

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 417
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 22nd JULY, 2021**

Computerization of courts

**417 Shri K. C. Venugopal :
Shri Sanjay Seth:**

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

- (a) the target fixed by the Government for computerization of all courts in the country under e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase-I and Phase II ;
- (b) whether Government has achieved the target and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken in this regard;
- (c) the amount allocated and spent during each of the last three years while implementing the project; and
- (d) the other steps taken/being taken by Government to reduce paper wastage and eliminate the burden of court cases in the Indian judiciary?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project is one of the National e-Governance projects being implemented in District and Subordinate Courts of the country. The achievements under eCourts Phase I are as under:

The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-I was implemented during 2011 – 2015. At the end of Phase-I, out of the total target of computerization of 14,249 district and subordinate courts, sites for all 14,249 courts (100%) were made ready for computerization, out of which LAN was installed at 13,643 courts, hardware was provide in 13,436 courts and software was installed in 13,672 courts. Laptops were provided to 14,309 judicial officers and change management exercise was completed in all the High Courts. Over 14,000 Judicial Officers were trained in the use of UBUNTU-Linux Operating System and more than 4,000 court staff have been trained as System Administrators in Case Information System (CIS). Video Conferencing facility was operationalized between 488 court complexes and 342 corresponding jails.

The Phase II of the eCourts MMP is being implemented since 2015. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crores in the phase II of the project, the Government has released Rs. 1582.11 crore as on 08.07.2021 for implementation of the project which includes a sum of Rs. 1150.56 crore released to all High Courts.

Towards further enhancement of ICT enablement of Courts, the salient initiatives include:

- i. 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts have been computerized under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project. 2945 sites have been commissioned with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed. This forms the backbone for ensuring data connectivity in courts across the length and breadth of the country.
- ii. Case Information Software (CIS) which forms the basis for the e court services is based on customized Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) which has been developed by NIC. Currently CIS National Core Version

- 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iii. A new software patch and user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed to help in smart scheduling of cases.
 - iv. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 18.77 crore cases and more than 14.61 crore orders/ judgments pertaining to these computerized courts (as on 01.07.2021). Open APIs has been introduced in 2020 to allow Central and State Governments and institutional litigants including local bodies to access NJDG data to improve pendency monitoring and compliance.
 - v. A new “Judgment Search” portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.
 - vi. 12 Virtual Courts in 9 States have been operationalized 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 Negotiable Instruments Act cases.
 - vii. 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. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes

and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses (VidyoConnect) have been procured to promote virtual hearings.

- viii. To promote Live Streaming of court proceedings, Model Live Streaming Rules have been circulated amongst all the High Courts across the country for their suggestions before adoption. Gujarat High Court has commenced Live Streaming proceedings already.
- ix. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features like new dashboard including the options of my partners, Case Filing, Vakaltnama, pleading, e-payments, applications and portfolio.
- x. 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 facilitate e-filing and virtual hearing of cases in High Courts and District Courts across the country.
- xi. 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.
- xii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons.
- xiii. 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.

(c): The amount allocated and spent during each of the last three years while implementing the project is as under:

Amount in Rs. Crores

Financial Year	Budget Estimates (BE)	Revised Estimates (RE)	Actual Expenditure
2018-19	480.00	300.00	282.76
2019-20	256.53	180.00	179.26
2020-21	250.00	180.00	179.31

(d) : The following steps have been taken towards reduction of paper wastage:

- i. The eCommittee of the Supreme Court has designed and rolled out in the year 2018, an e-filing system Version 1.0 and created a portal (e-Filing.ecourts.gov.in) for this purpose. The portal enables electronic filing of legal papers. Upgraded version of e-filing 3.0 has been inaugurated and is being rolled out pan India. In the new version, new tab is provided which allows Advocates and litigants to record their oath with in-system video recording while uploading documents. The new version has also provided new dashboard including the options of joining by partners, Case Filing, online filing of Vakalatnama and pleadings, e-payments, applications and portfolio management. Help section provided in the new version provides tutorial videos, FAQ and user manual. The new portal also provides the option of indexing of the documents for the Advocates. This new paperless e-filing system will reduce paper consumption in the courts.
- ii. Establishment of Virtual Courts have also helped to reduce paper wastage and to eliminate the burden of court cases. Virtual Courts have been rolled out to try traffic challan cases and have met with appreciable results.

Presently there are 12 such courts in 9 States. Environment-friendly, these Virtual Courts enable adjudication of cases in paperless manner including facility of e-payment of the fine imposed. The litigants can file the complaint electronically through e-filing, appears before a Judge virtually and also pay the court fees or fine online. Over 72 lakhs cases have been handled by these 12 Virtual Courts and in more than 14 lakhs (14,64,305) cases online fine of more than Rs. 159 (159.47) Crore has been realised till 08.07.2021. In November 2020, Delhi High Court has issued “Digital NI Act Courts-Project Implementation Guidelines” and set up 34 Digital Courts dealing with Negotiable Instruments Act cases.

Further to reduce the burden of court cases, the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms 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 and setting up of Fast Track Courts for quick disposal of cases, use of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism and emphasis on human resource development.
