

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-898
ANSWERED ON – 27/07/2023

FUNCTIONAL E-COURTS UNDER PHASE-3

898 SHRI R. DHARMAR

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

- (a) the details of number of e-Courts functional across the country;
- (b) the details of funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized for this project during the last three years and the current year across the country including Tamil Nadu;
- (c) the details of the target set and achievements made so far along with its response;
- (d) whether Government is planning to launch Phase-3 of this project within the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with funds likely to be sanctioned for this project; and
- (f) the details of the target likely to set under this phase-3?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a)to (c): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for Information and Communication Technologies(ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary based on the “National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary”. eCourts project is being implemented in association with eCommittee, Supreme Court of India and Department of Justice. Phase I of the project was implemented between 2011-2015. Phase II of the project extended from 2015-2023. The Government has taken the following e-initiatives to make justice accessible and available for all: -

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2976 out of earmarked 2994) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.

- ii. 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 23.34 crore cases and more than 22.21 crore orders / judgments (as on 03.07.2023).
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. 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.
- iv. 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. A user manual for this patch has also been issued for the ease of the stakeholders.
- v. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 1.88 crore downloads till 30.06.2023) and JustIS app for judges (19,164 downloads till 30.06.2023).
- vi. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 1,98,67,081 cases while the High Courts heard 78,69,708 cases (totalling 2.77 crore) till 30.06.2023 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,82,941 hearings through video conferencing till 15.05.2023. 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 courtrooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings.
- vii. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- viii. 22 Virtual Courts in 18 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 3.26 crore cases have been handled by 22 virtual courts and in more

than 39 lakhs (39,16,405) cases online fine of more than Rs. 419.89 crore has been realized till 30.06.2023.

- ix. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 19 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 30.06.2023.
- x. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. A total of 20 High Courts have implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 22 High Courts till 30.06.2022.
- xi. To bridge the digital divide, 819 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling. It also assists the litigants in accessing online e-Courts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large. It will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.
- xii. In addition to eSewa Kendras, as part of the DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) scheme the Government of India has launched Tele Law program since 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.
- xiii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.
- xiv. 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.

The detailed break-up of operational eCourts in the country has been attached in Annexure-I. Funds released and utilised during the last three years across the country including Tamil Nadu for infrastructure development of eCourts are given in Annexure-II.

(d) to (f): In the Union Budget 2023-2024, the Government of India announced Phase-III of eCourts project with an outlay of Rs.7000 crore. Based on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) approved by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, the Expenditure Finance Committee in its meeting held on 23.02.2023 has approved the eCourts Phase III with a total outlay of Rs.7210 crore. Further, the Empowered Technology Group chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India in its meeting held on 21.06.2023 has also recommended to the Cabinet the eCourts Phase III for approval.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.898 for 27/07/2023 regarding Functional e-Courts. The details of operational eCourts in the country are as under:

S.No	High Court	State	Court Complexes	Courts
1	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	180	2222
2	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	218	617
3	Bombay	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	3
		Daman and Diu	2	2
		Goa	17	39
		Maharashtra	471	2157
4	Calcutta	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4	14
		West Bengal	89	827
5	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	93	434
6	Delhi	Delhi	6	681
7	Gauhati	Arunachal Pradesh	14	28
		Assam	74	408
		Mizoram	8	69
		Nagaland	11	37
8	Gujarat	Gujarat	376	1268
9	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	50	162
10	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh	86	218
11	Jharkhand	Jharkhand	28	447
12	Karnataka	Karnataka	207	1031
13	Kerala	Kerala	158	484
		Lakshadweep	1	3
14	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	213	1363
15	Madras	Puducherry	4	24
		Tamil Nadu	263	1124
16	Manipur	Manipur	17	38
17	Meghalaya	Meghalaya	7	42
18	Orissa	Odisha	185	686
19	Patna	Bihar	84	1142
20	Punjab & Haryana	Chandigarh	1	30
		Haryana	53	500
		Punjab	64	541
21	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	247	1240
22	Sikkim	Sikkim	8	23
23	Telangana	Telangana	129	476
24	Tripura	Tripura	14	84
25	Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	69	271
	Total		3452	18735

Annexure-II

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 898 for 27/07/2023 regarding the funds released during the last three years for infrastructure development are:

S.No.	High Courts	2019-2020		2020-21		2021-22	
		Released (Cr.)	Utilized (Cr.)	Released (Cr.)	Utilized (Cr.)	Released (Cr.)	Utilized (Cr.)
1	Allahabad	15.04	13.63	13.79	10.22	0.00	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	1.96	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Bombay	0.00	0.00	8.86	8.86	0.00	0.00
4	Calcutta	0.00	0.00	4.93	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	4.44	4.44	2.34	2.34	0.00	0.00
6	Delhi	0.00	0.00	3.00	2.85	0.00	0.00
7	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	0.98	0.98	1.52	1.52	1.26	1.18
8	Gauhati (Assam)	13.68	13.40	6.11	1.78	3.49	3.46
9	Gauhati (Mizoram)	0.51	0.43	0.72	0.69	0.30	0.25
10	Gauhati (Nagaland)	0.70	0.70	0.83	0.83	0.84	0.84
11	Gujarat*	0.00	0.00	3.48	0.83	0.00	0.00
12	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.78	0.00	0.00
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
14	Jharkhand	5.53	0.35	2.98	0.48	0.00	0.00
15	Karnataka	9.15	9.15	4.29	4.29	0.00	0.00
16	Kerala	0.00	0.00	2.83	2.83	1.58	1.58
17	Madhya Pradesh	11.21	11.06	6.28	6.21	0.00	0.00
18	Madras	0.00	0.00	4.73	2.46	0.00	0.00
19	Manipur	0.61	0.60	1.30	1.28	0.76	0.75
20	Meghalaya	0.92	0.09	2.32	0.51	2.23	0.85
21	Orissa	13.46	13.09	3.37	3.31	0.00	0.00
22	Patna	7.08	6.40	5.44	5.30	0.00	0.00
23	Punjab & Haryana	0.00	0.00	4.55	4.55	0.00	0.00
24	Rajasthan	1.29	1.29	10.58	10.57	1.62	1.62
25	Sikkim	1.61	0.68	1.01	0.92	0.77	0.00
26	Telangana&Andhra Pradesh**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Telangana	0.00	0.00	1.79	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Tripura	2.24	2.19	4.44	4.05	0.96	0.78
28	Uttarakhand	0.00	0.00	1.28	0.12	0.00	0.00
Total		88.44	78.50	107.74	80.57	13.80	11.31

*Gujarat High Court surrendered Rs.13.12 crore. Total utilization included surrendered funds.

**Funds released erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and Telangana High Court, and both the states shared the available funds in the ratio of 58:42 respective.

NOTE: For year the 2022-2023 no funds were released as the total outlay of Phase II amounting to Rs. 1670 Crore has been exhausted.