

Pendency of cases in Supreme Court/High Courts

†*156. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the Total number of civil and criminal cases pending in the Supreme Court and different High Courts of India;

(b) out of these cases, the number of cases pending in each court for a period of less than five years and more than five years along with the period of less than ten years and more than ten years; and

(c) whether any measures have been adopted by Government to speed up the process of disposal of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
(a) and (b) As per the information provided by the Supreme Court, TOTAL 60,603 cases are pending in Supreme Court, out of which 49,088 are Civil matters and 11,515 are Criminal matters as on 03.03.2020. As per data available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), details of pending cases in High Courts as on 29.02.2020 is as under:

(Number in lakh)

Number of pending cases in High Courts				Number of cases pending in High Courts, age-wise		
Civil	Criminal	Writ	Total	For less than 5 years	More than 5 years and less than 10 years	More than 10 years
19.23	13.24	13.67	46.15	27.86	9.25	8.97

High Court-wise details of pending cases for less than five years, for five to ten years and for more than ten years as on 29.02.2020 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. However, the Union Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency of cases. The National Mission

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms has adopted many strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure [court halls and residential units] for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court, reduction in pendency through follow up by Arrears Committees at District, High Court and Supreme Court level, emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and initiatives to fast track special type of cases. The major steps taken during the last five years under various initiatives are as follows:—

- (i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, ₹ 7,453.10 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, ₹4,008.80 crores (which is 53.79% 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 19,694 as on 29.02.2020 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 17,432 as on 29.02.2020 under this scheme. In addition, 2,814 court halls and 1,843 residential units are under construction.
- (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 computerized District & 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 has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including Judicial Officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District and Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). Currently, case status information in respect of over 13.13 crore pending and disposed cases and more than 11.46 crore orders/judgments pertaining to these computerized courts is available on NJDG. 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 computerized courts, eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push and pull services. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes and 1272 corresponding jails.

- (c) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 29.02.2020, 35 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 522 new Judges were appointed and 443 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 increased as follows:—

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
29.02.2020	24,018	19,160

Filling up of vacancies in Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and High Courts concerned.

- (iv) Reduction in Pendency through/follow up by Arrears Committees: 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. As on 31.12.2019, 828 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children, family and matrimonial disputes, etc. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and 2 in NCT of Delhi) and proportionate funds have been released to these States by the Government. Further, Government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 27 States/UTs have joined the scheme for setting up of 649 FTSCs including 363 exclusive POCSO courts. ₹99.43 crore (out of the TOTAL allocation of ₹100 crore) has already been released as the first instalment for FTSCs.

Statement

Details of pending cases in the country High Court-wise

Sl. No.	Name of High Courts	Less than 5years	More than 5 years & Less than 10 years (5-10 years)	More than 10 years
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad High Court	283636	171635	277466
2.	Calcutta High Court	3986	4200	8385
3.	Gauhati High Court	41862	5736	617
4.	High Court for the State of Telangana	133635	57611	29186
5.	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	115482	53613	29073
6.	High Court of Bombay	131214	56846	79749
7.	High Court of Chhattisgarh	53743	12560	4394

1	2	3	4	5
8.	High Court of Delhi	58005	14424	8984
9.	High Court of Gujarat	92856	24435	14246
10.	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	52423	8118	1608
11.	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	42830	24392	8382
12.	High Court of Jharkhand	50038	17345	15553
13.	High Court of Karnataka	185983	54154	7631 1
14.	High Court of Kerala	131244	48325	19687
15.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	192852	96755	74193
16.	High Court of Manipur	3118	323	313
17.	High Court of Meghalaya	1117	38	0
18.	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	385147	83044	86758
19.	High Court of Rajasthan	330049	69638	77725
20.	High Court of Sikkim	231	3	0
21.	High Court of Tripura	2022	16	1
22.	High Court of Uttarakhand	30572	5405	4351
23.	Madras High Court	246580	56196	96895
24.	Odisha High Court	84905	40046	28446
25.	Patna High Court	133197	21002	23372
TOTAL		2786727	925860	897015

Misuse of student unions

*157. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that misuse of student unions and student associations in higher educational institutions is increasing in the country;