Phase II of the Project (2015-2019), ₹ 936.98 crores has been released till date. Computerisation of 16,089 district and subordinate courts has been completed, through provisioning of computer hardware, Local Area Network (LAN), and installation of standard application software in district and subordinate courts.
- (iii) A new and user-friendly version of Case Information Software (CIS 2.0) has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts.
- (iv) The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for District and Subordinate Courts has been created as an online platform which now provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of 16,089 computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. The portal 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 9 crore cases and more than 6 crore orders/judgments.

- Judicial Service Centres (JSC) have also been established at all computerized subordinate courts to serve as a single window for filing petitions and applications by litigants/lawyers, and for obtaining information on ongoing cases and copies of orders and judgments etc.
- E-Courts mobile app with the facility of QR Code was launched on 22.07.2017 (vi) for use of litigants and lawyers. Services under different captions viz. Search by CNR, Case Status, Cause List and My Cases are available on this application, which is available on both Google Play and Apple Store.
- Furthermore, the facility of providing case information services through (vii) SMS has also been implemented and the process of disseminating systemgenerated SMSs is operational.
- (viii) An e-Filing application to enable the advocates, petitioners-in-person, etc., to file their cases on-line (at any time) has also been launched in December, 2017 and has also been deployed at Delhi district court and successfully tested at City Civil Court, Mumbai.

During the Phase II, till date, about 109.56 crore electronic transactions have been recorded for e-Courts through e-Taal portal.

Setting up of more FTCs

2516. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- whether Government is aware that there is a massive backlog of pending cases in Fast Track Courts (FTCs);
- whether Government is taking any measures to increase the number of (b) FTCs;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Setting up of subordinate courts, which includes Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and their functioning, lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such Courts, as per their need and resources, in consultation with the concerned High Courts.