

- (iii) Strengthening Front Offices and Legal Services Clinics.
- (iv) Maximizing Access to Justice by coordinating with Law Colleges and NGOs.
- (v) Target oriented outreach programmes aligned with local needs.
- (vi) Legal assistance to Victims of Crime.
- (vii) Strengthening Lok Adalats.
- (viii) Promoting Legal assistance at early stages of Criminal Justice.

(c) and (d) Legal Services Institutions have been set up under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 at all levels from Taluk Courts to Supreme Court for providing free legal services to the persons eligible under Section 12 of the said Act. The Legal Services Institutions have set up Front Offices to provide legal advice to the visitors. More than 23,000 Legal Services Clinics have also been set up in Jails, courts, Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), community centres, villages/rural areas and law colleges/universities. In these centres, free legal services are provided. To strengthen Front Offices and Legal Services Clinics, NALSA has following vision:

- (i) Engaging Front Office coordinators and Front Office lawyers.
- (ii) Maintaining data of legal aided cases and applications and daily cause lists of legal aided cases at Front Offices.
- (iii) Increasing the frequency of functional days of legal services clinics in 115 aspirational districts.
- (iv) Dedicating one Clinic exclusively for women in each of the 115 aspirational districts.

In addition, Tele-Law programme of Department of Justice which identifies and connects citizens in need of Legal advice with lawyers through phone or video conferencing facility, has been launched in 115 aspirational districts of the country from September, 2019.

Backlog of cases in the Supreme Court of India

589. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details about backlog of cases in the Supreme Court of India;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether establishing Supreme Court benches outside Delhi is under consideration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) As per information available on the website of the Supreme Court of India 59,859 cases were pending in Supreme Court of India as on 02.01.2020.

(b) So far as reasons for pendency of cases in the Supreme Court are concerned, there is no conspicuous reason which can be depicted for pendency of cases. However, with the increase in the population of the country and awareness of their rights amongst the public, filing of fresh cases is increasing year after year. Another reason for pendency of cases is inadequate number of Judges/population ratio in the country and also the insufficient strength of Judges.

(c) and (d) 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 at various times 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.

However, the idea of a separate Bench of Supreme Court outside Delhi has not found favour with the Supreme Court of India. A Writ Petition (Civil) No.36 of 2016 has been filed in the Supreme Court on the subject of establishment of National Court of Appeal.

Disposal of cases by various courts

590. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various types of Judicial Magistrate courts, etc. particularly Morning/Evening and Special Courts functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;