

quarterly meetings. UTRCs are headed by the District and Session Judges, who are also the Chairperson of the DLSAs. Secretary, DLSA is also a member of the Committee.

- (iii) On directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) had prepared a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Under-Trial Review Committees. This SOP was circulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs to States and UTs on 18th February, 2019.
- (iv) The Model Prison Manual, 2016 circulated to all States and UTs also has a Chapter on 'Legal Aid' which provides details of the facilities that may be provided to undertrials viz. legal defence, interview with lawyer, signing of Vakalatnama, application to Courts for legal aid at Government cost etc.
- (v) NALSA provides a range of services including providing free legal services, drafting of petitions, preparation of paper books etc. The persons in custody are entitled category of persons under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Legal Services Clinics are also functioning in jails for providing free legal services to the prisoners. Legal services has been provided to 1,75,656 during 2018-19 and to 1,34,083 prisoners during 2019-20 (upto November 2019).

Appointment of Notary Public

597. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Notary Public appointed by the Union Government during the last 5 years, State-wise and year-wise details thereof;
- (b) whether there are adequate number of notaries in proportion to the population of the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of number of Notary Public appointed by the Union Government during the last 5 years from SC and ST communities, State-wise and year-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The details of total number of Notary Public appointed by the Union Government during the last 5 years, State and year-wise is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Rule 7(3)(b) of the Notaries Rules, 1956 requires the Interview Board to take into consideration (i) the commercial importance of the particular area in particular State/UT in which the applicant proposes to practice and (ii) number/strength of existing notaries in the area at the time of interview. There is no such criterion with regard to proportion to the population of the country prescribed in the Notaries Act, 1952 or the Notaries Rules, 1956.

(c) This Department does not maintain SC/ST community-wise list of notaries appointed by the Union Government.

Statement

Number of Notaries appointed by Union Government during Last five Years

State/UT	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	172	-
Assam	-	-	-	13	-
Bihar	-	-	-	117	51
Chandigarh	-	24	-	29	-
Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	182	-
Delhi	-	-	-	324	-
Goa	-	-	-	16	-
Gujarat	-	658	-	1896	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	95	-
Haryana	-	203	-	374	-
Jharkhand	-	-	-	43	23
Kerala	-	-	-	441	
Karnataka	-	329	-	570	-
Lakshadweep	-	-	-	3	-
Meghalaya	-	-	-	1	-
Maharashtra	-	-	-	1949	-

State	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	193	-
Odisha	-	-	-	56	10
Punjab	-	170	-	351	-
Puducherry	-	-	-	28	-
Rajasthan	-	600	-	442	344
Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	748	-
Tripura	-	-	-	7	-
Telangana	-	-	-	79	-
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	206	298	-
Uttarakhand	-	-	18	14	-
West Bengal	-	-	-	80	11

E-courts in the country

598. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of e-courts in the country to remove the increasing burden of cases in courts;

(b) whether e-courts are fully capable for effective and timely disposal of cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the financial outlay for the project in various States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of District and Subordinate Courts across the country in association with the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India, The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II commenced its implementation in 2015. The