

disadvantaged groups, in schools. These guidelines have been reiterated to all States and UTs by the Ministry *vide* letter dated 8th June, 2016.

#### **Universal Service Obligation Fund**

1499. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the financial position of Universal Service Obligation Fund;
- (b) the quantum of subsidy given from this fund for the years 2017-18 and 2018-19;
- (c) whether there is any request from BSNL for this subsidy amount for providing 3G spectrum in rural areas; and
- (d) if so, whether it has been paid and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) As on 31st May 2019, ₹ 50554 crore is available as potential fund in Universal Service Obligation Fund.

(b) ₹ 6998.76 crore and ₹ 4788.22 crore have been disbursed for the years 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively, from Universal Service Obligation Fund.

(c) and (d) No.

#### **Speedy disposal of pending cases**

1500. DR. ANIL AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of cases are pending for disposal in various courts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and court-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of cases disposed off by various courts during the above period, State-wise and court-wise;
- (d) the section of the society mostly affected by delay in the justice delivery mechanism; and

(e) the steps being taken for speedy disposal of pending cases in various courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (e) As per the information available, details of cases pending and disposed in Supreme Court during last three years and the current year are given below:—

Year	Pendency	Disposal
2016	62,537	75,979
2017	55,588	63,053
2018 (as on 01.12.2018)	56,994	35,979
2019 (as on 24.06.2019)	59,331	*

\* Not Available

As per information/data furnished by High Courts and also information/data available on web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), details of High Court - wise and State/UT-wise pendency of cases in District and Subordinate Courts during last three years are given in Statements-I and II respectively (*See* below).

As per information/data furnished by High Courts and also information/data available on web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), details of High Court - wise and State/UT-wise disposal of cases in High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts during last three years are given in Statement-III and IV respectively (*See* below).

The Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency and has, in conjunction with the judiciary, taken many corrective steps. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms established by the Government has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure for courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery and filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court. The major achievements during the last five years under various initiatives to make the functioning of judiciary more efficient are as follows:—

- (i) **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, ₹ 6,986.50 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. Out of this, 3,542.20 crores (which are 50.70% of the total amount released till date) have been released to the States and UTs since April, 2014. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,101 as on date and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 16,777 as on date under this scheme. In addition, 2,879 court halls and 1,886 residential units are under construction. The Central Government has approved continuation of the scheme beyond the Twelfth Five Year Plan period *i.e.* from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with an estimated additional outlay of ₹3,320 crore.
- (ii) **Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery:** Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerised District and Subordinate courts has increased from 13,672 to 16,845 registering an increase of 3,173 during 2014 till date. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. QR Code facility made operational in the software, which enables to check current status of the case. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) provides citizens with online information about case filings, case status and electronic copies of orders and judgments from district and subordinate courts that have already been computerized. Information regarding 11.67 crore cases is available on this portal. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders and final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSC) in all computerised courts, eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push and pull services. Information Kiosks have been setup at all computerized court complexes for disseminating judicial information related to cause lists and other case related information to the lawyers and litigants. eCourts Project has been consistently amongst the top 5 Mission Mode Projects of country.
- (iii) **Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts:** From 01.05.2014 to 24.06.2019, 31 Judges were

appointed in Supreme Court. 454 new Judges were appointed and 366 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1079 currently. Sanctioned and working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has been increased as follows:—

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
30.06.2019	23,199	17,757

- (iv) **Reduction in pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees:** Further, in pursuance of resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Judges too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts.
- (v) **Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20th August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-Institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.
- (vi) **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases:** The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, *inter alia*, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. At present, 581 such Fast Track Courts are functioning across the country. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, twelve (12) Special Courts were set up in eleven (11) States (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and NCT of Delhi) and proportionate funds have been released to these States by the Government. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been enacted on 11.08.2018

to amend the Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, 1872, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

***Statement-I***

*Details of High Court-wise pendency of cases during the last three years and current year.*

Sl. No	High Court	As on 31.12.2016*	As on 31.12.2017**	As on 21.12.2018**	As on 30.06.2019**
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Allahabad	9,16,046	\$	7,24,726	7,30,255
2.	Punjab & Haryana	3,02,313	3,84,098	3,93,953	4,52,221
3.	Madras	2,97,617	3,14,345	3,98,997	4,00,276
4.	Madhya Pradesh	2,89,445	3,07,384	3,30,554	3,46,365
5.	Andhra Pradesh	2,91,761	3,25,119	3,60,574	1,77,949
6.	Bombay	2,61,649	4,64,074	4,64,074	2,67,809
7.	Rajasthan	2,54,131	2,63,103	7,41,193	4,32,038
8.	Karnataka	2,77,620	2,11,110	2,36,161	2,43,841
9.	Calcutta	2,19,064	2,32,116	2,43,456	21,589
10.	Odisha	1,68,003	1,68,375	1,67,072	1,53,045
11.	Kerala	1,66,735	1,81,114	1,93,371	1,94,398
12.	Patna	1,34,459	1,45,056	1,49,920	1,60,715
13.	Gujarat	75,098	1,09,709	1,13,511	1,22,594
14.	Jharkhand	85,757	57,944	87,997	86,733
15.	Delhi	67,082	69,546	74,252	78,718
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	59,404	\$	91,994	73,487
17.	Chhattisgarh	55,642	59,463	63,359	65,292
18.	Uttarakhand	32,004	36,910	55,751	56,567
19.	Himachal Pradesh	25,147	37,955	36,066	39,285
20.	Gauhati	29,469	39,191	40,457	41,235

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Manipur	3,286	16,889	7,308	3,797
22.	Tripura	2,545	2,798	2,964	3062
23.	Meghalaya	700	951	1,069	1,174
24.	Sikkim	170	212	254	273
25.	Telengana\$\$				2,10,492
TOTAL		40,15,147	34,27,462	49,79,033	43,63,210

\* As per information furnished by High Courts.

\*\* As per data available on the web-portal (National Judicial Data Grid) uploaded by concerned High Courts.

\$ Data as on 31.12.2017 was not available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

\$\$ New High Court established after bifurcation of the State of Andhra Pradesh.

### Statement-II

*Details of State/UT-wise pendency of cases during the last three years and current year.*

Sl. No	States/UTS	As on 31.12.2016\$	As on 31.12.2017\$\$	As on 20.12.2018\$\$	As on 30.06.2019\$\$
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8,767	11,185	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh		4,99,246	5,22,776	5,48,025
3.	Telangana	10,77,944	4,16,164	5,16,297	5,35,505
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	14,583	—	0	0
5.	Assam	2,58,639	2,23,954	2,85,390	2,93,361
6.	Bihar	21,28,325	16,58,292	24,68,897	27,17,081
7.	Chandigarh	38,907	38,628	43,288	47,037
8.	Chhattisgarh	2,90,434	2,72,888	2,59,949	2,65,930
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3,766	3,552	2,717	3,092
10.	Daman and Diu	1,720	1,746	1,859	2,203
11.	Delhi	6,06,181	6,07,036	7,19,078	7,90,389
12.	Goa	42,074	39,745	44,105	27,563

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Gujarat	18,22,311	16,41,355	16,23,470	16,97,830
14.	Haryana	5,47,736	6,45,647	7,24,636	8,06,042
15.	Himachal Pradesh	2,06,941	2,09,938	2,57,784	2,80,525
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,45,999	1,21,754	1,59,065	1,69,453
17.	Jharkhand	3,42,768	3,33,494	3,54,629	3,66,035
18.	Karnataka	13,62,167	13,81,438	12,82,800	16,33,824
19.	Kerala	14,82,667	11,52,056	11,67,809	12,53,778
20.	Lakshadweep	357	—	0	0
21.	Madhya Pradesh	10,97,634	13,25,053	13,80,822	14,45,560
22.	Maharashtra	32,39,540	33,36,574	35,59,170	37,01,766
23.	Manipur	6,978	9,604	9,939	9,909
24.	Meghalaya	15,239	7,032	6,728	7,367
25.	Mizoram	4,665	3,306	3,646	2,335
26.	Nagaland	4,450	—	0	0
27.	Odisha	10,49,325	10,22,635	11,30,261	11,84,560
28.	Punjab	5,04,320	5,68,232	5,99,240	6,24,832
29.	Rajasthan	11,48,704	14,24,560	15,14,581	15,48,198
30.	Sikkim	1,434	1,400	1,316	1,301
31.	Tamil Nadu		10,10,381	10,96,937	11,57,521
32.	Puducherry	10,99,521	—	0	0
33.	Tripura	43,568	25,191	23,301	23,178
34.	Uttar Pradesh	59,80,071	61,61,822	70,06,224	74,78,001
35.	Uttarakhand	1,90,948	2,10,587	2,37,781	2,29,141
36.	West Bengal	27,28,753	17,59,635	22,07,120	22,71,079
	TOTAL	2,74,97,436	2,61,24,130	2,92,11,615	3,11,22,421

\$ Source: High Courts.

\$\$ Source: NJDG Web portal/data is uploaded by District and Subordinate Courts.

Note: Data on District and Subordinate Courts in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry are not available on the web-portal of NJDG. Data in respect of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as on 20.12.2018 and 30.06.2019 is not available on NJDG Portal.

**Statement-III***Disposal of Cases in various High Courts during last three years*

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Cases disposed of in the year 2016	Cases disposed of in the year 2017	Cases Disposed of in the year 2018 (upto 30.09.2018)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	2,80,986	3,01,259	2,26,617
2.	Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana)	69,638	62,047	45,990
3.	Bombay	82,484	93,917	68,492
4.	Calcutta	70,862	62,209	37,550
5.	Chhattisgarh	28,085	31,493	27,648
6.	Delhi	46,027	39,779	33,010
7.	Gujarat	97,217	87,164	43,419
8.	Gauhati	11,601	16,097	11,574
9.	Meghalaya	612	673	437
10.	Manipur	1,726	1,325	1,476
11.	Tripura	2,761	3,128	1,766
12.	Himachal Pradesh	24,941	21,233	15,860
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	12,293	14,386	11,542
14.	Jharkhand	28,725	32,632	30,900
15.	Karnataka	1,16,951	1,00,279	75,283
16.	Kerala	80,188	80,255	62,497
17.	Madhya Pradesh	1,20,020	1,20,310	83,048
18.	Madras	1,45,239	1,42,084	1,23,228
19.	Odisha	71,474	74,798	47,341
20.	Patna	87,482	98,191	91,818
21.	Punjab and Haryana	1,14,486	1,05,966	89,161

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Rajasthan	94,428	1,12,573	81,389
23.	Sikkim	169	190	119
24.	Uttarakhand	12,884	22,541	14,237
	TOTAL	16,01,279	16,24,529	12,24,402

Source: High Courts, received through Supreme Court.

**Statement-IV**

*Details of number of cases disposed in District and Subordinate Courts during 3 years (2014, 2015 and 2016)*

Sl. No	State/UT	Disposal of cases in the years 2014	Disposal of cases in the years 2015	Disposal of cases in the years 2016
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	6,47,130	6,58,713	6,03,017
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7,615	3,588	4,384
3.	Assam	2,76,138	2,72,538	2,51,119
4.	Bihar	3,05,583	2,92,678	3,44,683
5.	Chhattisgarh	1,76,144	1,95,174	1,95,495
6.	Goa	30,625	34,765	34,130
7.	Gujarat	11,32,433	10,93,664	15,86,926
8.	Haryana	5,87,385	5,42,440	5,93,132
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4,09,732	1,94,803	2,17,568
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2,97,507	87,687	98,638
11.	Jharkhand	1,10,068	1,18,845	1,04,284
12.	Karnataka	13,67,041	12,09,127	10,79,586
13.	Kerala	13,55,926	13,38,443	11,93,996
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11,13,382	10,73,584	7,84,077

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Maharashtra	15,36,322	16,49,187	22,81,027
16.	Manipur	14,257	7,395	6,588
17.	Meghalaya	11,691	9,215	11,396
18.	Mizoram	10,747	10,355	10,906
19.	Nagaland	3,047	4,826	4,215
20.	Odisha	4,70,085	4,08,261	4,69,571
21.	Punjab	5,49,300	5,78,681	6,05,324
22.	Rajasthan	11,32,028	13,71,762	8,16,129
23.	Sikkim	2,008	1,725	2,142
24.	Tamil Nadu	16,45,329	11,51,349	@10,43,172
25.	Tripura	1,93,003	1,92,081	67,385
26.	Uttar Pradesh	31,82,318	33,13,424	36,18,460
27.	Uttarakhand	2,20,660	2,00,947	1,75,464
28.	West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands	10,89,309	10,99,743	10,59,641
29.	Chandigarh	1,80,616	1,45,990	1,43,520
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	2,771	3,323	3,810
31.	Delhi	9,30,732	6,12,553	6,18,618
32.	Lakshadweep	95	280	269
33.	Puducherry	28,631	20,409	@
TOTAL		1,90,19,658	1,78,97,555	1,80,28,672

@Figures of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry are combined in respect of the year 2016.