

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) A Writ Petition was filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, seeking declaration for permitting live streaming of Supreme Court case proceedings of constitutional and national importance having an impact on the public at large and a direction to make available the necessary infrastructure for live streaming and to frame guidelines for the determination of such cases which are of constitutional and national importance. The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its Judgment dated 26th September, 2018 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 66 of 2018-Indira Jai Singh *versus* Secretary General of Supreme Court and Others has *inter alia* observed that: (i) it is important to re-emphasise the significance of live-streaming as an extension of the principle of open justice and open courts; (ii) The process of live-streaming should be subjected to carefully structured guidelines, (iii) Initially, a pilot project may be conducted for about three months by live-streaming only cases of national and constitutional importance which can be expanded in due course with availability of infrastructure.

(b) The matter is under examination.

(c) The details of additional financial burden to start this system will depend on the technical specifications of the equipment.

Case pendency and vacancies in Supreme Court

2672. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the pending cases in the Supreme Court since 2014, year-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the total sanctioned strength and vacancies in the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) As per the information made available by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the year-wise pendency of cases in the Supreme Court since 2014 is given below:—

Year	Number of Cases pending
2014	62,791
2015	59,272
2016	62,537
2017	55,588
As on 01.12.2018	56,994

(b) The total sanctioned strength of Judges in the Supreme Court is 31 and number of vacant posts of Judges is 4 as on 31.12.2018.

Linkage of Aadhaar with Voter ID

2673. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Election Commission (EC) has linked Aadhaar number of voters to their Voter IDs;

(b) the number of Aadhaar IDs collected by Election Commission, constituency-wise;

(c) the number of Voter IDs linked to Aadhaar by EC, constituency-wise;

(d) out of the above, the number of people who provided consent, in writing, for linking Aadhaar to Voter IDs;

(e) whether EC linked Voter ID with Aadhaar without informing the Aadhaar holders, if so, the number of such voters, constituency-wise; and

(f) whether EC indirectly collects Aadhaar data from Government departments instead of voters, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that National Electoral Rolls Purification and authentication Programme (NERP) was launched on 03.03.2015 in all States/UTs. All activities relating to collection, feeding and seeding of Aadhaar number were kept under suspension with effect from 13 August, 2015 in the light of Hon'ble Supreme Court's interim order dated 11 August, 2015, in WP (C) No. 494 of 2012.

(b) to (d) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(e) The Commission has stated that linking of Aadhaar with Voter ID is not mandatory, it is voluntary and non furnishing of Aadhaar number will not be a ground for rejection of application for new enrolment/deletion of name of an existing elector.

(f) The Commission has informed that they have given directions to Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of States/Union Territories on 13th August, 2015 that no Aadhaar data shall be collected from any other agency/data hub/organisation of Central/State Government, nor should the data collected so far be used for any authentication/other purpose.