

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 429**  
ANSWERED ON 06/02/2025

**SALARY AND EMOLUMENTS OF JUDGES**

429. SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:

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

(a) the steps taken by Government to address the systemic deficiencies that impede the expeditious resolution and disposal of cases pending in the courts; and

(b) whether Government is considering increasing the salaries and emoluments of the Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court of India?

**ANSWER**

THE 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 disposal of pending cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Government has taken various initiatives to facilitate expeditious resolution and disposal of cases.

(i) The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better

infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

(ii) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 11841.72 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 22,037 as on 20.01.2025, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,690 as on 20.01.2025, under this scheme.

(iii) Further under the Phase I & II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) had been leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts. 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. As on 31.12.2025, 1540 eSewaKendras in District Courts and 29 eSewaKendras in High Courts have been made functional to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 27 virtual courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs. As on 31.12.2024, these courts have handled more than 6.36 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 691.95crores in fines. The Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved eCourts Phase-III at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crores. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block Chain, etc. to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

(iv) The Government has been regularly filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts. From 01.05.2014 to 27.01.2025, 66 Judges were appointed in the Supreme Court. 1013 new Judges were appointed and 776 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till now. The sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
30.01.2025	25,771	20,478

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

However, filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and High Courts concerned.

(v) In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Courts as well.

(vi) Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 31.12.2024, 863 Fast Track Courts are functional for handling cases of heinous crimes, crimes against women and children, etc. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government has approved a Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 31.12.2024, 747 FTSCs including 406 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 2,99,000 cases.

(vii) With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has amended various laws like The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, The

Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

(viii) Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Amendment to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is provision for case management hearing which provides for an efficient, effective and purposeful judicial management of a case so as to achieve a timely and qualitative resolution of a dispute. It assists in early identification of disputed issues of fact and law, establishment of procedural calendar for the life of the case and the exploration of possibilities of the resolution of the dispute.

Another novel feature introduced for the commercial courts is the system of color banding which limits the number of adjournments that can be granted in any commercial matter to three and alerts the judges about listing of the cases in accordance with their stage of pendency.

(ix) Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under The Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. Lok Adalat is not a permanent establishment. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

The details of the cases disposed of in National Lok Adalats during the last four years are as under: -

<b>Years</b>	<b>Pre-litigation Cases</b>	<b>Pending Cases</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024 (upto 31.12.2024)	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,62,73,548</b>	<b>4,83,08,835</b>	<b>24,45,82,383</b>

(x) The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App.

\*Percentage Wise break-up of Tele – Law Data

<b>Category</b>	<b>Cases Registered</b>	<b>% Wise Break Up</b>	<b>Advice Enabled</b>	<b>% Wise Break Up</b>
<b>Gender Wise</b>				
Female	41,75,351	39.32	41,20,027	39.27
Male	64,43,290	60.68	63,72,548	60.73
<b>Caste Category Wise</b>				
General	24,90,291	23.45	24,52,633	23.37
OBC	33,54,939	31.59	33,11,963	31.56
SC	33,45,204	31.50	33,11,945	31.56
ST	14,28,207	13.45	14,16,034	13.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,06,18,641</b>		<b>1,04,92,575</b>	

\*Data as on 31-12-2024.

(xi) Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering in the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services are also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been initiated in 23 High Courts at the State level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Laws Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

**(b):** The pay, allowance, pension etc. in respect of judges of Supreme Court and High Courts are governed by The Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958 and The High Court Judges (Salary and Conditions of Services) Act, 1954 respectively. The salary, pension and allowances of judges of Supreme Court and High Courts were last revised w.e.f. 01.01.2016 consequent upon implementation of 7<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission recommendation by the Government, through an amendment in both the applicable laws mentioned above. Presently, no proposal for enhancing pay, allowances and pension etc. for the judges of Supreme Court and High Courts is under consideration of the Government.

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