

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.432
ANSWERED ON 06/02/2025

INSTRUCTION/ORDERS TO LOWER JUDICIARY BY THE SUPREME COURT

432. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) whether Government/Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued any instruction/orders to lower judiciary to dispose of criminal and civil cases which are pending for more than 40 years and 30 years;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof since the said instruction/order has been issued, State-wise; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) to (c): In April, 2024, the Supreme Court Committee on "Model Case Flow Management Rules for Trial Courts, District Appellate Courts, High Courts and to suggest a plan for reduction of arrears in the High Courts and District Courts", prepared and shared an 'Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary' to dispose of old pending cases in time bound manner. The Action Plan inter-alia, indicated focusing upon prioritization of long-standing cases with special emphasis on cases pending for excessively long periods, such as over 10, 20 or 30 years; accelerating the progression of long standing and newer cases to finalization; equitable case distribution among judges; effective handling of unready and stayed cases; effective utilization of alternative dispute resolution; use of technology; managing undated cases for facilitating timely progression and resolution; adequate human resources support to Judicial Officers; regular monitoring of case progress and regular review meetings

to assess effectiveness of action plan; stakeholder engagement to address procedural delays; and tailored strategies allowing for flexibility and adaptation of action plan to meet the specific circumstances of each district.

While the disposal of court cases falls within the domain of the judiciary, the Central Government remains committed to ensuring their speedy disposal and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Government set up the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in 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 co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves improved infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.
