

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.419  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 04<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

**BACKLOG OF CASES**

**419. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:**

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

- (a) the details about pendency of cases involving crimes against women and children, elderly, SCs/STs/OBCs and other victimised groups along with the bifurcation on crimes committed against SC/ST/OBC women and children;**
- (b) the total number of backlog of cases in the country, the detailed break-up thereof; and**
- (c) the steps taken by Government to reduce it and increase the efficiency in the justice delivery process?**

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) & (b): The total number of cases pending in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India is 65,086 (As on 01.01.2021). Information on backlog of cases in High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts is enclosed at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II* respectively. Details of cases involving crimes against women and children, elderly, SCs/STs/OBCs and other victimised groups are not centrally maintained category-wise in the National Judicial Data Grid.

(c): Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of judiciary. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. However, the Union Government is committed to speedy disposal 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 computerization, 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, Rs. 8,288.30 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 20,062 as on 28.01.2021 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 17,736 as on 28.01.2021 under this scheme. In addition, 2,808 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 (in 2014) to 18,735 as on 28.01.2021, registering an increase of 5,063. 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 & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.01.2021, litigants can access case status of over 17.90 crore cases and 13.36 crore order/judgements pertaining to these courts. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & 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 & pull services. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes and 1272 corresponding jails. With a view to handle the COVID- 19 challenges better and to make the transition to virtual hearings smoother, funds have been provided for setting up 235 e-SewaKendras at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgements/orders, court/case related information and e-filing facilities. Rs. 5.01 crores has been allocated for providing equipment in Video Conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crores has been allocated for 1732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

Nine Virtual Courts have been set up at Delhi (2 courts), Faridabad (Haryana), Pune & Nagpur (Maharashtra) Kochi (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Guwahati (Assam) and Bengaluru (Karnataka) to try traffic offences. As on 20.01.2021, these courts have handled 41,98,095 cases and realised Rs.139.25cr in fines.

- (iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 25.01.2021, 35 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 570 new Judges were appointed and 520 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 1080 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
28.01.2021	24,247	19,318

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 18.01.2021, 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, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme for setting up of 823 FTSCs including 'exclusive POCSO Courts'. Rs.140 crore was released in the financial year 2019-20 and Rs. 89.89 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 for the scheme. Presently 609 FTSCs are functional including 331 exclusive POCSO Courts.

- (vii) In addition, 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.

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## Annexure – I

### Details of High Court-wise pendency of Cases

Sl. No	High Court	Number of Cases pending in High Courts as on 28.01.2021
1.	Allahabad	7,71,665
2.	Punjab & Haryana	6,45,213
3.	Madras	5,81,555
4.	Madhya Pradesh	3,66,167
5.	Andhra Pradesh	2,09,164
6.	Bombay	5,45,989
7.	Rajasthan	5,29,570
8.	Karnataka	2,89,023
9.	Calcutta	2,69,680
10.	Orissa	1,71,779
11.	Kerala	2,15,901
12.	Patna	1,88,337
13.	Gujarat	1,45,539
14.	Jharkhand	86,692
15.	Delhi	91,195
16.	High Court for the UTs for J&K and Ladakh	63,548
17.	Chhattisgarh	76,412
18.	Uttarakhand	38,676
19.	Himachal Pradesh	74,775
20.	Gauhati	51,646
21.	Manipur	4,470
22.	Tripura	2,347
23.	Meghalaya	1,472
24.	Sikkim	242
25.	Telengana	2,36,852
<b>Total</b>		<b>56,57,909</b>

## Annexure-II

### Details of District & Subordinate Courts wise pendency of Cases

Sl. No	Name of States/UTs	Number of Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 28.01.2021
1.	A & N Island	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	645518
3.	Telangana	686819
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	---
5.	Assam	361274
6.	Bihar	3191323
7.	Chandigarh	59265
8.	Chhattisgarh	335230
9.	D & N Haveli	3413
10.	Daman & Diu	2828
11.	Delhi	978490
12.	Goa	57311
13.	Gujarat	1949686
14.	Haryana	1126576
15.	Himachal Pradesh	423074
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	218833
17.	Jharkhand	446803
18.	Karnataka	1763930
19.	Kerala	1841556
20.	Ladakh	768
21.	Lakshadweep	----
22.	Madhya Pradesh	1719056
23.	Maharashtra	4582365
24.	Manipur	11139
25.	Meghalaya	10410
26.	Mizoram	4710
27.	Nagaland	1562
28.	Odisha	1398399
29.	Punjab	831225
30.	Rajasthan	1863560
31.	Sikkim	1600
32.	Tamil Nadu	1297274
33.	Puducherry	----
34.	Tripura	44534
35.	Uttar Pradesh	8653883
36.	Uttarakhand	269058
37.	West Bengal	2401947
Total		<b>37183419</b>

Note: Data on District and Subordinate Courts in the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry are not available on the web-portal of NJDG. Data in respect of Andaman & Nicobar Islands is not available on NJDG Portal.