

Further, the UGC has adopted Quality Mandate during 2018 for improving the quality of higher educational institutions. One of the initiatives undertaken by UGC under its Quality Mandate programme is to develop Learning Outcome based Curriculum Framework (LOCF) to facilitate Universities to revise their curriculum. The fundamental premise of LOCF is to specify what graduates completing a particular programme of study are expected to know, understand and be able to do at the end of their programmes of study. LOCF aims to instil in our graduates attributes like disciplinary knowledge, communication skills, critical thinking, problem solving, analytical reasoning, research-related skills, cooperation/team work, scientific reasoning, reflective thinking, Information/digital literacy, self-directed learning, multicultural competence, moral and ethical awareness / reasoning, leadership readiness / qualities and lifelong learning irrespective of discipline.

In this regard, UGC constituted 37 subject specific Committees including in science and commerce disciplines for developing templates of LOCF. The Committees after having detailed deliberations and wider consultations at national level has developed the LOCF reports in different subjects. The final LOCF reports of 19 subjects are available on the UGC's website.

#### **Military training at educational level**

†2165. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether Government is considering to introduce "military training" as an integral part of education, if so, by when Government would implement it, along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

#### **Slow-paced justice delivery system**

2166. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH:  
DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating any plan to address people's grievances against the slow-paced justice delivery system in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government is considering/allowing e-petitions and e-filing of cases as part of an effort to speed up judicial processes and to modernise judicial systems through digital technology and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development. 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 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 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.

(iii) 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/UTs (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.

(vii) In order to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts the Government has recently amended various laws like the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

(c) e-Filing application was launched on 14th August, 2018 by the Supreme Court of India. It is made available at [efiling.ecourts.gov.in](http://efiling.ecourts.gov.in) where online registration of lawyers and litigants can be done. Through the application, one can file cases from any part of India to any court after registration. e-Filing application has been developed and is integrated with Case Information Software (CIS 3.0), which is the standard application software across all District and Subordinate Courts of the country. Integration with CIS 1.0 software of High Courts is also complete. e-Filing module with e-payment of court fees is ready for courts in the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra,

Punjab and Haryana. The e-filing facility is live and working in selected pilot district courts at Punjab and Haryana High Courts such as Gurugram District Court, Haryana. Further, pursuant to the directions of Delhi High Court, e-filing facility integrated with CIS 3.1 has been implemented with effect from 01st March, 2020 in respect of all commercial disputes in Delhi District Courts. The e-filing facility is live and working in Mumbai District Courts.

### **Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of judges**

2167. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for the appointment of judges to the higher judiciary is yet to be finalised because of continued disagreements over the issue for more than four years after the Supreme Court asked the Centre to draft the document; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this delay?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court *vide* its Order dated 16.12.2015 on improvement in the Collegium System have directed that the Government of India may finalize the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) by supplementing in consultation with the Supreme Court Collegium taking into account aspects such as transparency, secretariat, eligibility criteria and complaint mechanism.

Accordingly, the Government of India has drafted modified MoP. The draft MoP was sent to the Supreme Court Collegium *vide* letter dated 22.03.2016. The response of the Collegium was received on 25.5.2016 and 1.7.2016. The views of the Government were conveyed to the Chief Justice of India on 03.08.2016. The inputs on the MoP of the Supreme Court Collegium were received from Chief Justice of India *vide* letter dated 13.03.2017.

Meanwhile, in another judgment dated 04.07.2017 of Supreme Court in a *suo moto* contempt proceeding against a Judge of the Calcutta High Court, the Supreme Court has underlined the need to revisit the process of selection and appointment of Judges to the Constitutional Courts. The Government of India has conveyed the need to make