

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1231
ANSWERED ON 05/12/2024

EXISTING VIRTUAL COURTS IN THE COUNTRY

1231. SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether Government has expedited the process of improving the existing Virtual Court infrastructure in the country, particularly in the State of Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details of the action taken;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to expand the scope of Virtual Courts to address the problem of long pendency of cases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, whether Government is planning to take any steps in this regard 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) and (b): Virtual Court is aimed at eliminating the physical presence of litigant or lawyer in the court and for adjudication of cases on a virtual platform. This concept has been evolved in order to efficiently utilize court resources and to provide the litigants with an effective avenue to settle petty disputes while adhering to all the judicial processes. Virtual Court can be administered by a Judge over a virtual electronic platform whose jurisdiction may extend to the entire State and function 24x7. Neither litigant nor Judge would have to physically visit a court for effective adjudication and resolution. Communication would only be in electronic form and sentencing / payment of fine or compensation would also be accomplished online. These courts may be used for disposal of cases where there may be proactive admission of guilt by the accused or proactive compliance by the defendant on receipt of the summons and electronic

form as in the cases of traffic violations. Such matters are generally treated as disposed of after the payment of the due fine etc. Establishment of Virtual Courts is an administrative matter which falls within the purview and domain of the judiciary and respective State Governments. As on 30.10.2024, 27 Virtual Courts in 21 States / UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Chandigarh, Gujarat (2), Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand (2), Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Manipur (2), have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 6crore cases have been handled by these virtual courts and online fine of more than Rs. 649.81 crore has been realized till 30.10.2024. At present, there is no Virtual Court functioning in the state of Jharkhand.

(c) to (e): Under phase-III of the eCourts Project, there is a component for establishment and expansion of scope of Virtual Courts beyond traffic challan cases at an amount of Rs. 413.08 crore.
