

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Disposal of cases in courts including Supreme Court falls within the domain of the judiciary. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, *inter-alia*, include availability of adequate number of judges, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Government has no role in hearings of cases in courts. However, the Union Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency of cases. 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.

Preservation of VVPAT data

2169. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the period for which Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) data is mandated to be preserved by the Election Commission after general election to Lok Sabha and State Legislatures;

(b) the period for which VVPAT data was preserved by the Election Commission after 2019 general election to Lok Sabha along with the date of destruction of said data by the Election Commission; and

(c) the period for which VVPAT data was preserved after assembly elections in 2017, 2018 and 2019, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The Election Commission has informed that as per Commission's extant instructions all

Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT slips are to be preserved till the disposal of Election Petitions and whenever no Election Petitions are filed, VVPAT slips are to be disposed off after 45 days *i.e.* Election Petition period.

(b) The Election Commission has informed that after Lok Sabha Election 2019, as per data received from three States/UTs, the VVPAT slips have been preserved for all constituencies where Election Petitions have been filed and the District Election Officers have disposed of the VVPAT slips after the specified period of 45 days wherever no election petitions are filed.

(c) The Election Commission has informed that action regarding disposal of WPAT slips is taken by the respective District Election Officers in the States/Union territories. Such massive information is not collated and compiled centrally.

Cases pending in lower judiciary

2170. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of criminal and civil cases pending at the level of lower judiciary in the country as on date separately, State-wise;

(b) the details of average time taken by lower judiciary to dispose of the civil and criminal cases separately, State-wise;

(c) the details of vacancies at the level of lower judiciary as on date along with the details of vacancies filled up during 2019 and 2020 till date, State-wise;

(d) whether assessment for impact on disposal of cases due to vacancies in judiciary has been carried out in the recent future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Details of Civil and Criminal cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts in the country, State-wise as on date is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) No such data is available with the Central Government. Disposal of cases falls within the purview of the judiciary.