

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-589
ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

THIRD PHASE OF E-COURTS

589. SHRI RAVICHANDRA VADDIRAJU:
SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether Government has approved the third phase of the e-Courts project with a financial outlay of ₹7,210 crore to upgrade digital infrastructure of the lower judiciary; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and progress made phase/court-wise along with the funds sanctioned/spent till date?

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) & (b) : As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode project is under implementation since 2007 for 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”. Its vision is to transform the judicial system of the country by ICT enablement of courts and to enhance the judicial productivity, both qualitatively & quantitatively, making the justice delivery system accessible, cost effective, reliable, and transparent. eCourts project is being implemented under the joint partnership of Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India and e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts. The continuing endeavour of the Indian judiciary in independent India has been to provide expeditious and inexpensive access to justice for citizens. Today, technology is a powerful tool to accelerate this endeavour. It offers the opportunity to make the justice system equitable, facilitating each citizen, especially the marginalized, to approach the courts for redress. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for eCourts Phase-III was approved by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India on 21.10.2022. eCourts Phase III was also announced during the presentation of the Union Budget 2023- 2024

with an outlay of Rs.7210 crore. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) accorded approval to the Phase-III of eCourts Project in its meeting held on 23.02.2023. The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 13.09.2023 approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7210 crore. Subsequently, Rs. 225 crore has been released for eCourts Phase III by the Ministry of Finance from the Contingency Fund, out of which Rs. 102.50 crore has been allocated to BSNL and NIC and Rs. 110.24 crore has been sub-allocated to various High Courts for scanning and digitization, e-Sewa Kendras, IT Hardware for existing and newly setup courts, solar power backup etc. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the eCourts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. The proposed timeframe for the eCourts Project Phase-III is four years (2023 onwards). The Phase-III of the project envisions facilitation of various new features, which may prove to be a game changer for last mile justice delivery. The components and financial details of eCourts Phase III are at Annexure I.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.589 for 07/12/2023 regarding Third phase of eCourts. The components and financial details of eCourts Phase III are as below:

S.No.	Scheme Component	Cost Estimate (Total (In Rs. Cr.))
1	Scanning, Digitization and Digital Preservation of Case Records	2038.40
2	Cloud Infrastructure	1205.23
3	Additional hardware to existing courts	643.66
4	Infrastructure in newly set up courts	426.25
5	Virtual Courts	413.08
6	eSewa Kendra	394.48
7	Paperless Court	359.20
8	System and Application Software Development	243.52
9	Solar Power Backup	229.50
10	Video Conferencing set-up	228.48
11	e- filing	215.97
12	Connectivity (Primary + Redundancy)	208.72
13	Capacity Building	208.52
14	CLASS (Courtroom Live-Audio Visual Streaming System)	112.26
15	Project Management Unit	56.67
16	Future Technological Advancements	53.57
17	Judicial process re-engineering	33.00
18	Disabled friendly ICT enabled facilities	27.54
19	NSTEP	25.75
20	Online Dispute Resolution (ODR)	23.72
21	Knowledge Management System	23.30
22	e-Office for High Courts & District Courts	21.10
23	Integration with Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)	11.78
24	S3WAAS platform	6.35
	TOTAL	7210