

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2360
ANSWERED ON 20/03/2025

ADDRESSING CASE PENDENCY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

2360. SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL:

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

- (a) the total number of cases pending in District Courts, High Courts, the Supreme Court and tribunals under central acts as of January 1 for the years 2020 through 2025;
- (b) whether Government is aware that increasing case pendency adversely affects common citizens, making it challenging for them to pursue legal recourse;
- (c) the details of pending cases in district and High Courts as of January 1, 2025, categorised by case type and location; and
- (d) whether Government plans to enhance judicial infrastructure and resources to expedite case resolutions and improve access to justice for all?

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 total number of cases pending in District Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court as on January 1 for the years 2020 through 2025 is at *Annexure- I, II and III*, respectively. However, information regarding the pendency of cases in tribunals under central acts is not maintained by the Department.

(b): While the disposal of cases falls under the purview of the judiciary, the Government is committed to creating an environment that facilitates faster case resolution, in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The Government has taken

several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary, as under:

- 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. 11886.29 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 22,062 as on 28.02.2025 and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,775 as on 28.02.2025, under this scheme.
- iii. Further under 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 31.01.2025, 1572 eSewa Kendras in District Courts and 39 eSewa Kendras in High Courts have been made functional to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 28 virtual courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs. As on 31.01.2025, these courts have handled more than 6.66 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 714.99 crores in fines. The Cabinet, on

13.09.2023, has approved Phase-III of the eCourts Project at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. 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 06.03.2025, 66 Judges were appointed in the Supreme Court. 1024 new Judges were appointed and 788 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
28.02.2025	25,786	20,511

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/UT 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 31.01.2025, 860 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country. 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 31.01.2025, 745 FTSCs including 404 exclusive POCSO

(ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 3,06,000 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. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. Amendment to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015, 2019 & 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a 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: -

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
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	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
Total	19,62,73,548	4,83,08,835	24,45,82,383

- 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

Category	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	43,50,146	39.53%	42,92,045	39.49%
Male	66,55,274	60.47%	65,77,616	60.51%
Caste Category Wise				
General	25,94,779	23.58%	25,54,696	23.50%
OBC	34,67,629	31.51%	34,21,343	31.48%
SC	34,55,009	31.39%	34,19,433	31.46%
ST	14,88,003	13.52%	14,74,189	13.56%
Total	1,10,05,420		1,08,69,661	

*Data as on 28.02.2025.

- 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/UT level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Laws Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

(c): The details of the case type pendency in District Courts and High Courts as on January 1, 2025, as available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is at *Annexures IV* and *V* respectively.

(d): The Government remains committed to enhancing judicial infrastructure and resources to expedite case resolution and improve access to justice. Through 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 released and it has now been extended until 2025-26, with a total budget of Rs. 9,000 crore, including a Rs. 5,307 crore central share. For FY 2024-25, Rs. 958.28 crore has been disbursed as of February 28, 2025, and Rs. 998.00 crore has been allocated for FY 2025-26.

To modernize court operations and improve judicial efficiency, the Government is also implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, a Central Sector Scheme aimed at digitizing court processes. Now in Phase-III (2023-2027), with an outlay of Rs. 7,210 crore, the project focuses on universal e-filing, digital case records and intelligent case management systems. These initiatives are designed to reduce pendency, enhance accessibility and promote transparency in judicial processes.

As of February 28, 2025, the district and subordinate courts have 22,062 court halls and 19,775 residential units in operation, with an additional 3,206 court halls and 2,639 residential units under construction.

These efforts underscore the Government's steadfast commitment to strengthening judicial infrastructure, leveraging technology, and ensuring efficient and accessible justice delivery across the country.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2360 FOR ANSWER ON 20.03.2025 REGARDING
'ADDRESSING CASE PENDENCY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE'**

Pending Cases in District and Subordinate Courts, year-wise for the last five years and current year

Sr. No	State/UT	As on 01.01.2020	As on 01.01.2021	As on 01.01.2022	As on 01.01.2023	As on 01.01.2024	As on 01.01.2025
1	Andaman and Nicobar	10062	8534	8275	8879	8266	8093
2	Andhra Pradesh	644562	778812	838750	871552	888303	888466
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5239	6670	8590	10664	9888	9984
4	Assam	359638	416158	487602	450878	494918	508467
5	Bihar	3245611	3444478	3500666	3564587	3603580	3606483
6	Chandigarh	59105	70667	80914	90489	102888	101762
7	Chhattisgarh	339277	387312	420311	415487	415674	412501
8	Delhi	959395	1091392	1294765	1225350	1448144	1521354
9	Diu and Daman	2797	2849	2919	3063	3256	3367
10	Goa	60253	66471	64728	62280	59915	60204
11	Gujarat	1924123	1954531	1723574	1546594	1490523	1488887
12	Haryana	1119274	1307285	1487515	1508443	1424766	1452428
13	Himachal Pradesh	427869	465420	490124	585903	634041	621370
14	Jammu and Kashmir	228354	254857	299757	313084	315250	325440
15	Jharkhand	467135	532214	543846	555662	541964	544096
16	Karnataka	1767910	1824789	1905119	1956587	2074810	2090916
17	Kerala	2072196	2080592	1986361	1871845	1745400	1713031
18	Ladakh	783	907	1273	1275	1422	1439
19	Lakshadweep	165	225	357	496	518	531
20	Madhya Pradesh	1733640	1917403	2002464	2028354	2019037	2004700
21	Maharashtra	4574455	4864283	5013998	5146741	5409087	5565701
22	Manipur	11054	12900	12031	12912	12455	12654
23	Meghalaya	16138	16996	16437	15827	14848	15044
24	Mizoram	3963	4033	3043	3948	6219	6616
25	Nagaland	2275	2654	3061	3184	3317	3353
26	Odisha	1449013	1546945	1576193	1623255	1652610	1651269
27	Puducherry	32150	32447	35625	37180	35048	35279
28	Punjab	849268	930199	919854	869616	853766	853239
29	Rajasthan	1941874	2138518	2212961	2336331	2284356	2276072
30	Sikkim	1566	1819	1858	1670	1589	1681
31	Tamil Nadu	1360092	1439980	1503712	1479624	1479852	1484407
32	Telangana	738581	870938	890379	914774	935839	933551
33	Tripura	44679	42979	40432	43429	42855	43138
34	Uttar Pradesh	8746054	9879430	11222586	11383533	11561536	11526821
35	Uttarakhand	269718	303212	325826	349449	348282	334565
36	West Bengal	2428578	2640098	2791790	3007979	3386650	3392959
	Total:	37896846	41338997	43717696	44300924	45310872	45499868

National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

ANNEXURE-II

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2360 FOR ANSWER ON 20.03.2025
REGARDING 'ADDRESSING CASE PENDENCY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE'.**

Pending Cases in High Courts, year-wise for the last five years and current year

Sr. No	Name of High Court	Pendency as on 01.01.2020	Pendency as on 01.01.2021	Pendency as on 01.01.2022	Pendency as on 01.01.2023	Pendency as on 01.01.2024	Pendency as on 01.01.2025
1	Allahabad	988692	1024500	1034218	1066571	1145991	1160164
2	Bombay	510986	550118	591274	620353	649613	658005
3	Calcutta	236049	231715	217006	203409	203725	199605
4	Gauhati	51748	56172	59342	62007	64324	64322
5	Telangana	237612	254925	252441	246375	244956	245003
6	Andhra Pradesh	207673	223096	240845	248344	246234	246719
7	Chhattisgarh	76393	81568	91662	90447	84469	82813
8	Delhi	119613	124713	121512	124727	130504	132481
9	Gujarat	142064	154651	161344	167173	171075	173132
10	Himachal Pradesh	70126	76263	82756	88400	93898	95223
11	Jammu and Kashmir	59178	48145	44626	44240	44919	45374
12	Jharkhand	88670	88757	87897	85690	74440	73359
13	Karnataka	259750	255213	273116	289764	302878	307640
14	Kerala	213926	228185	242069	254967	251849	250949
15	Madhya Pradesh	384712	410142	433030	448728	467458	473763
16	Manipur	3839	4232	4256	4657	5275	5391
17	Meghalaya	1452	1581	1183	1123	1246	1267
18	Punjab and Haryana	419943	451872	448638	442413	431832	427674
19	Rajasthan	507824	552999	609046	622998	652899	669844
20	Sikkim	240	180	164	181	207	221
21	Tripura	2361	1771	1616	1279	1055	1044
22	Uttarakhand	38564	41403	45031	50317	55510	56330
23	Madras	568699	572595	550017	535051	518012	522289
24	Orissa	174365	195083	160546	147434	146498	150109
25	Patna	180109	226712	212788	197375	202145	207033
	Total	5544588	5856591	5966423	6044023	6191012	6249754

National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

ANNEXURE-III

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2360 FOR ANSWER ON 20.03.2025 REGARDING 'ADDRESSING CASE PENDENCY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE'.

Pending Cases in Supreme Court of India, year-wise for the last five years and current year are as under:

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	*2025 (as on 07.03.2025)
65,086	70,239	78,797	80,674	82,496	80,963

Source: Supreme Court of India

*National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

ANNEXURE-IV

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2360 FOR ANSWER ON 20.03.2025 REGARDING 'ADDRESSING CASE PENDENCY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE'.

DistrictCourt- CaseType Pending Cases as on January 01 2025		
SR. No.	Case Type	Total Pending Cases
1	Warrant or Summons Criminal Cases	25591524
2	Civil Suit	5265823
3	Sessions Case	2342158
4	Misc. Criminal Applications	2147096
5	Execution Petition	1123472
6	Misc. Civil Cases	855036
7	MACP	724429
8	Misc. Civil Application	526782
9	Marriage Petition	505708
10	Civil Appeal	270658
11	Criminal Appeal	217679
12	Criminal Revision	125638
13	Land Reference	119998
14	Misc. Execution	124114
15	Bail Application	115157
16	Misc. Civil Appeal	101951
17	Juvenile Cases	71002
18	Arbitration Main and Misc.	50644
19	Labour Court Main Cases	45998
20	Industrial Court Main Cases	30436
21	Commercial Suit	24870
22	Civil Revision	12794
23	Labour Court Misc. Cases	5774
24	Other Tribunals	5734
25	Industrial Court Misc. Cases	5193
26	Election Petition	2242
27	Commercial Appeal	518
28	Cooperative Appeal Cases Main	422
29	Cooperative Court Cases Misc.	284
30	Cooperative Court Cases Main	248
31	Cooperative Appeal Cases Misc.	4
	Total	40413386

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

ANNEXURE-V

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2360 FOR ANSWER ON 20.03.2025 REGARDING 'ADDRESSING CASE PENDENCY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE'.

High Court – Case Type Pending Cases as on January 01, 2025		
SR. NO	Case Type	Total Pending Cases
1	Acquittal	10015
2	Admiralty	467
3	Against Order	169282
4	Arbitration	11962
5	Arising out of Writ Petition	39925
6	Bail	60045
7	Commercial	16819
8	Company	17043
9	Contempt	123998
10	Conviction	217335
11	Cross Objection	13970
12	Death	157
13	Election	946
14	Execution	55389
15	Filed by Govt.	20179
16	Habeas Corpus	1831
17	Industry/Bank/Finance/Insurance/Insolvency	755
18	Interim/Interlocutory Application	148893
19	Jail	49411
20	LPA	14665
21	Labour Industrial	1473
22	Land related	26730
23	Leave to file Appeal/Petition	18259
24	Misc	755442
25	Motor Accident Claim	71997
26	Original	336659
27	Other	178510
28	PIL	10687
29	Receiver	1
30	Regular	2406503
31	Service matters	29176
32	Special Jurisdiction	2243
33	Special Subjects	21513
34	Suo Motu	349
35	Tax/Excise/Duty/Cess	45179
36	Testamentary/Matrimonial	44595
	Total	4922403

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).