

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1715
ANSWERED ON 13/03/2025

ADDRESSING PENDENCY IN INDIAN COURTS

1715. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

- (a) the current number of pending cases in the Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate courts, and the specific measures being taken to reduce this pendency;
- (b) whether Government plans to increase judicial infrastructure and appoint more judges to address the backlog; and
- (c) the status of implementing fast-track courts for cases involving women, children and other vulnerable groups?

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): As per the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal, the number of pending cases in courts across the country as of 06.03.2025, is as under:

S. No.	Name of court	No. of pending cases
1.	Supreme Court of India	80,963
2.	High Courts	62,46,095
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,67,69,935

While the disposal of cases falls under the purview of the judiciary, the Government is committed to creating an eco-system that facilitates faster case resolution, in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution of India. To address pendency, the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in 2011 with the twin objectives of

reducing delays and arrears and enhancing judicial efficiency and accountability. The Mission follows a coordinated approach, which includes improving court infrastructure, increasing the number of judicial officers, implementing policy and legislative measures to minimize excessive litigation, streamlining judicial processes to expedite case disposal and investing in human resource development for better case management.

In line with this approach, the Government has significantly strengthened judicial infrastructure through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Judicial Infrastructure. This has led to a notable increase in court halls from 15,818 (2014) to 22,062 (2025) and residential units for judicial officers from 10,211 (2014) to 19,775 (2025). Additionally, the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, now in Phase-III, aims to transition towards digital, online and paperless courts, leveraging AI, blockchain and smart case management systems. To expedite case disposal, Arrears Committees have been established in all High Courts and District Courts and Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and Special Courts have been set up to handle cases related to heinous crimes and offenses against vulnerable groups. Further, legislative amendments in Commercial Courts Act, 2015, Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, Negotiable Instruments, 1881 and Criminal Laws have streamlined judicial processes, while Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, such as Lok Adalats and pre-institution mediation, have significantly reduced case backlog. Since 2021, Lok Adalats have resolved over 24.45 crore cases, providing an efficient alternative to litigation. Additionally, initiatives like Tele-Law, which has provided legal advice to over 1.08 crore beneficiaries and Nyaya Bandhu, which promotes pro bono legal services, have enhanced access to justice at the grassroots level.

(b): The Government is committed to strengthening judicial infrastructure to improve the efficiency of courts and facilitate better access to justice. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Judicial Infrastructure Development, financial assistance is provided for the construction of court halls, residential units for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms. Since the scheme's inception, Rs. 11,886.29 crore has been allocated, with Rs. 8,441.99 crore (71.02%) disbursed since 2014-15. The scheme has been extended until 2025-26, at an outlay of Rs. 9,000 crores, including a Rs. 5,307 crore as central share. For Financial Year 2024-25, Rs. 958.28 crore

has already been disbursed as of 28.02.2025 and Rs. 998 crore has been allocated for FY 2025-26.

To further modernize court operations, the Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, a Central Sector Scheme aimed at digitizing court processes and enhancing judicial efficiency. Now in Phase-III (2023-2027), with an outlay of Rs. 7,210 crores, the project focuses on universal e-filing, digital case records, and smart systems for case management and prioritization. These initiatives aim to reduce pendency, enhance accessibility, and make judicial processes more transparent and technology-driven.

The appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary is a continuous and collaborative process between the executive and judiciary, requiring consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities at both State and Central levels.

Judicial appointments to the Supreme Court and High Courts are governed by Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution. As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the Chief Justice of India initiates proposals for Supreme Court appointments, while the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges, initiates High Court appointments. The recommendations in regard to appointment of High Court Judges undergo multiple levels of scrutiny, including inputs from the State Government and other relevant reports, before being forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Since May 2014, 66 Judges have been appointed to the Supreme Court, and 1,024 Judges to various High Courts.

Appointments in District and Subordinate Courts fall under the jurisdiction of State Governments and High Courts, as per Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution of India. The recruitment process is governed by the rules framed by State Governments in consultation with High Courts.

(c): To ensure the expeditious trial of cases related to women, children and other vulnerable groups, the Government has taken multiple initiatives. The 14th Finance Commission (2015-2020) recommended the establishment of 1,800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for cases involving heinous crimes, civil disputes related to women, children, senior citizens and property related matters pending for more than five years. The Union

Government urged State Governments to allocate funds for FTCs, leveraging the enhanced fiscal space from tax devolution. As per the information made available by the High Courts, 860 FTCs are operational across the country as of 31.01.2025. The State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Courts are placed at **Annexure-I**.

Additionally, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) was launched in October, 2019 to facilitate expeditious disposal of cases related to rape and child sexual abuse under the POCSO Act. As per the information made available by the High Courts, 745 FTSCs, including 404 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) courts, are operational across 30 States/UTs as of 31.01.2025. Since the inception of the scheme, these courts have disposed of over 3,06,000 cases, while 2,03,000 cases remain pending. The State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) are at **Annexure-II**.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1715 FOR ANSWER ON 13.03.2025 REGARDING 'ADDRESSING PENDENCY IN INDIAN COURTS'.

STATE/UT-WISE STATUS OF FAST TRACK COURT (FTCs) AS ON 31.01.2025

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Number of Functional FTCs
1	Andhra Pradesh	21
2	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	16
5	Bihar	0
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	25
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Diu & Daman	0
9	Delhi	26
10	Goa	4
11	Gujarat	54
12	Haryana	6
13	Himachal Pradesh	3
14	Jammu & Kashmir	8
15	Jharkhand	39
16	Karnataka	0
17	Kerala	0
18	Ladakh	0
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	0
21	Maharashtra	100
22	Manipur	6
23	Meghalaya	0
24	Mizoram	2
25	Nagaland	0
26	Odisha	0
27	Puducherry	1
28	Punjab	7
29	Rajasthan	0
30	Sikkim	2
31	Tamil Nadu	72
32	Telangana	0
33	Tripura	3
34	Uttar Pradesh	373
35	Uttarakhand	4
36	West Bengal	88
	TOTAL	860

(As per inputs submitted by High Courts on the Department Dashboard)

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1715 FOR ANSWER ON 13.03.2025 REGARDING 'ADDRESSING PENDENCY IN INDIAN COURTS'.

STATE/UT-WISE STATUS OF FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURT (FTSC) AS ON 31.01.2025

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts	
		FTSCs including ePOCSO	ePOCSO
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16
2	Assam	17	17
3	Bihar	46	46
4	Chandigarh	1	0
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11
6	Delhi	16	11
7	Goa	1	0
8	Gujarat	35	24
9	Haryana	16	12
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3
11	J&K	4	2
12	Jharkhand	22	16
13	Karnataka	30	17
14	Kerala	55	14
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	56
16	Maharashtra	4	1
17	Manipur	2	0
18	Meghalaya	5	5
19	Mizoram	3	1
20	Nagaland	1	0
21	Odisha	44	23
22	Puducherry*	1	1
23	Punjab	12	3
24	Rajasthan	45	30
25	Tamil Nadu	14	14
26	Telangana	36	0
27	Tripura	3	1
28	Uttarakhand	4	0
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74
30	West Bengal	6	6
31	A&N**	-	-
32	Arunachal Pradesh***	-	-
	TOTAL	745	404

* Puducherry specially requested to join the Scheme and has since operationalized one exclusive POCSO Court in May 2023.

** A&N Islands has conveyed its willingness to join the Scheme, but has not yet established any FTSC.

*** Arunachal Pradesh has opted out of the Scheme citing a very low number of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act.