

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2816
ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

e-FILING IN LOWER JUDICIARY

2816 SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY :

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the poor status of e-filing adoption in the lower judiciary;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken by Government to encourage adoption of e-filing, especially due to issues like low internet bandwidth, server problems and power disruptions;
- (c) whether Government plans to introduce training sessions for lawyers and court clerks on the e-filing process and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government plans to introduce any Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning tools for a smoother e-filing plans and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): Under eCourts Mission Mode Project, e-Filing has been made functional and it is available for all High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts across India. New e-Filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers, with upgraded features such as Vakalatnama, pleading, e-payments, applications and portfolio. Draft e-Filing rules have been framed by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India (SCI) which were circulated to all High Courts for implementation of online filing. These are available on the website of eCommittee, SCI (<https://filing.ecourts.gov.in>). A total of 25 High Courts,

except High Court of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Itanagar Bench of Gauhati High Court, have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 31.10.2024.

To promote e-Filing, the following further measures have also been taken:

- Vide D.O. letter dt. 09.10.2021, instructions have been issued by the Chairperson, eCommittee, Supreme Court to all High Courts to ensure that all Government litigation should be e-Filed.
- Vide D.O. Letter dt. 30.11.2021, Department of Justice has also advised all Central Ministries/ Departments to use e-Filing in all Government litigation.
- Vide D.O. Letter dt. 03.12.2021, Department of Legal Affairs has advised all Ministries/ Departments of the Government of the India, as well as all the Law Officers for e-filing in respect of litigation, on behalf of the Union of India by the Ministries/Departments concerned, including Autonomous Bodies/Subordinate Offices/Attached Offices and PSUs, under their administrative control.

Till October 2024, 43,68,894 cases were filed in District & Taluka Courts using e-Filing facility. The details are placed at Annexure I.

Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, the connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of the Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed. The Wide Area Network (WAN) Project under eCourts project is aimed at connecting all District and Subordinate court complexes, spread across the country using various technologies like Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS), Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Radio Frequency (RF), Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT), Submarine Cable etc. This forms the backbone for the eCourts project, ensuring data connectivity in Courts across the length and breadth of the country. At present, connectivity to 209 new court complexes is being provided by BSNL using Software-Defined Wide Area Network (SD-WAN) Technology, with the facility of opting for multiple connectivity, as well as service providers.

During Phase II of the eCourts Project, solar power system were installed in 5% of court complexes (242 court complexes) to provide power backup and un-interrupted power supply to courts. Under Phase III of the eCourts Project, there is a provision for installation of 1530 Solar power facilities, for ensuring seamless availability of ICT infrastructure, at an outlay of Rs. 229.5 crore.

Further, 112 training programmes for the advocates/ advocate clerks have been conducted by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India in every State, in coordination with the State Judicial Academies of the respective High Courts. These training programmes have interalia covered the topic of e-Filing.

(d): At present, the Supreme Court of India has adopted the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) language technology in translation of judicial documents. AI has also been deployed for transcribing oral arguments, particularly in Constitution Bench matters since February 2023. However, under Phase III of the eCourts Project, there is a component regarding use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and its subsets like Optical Character Recognition (OCR) etc for analysis of case pendency, forecasting future litigation, etc. at an outlay of Rs.53.57 crore.

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2816 for 19/12/2024 regarding e-Filing in lower judiciary. The details of total cases e-Filed is as below:

S.No.	State Name	Total Cases e-Filed in District Court
1	Allahabad	8160
2	Andhra Pradesh	4
3	Bombay	1259367
4	Calcutta	1468
5	Chhattisgarh	75
6	Delhi	933307
7	Gauhati–Arunachal Pradesh	0
8	Gauhati–Assam	14441
9	Gauhati–Mizoram	0
10	Gauhati–Nagaland	0
11	Gujarat	24
12	Himachal Pradesh	83787
13	Jammu & Kashmir	98906
14	Jharkhand	697
15	Karnataka	114939
16	Kerala	772449
17	Madhya Pradesh	588
18	Madras	924906
19	Manipur	4021
20	Meghalaya	1
21	Odisha	51982
22	Patna	3654
23	Punjab & Haryana	32535
24	Rajasthan	3068
25	Sikkim	5051
26	Telangana	286
27	Tripura	7977
28	Uttarakhand	47201
	Total	4368894