

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 411
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 22nd JULY, 2021**

Status of eCourts Project

411. Shri Sujeet Kumar :

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of Phase II of the e-Courts Project.
- (b) whether timeline and budget have been approved for Phase-III of e-Courts Project;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a): The Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project for Information and Communication Technology enablement of District and Subordinate courts across the country in association with the eCommittee of Supreme Court of India.

The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II has commenced since 2015 for a period of four years (2015-19) or until the project is completed, whichever is later. So far 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts have been computerized. Out of 2992 court complexes Wide Area Network connectivity has been provided to 2945 court complexes. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crore for eCourts Phase-II, the Government has so far released a sum of Rs. 1582.11 crore for implementation of the eCourts project. Some of the other salient achievements under eCourts Project Phase II include the introduction of Case Information Software using Free and Open Source Software to automate the entire process of Court registry. A new software patch and court user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed. This tool will help in smart scheduling of cases thereby enabling judicial officers to retain urgent cases and adjourn cases not urgent on cause list. The 'National Judicial Data Grid' (NJDG) have been developed which provides status of 18.77 crore pending/disposed cases and 14.61 crore orders/judgments of Subordinate Courts and High Courts (as on 1st July 2021). Open Application Programming Interface (APIs) has been recently introduced to allow Central and State Governments and institutional litigants to access NJDG data for pendency monitoring. Seven platforms have been created for disseminating real time information on case status, cause list, judgments etc. to lawyers and litigants viz. a multilingual and disabled-friendly eCourts Portal, eCourts Mobile App and JustIS App for judges, Automated emails, SMS Push and Pull Service, Judicial Service Centres and Information Kiosks.

The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 96,239 virtual hearings (as on 09.07.2021 since the beginning of lockdown period).The High Courts (36, 47,381 hearings) and Subordinate Courts (67,85,877 hearings) have conducted 1.04 crore virtual hearings till 31st May

2021. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms have also been released. 12 Virtual Courts in 9 States have been operationalised to handle traffic challan cases. More than 72 lakh cases have been handled by 12 virtual courts and online fine of Rs. 159 crore has been realised till 08.07.2021. The Delhi High Court has set up 34 Digital Courts dealing with cases under Negotiable Instruments Act. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers. For making the payment process easy and transparent, online payment of court fees, fines, penalties and judicial deposits has been enabled. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. To bridge the digital divide funds have been released for setting up 235 eSewa Kendras at all High Courts and one District Court in every state. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public 29 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 20 High Courts.

(b) to (d): No Sir. A draft Vision Document has been formulated by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court for eCourts Project Phase III. The Vision Document has been prepared in consultation with domain experts from within the judiciary and private sector experts. This document has been put in the public domain for inviting suggestions and feedback based on which the Detailed Project Report will be drawn.
