

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1717

ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

Improving Infrastructure of Courts for Speedy Justice

1717. Smt. Renuka Chowdhury:

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

- (a) the total budget allocated and utilized for improving court infrastructure in the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) whether there is any plan to increase the judge-to-population ratio from the current 20 per million to the recommended 50 per million, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is addressing the shortage of public prosecutors and forensic experts that contributes to judicial delays, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the progress made in implementing nationwide digitisation of judicial processes, such as filing, tracking, and case resolution?

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): The Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice has been supplementing the resources of the State/UT Governments, through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the development of Judicial infrastructure of the district and subordinate judiciary, wherein financial assistance is provided in the prescribed fund -sharing ratio to the States/UTs for the development of five components namely, court halls and residential units for judicial officers, lawyer's halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms for the convenience of lawyers and litigants. Since the inception of the scheme in the year 1993-94 till date, a sum of Rs.11,885.29 crores been

released. Year-wise details of funds allocated and utilized under the scheme for last five years and current financial year are as under:-

(Rs. in Crores)

Financial year	Budget Allocation	Utilized
2019-20	982.00	982.00
2020-21	593.00	593.00
2021-22	770.44	684.60
2022-23	848.00	858.00*
2023-24	1051.00	1060.17*
2024-25(as on 28.2.2025)	1123.40	958.28**

**The slightly excess funds released in the FY 2022-23 and 2023-24 is on account of re-appropriation of funds from Gram Nyayalaya Scheme, which is a Sub Scheme of CSS for development of Judicial Infrastructure.*

Besides, the e-Courts Mission Mode project is being implemented as a Central Sector Scheme for the Information and Communication Technology(ICT) enablement of the Indian courts. Phase-I (2011-2015) of the scheme aimed at providing basic ICT infrastructure to the courts, while Phase-II(2015-2023) complemented Phase-I, by providing enhanced services to different stakeholders. Phase-III of the scheme (2023-27) was launched with a capital outlay of Rs.7210 crore. It aims at ushering a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, on-line and paperless courts, through digitization of the entire court records and bringing in universalization of e-filing/e-payments through saturation of all court complexes with e-Seva kendras. There is a plan to put in place intelligent smart systems enabling data-based making for judges and registries, while scheduling or prioritizing the cases. Year-wise details of funds allocated and utilized under e-Courts project during last five years are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Allocation	Total Expenditure
2019-20	180	179.26
2020-21	180	179.31
2021-22	98.82	98.30
2022-23	0.01	0.00
2023-24	825	768.25
2024-25 (as on 28.2.2025)	1200	1134.73

Phase-II of e Courts project was completed in March,2022 and Phase-III of scheme started in September,2023 and a token money of Rs.1.00 lakh was allocated for the FY 2022-23.

(b) At present, the judge population ratio in the country works out to be approximately 21 Judges per million population. In order to calculate the judge-population ratio for per million population in a particular year, the criterion based on the population data as per Census 2011 (1210.19 million) is used and the sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Court and District & Subordinate Courts in the year 2023.

The Law Commission of India, in its 120th report titled, “Manpower Planning in Judiciary - : Blueprint”, recommended a planned overall increase in the ratio of judges per million of population from 10.5 to 50. The Supreme Court of India, in its judgement delivered on 31.03.2022, in All India Judges' Assn. (3)vs. Union of India case, directed that a Judge to Population ratio of fifty judges per million be achieved. Similar observations were made in cases such as P. Ramachandra Rao vs. State of Karnataka (2002) 4SCC 478 and Brij Mohal Lal vs. Union of India (2002) 5 SCC 1.

In so far as suggested increase in number of Judges per million is concerned, the appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary is a continuous and collaborative exercise between the Executive and Judiciary. Further, in case of District and Subordinate courts, the need for appropriate number of judges and the consequent requirement for filling up of the vacancies lies in the domain of respective High Courts and the State Governments.

(c) The public prosecutors are to be appointed for a particular jurisdiction, in accordance with extant legal provisions. In order to provide quality and trained forensic manpower across all parts of the country, the Government of India has established the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU).

(d) The Government of India has launched the eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project to enable the Indian Judiciary with Information and Communication Technology (ICT), aiming to enhance access to justice through technology. The Department of Justice, under the Ministry of Law and Justice, in close collaboration with the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India, is implementing the eCourts Project in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts.

As part of its ongoing progress, the project has prioritized ICT-driven facilitation of judicial services for citizens. The key initiatives include the development of an advanced Case Information System (CIS), user-friendly portals like the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for tracking case pendency, digital filing and payment systems, and the establishment of eSewa

Kendras, all of which have transformed the way the public accesses judicial services. Till 2023, 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts had been computerized.

An amount of Rs. 2,038.40 crore has been earmarked in Phase III of the eCourts Project (2023–2027), for the digitization of 3,108 crore documents, covering both legacy and pending case records. Digitization efforts are progressing well, and to date, about 446 crore pages of court records have been digitized across High Courts and District Courts. Additionally, the project envisions several new digital initiatives, including the establishment of Digital and Paperless Courts, with an aim to conduct court proceedings entirely in digital format. The expansion of video conferencing facilities to courts, prisons, and hospitals is underway, along with plans to broaden the scope of online courts beyond traffic violations. The project also targets the complete coverage of court complexes with eSewa Kendras and the deployment of a state-of-the-art cloud-based data repository to support easy retrieval of digitized court records, software applications, live streaming, and handling electronic evidence. Emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its subsets like Optical Character Recognition (OCR), are being harnessed to analyse case pendency, forecast litigation trends, and enhance judicial efficiency. Through these concerted efforts, the Government aims to usher in a new era of ICT-enabled governance in the Indian Judiciary, making the judicial experience more convenient, cost-effective, and seamless for all stakeholders.