

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †285
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST JULY, 2023**

SETTLEMENT OF CASES IN COURTS

†285. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

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

- (a) the average number of cases settled in the Lower Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court during the last three years, till date, year-wise/State-wise; and**
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government for expeditious settlement of cases pending in the courts of the country?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW
AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The detailed statement showing the number of cases settled/disposed of by the Supreme Court during the last three years is at *ANNEXURE I*. Further, as per the information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the year-wise statement showing the number of cases settled/disposed of by the High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts during the last three years is at *ANNEXURE II & III* respectively.

(b): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no direct role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in

courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. There are several factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases and to reducing pendency. To this end, the Government has taken multiple initiatives the details of which are as under:-

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 co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better 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.

- i.** Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for 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 would ease the life of lawyers and litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 10035 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 21,365 as on 30.06.2023, and number of residential units has

increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,846 as on 30.06.2023, under this scheme.

- ii.** Further under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of district and subordinate courts. The number of computerised district & subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 815 e-Sewa Kendras have been set up at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case-related information, and e-filing facilities. 22 virtual courts have been set up in 18 States/UTs. As on 31.05.2023, these courts have handled more than 3.113 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 408 crores in fines. E-courts Phase III is about to begin which intends to incorporate latest technology such Artificial Intelligence(AI) and Block chain to make justice delivery more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.
- iii.** Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 10.07.2023, 56 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 919 new Judges were appointed and 653 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1114 currently. sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
14.07.2023	25,246	19,858

However, filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and high courts concerned.

- iv.** 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.

- v.** Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the government has established Fast Track Courts for dealing with cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As on 31.05.2023, 832 Fast Track Courts are functional for 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 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme.
- vi.** With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has recently 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.
- vii.** Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th 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.
- viii.** 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 case disposed off in Lok Adalats during the last three 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 (upto 17.06.2023)	3,00,11,291	61,88,686	3,61,99,977
Total	6,82,32,800	2,26,81,224	9,09,14,024

- ix. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provided 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 Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.

*Percentage Wise break-up of Tele – Law Data

Till 28th Feb, 2023	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	15,75,140	34.38	15,35,775	34.39
Male	30,06,772	65.62	29,30,601	65.61
Caste Category Wise				
General	9,82,636	21.45	9,52,773	21.33
OBC	13,28,505	28.99	12,93,153	28.95
SC	14,88,971	32.50	14,53,283	32.54
ST	7,81,800	17.065	7,67,167	17.18
Total	45,81,912		44,66,376	

- x. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering 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 also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of

advocates have been initiated in 21 High Courts at the State level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 69 select Laws Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

Annexure-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †285 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2023 REGARDING ‘SETTLEMENT OF CASES IN COURTS’.

Detailed Statement showing disposal of cases by Supreme Court of India in the last 3 years and current year (till 15th July, 2023).

Sl. No.	Year	No. of Cases disposed during the year
1	2020	20,670
2	2021	24,586
3	2022	36,436
4	2023 (till 15.07.2023)	25,959

Source: Supreme Court of India, Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS).

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †285 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2023 REGARDING ‘SETTLEMENT OF CASES IN COURTS’.

Detailed Statement showing High Court-wise disposal of cases for last 3 year(s) 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023(till 17th July, 2023)*					
S. No.	Name of High Court	No. of cases disposed			
		Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023 (till 17.07.2023)
1	Allahabad	146395	181493	195534	84077
2	Bombay	58447	92224	85337	28539
3	Calcutta	25001	38588	51070	20594
4	Gauhati	15782	18699	19521	7645
5	Telangana	22818	33628	41804	14030
6	Andhra Pradesh	22613	28310	36224	9603
7	Chhattisgarh	22560	25717	28875	11662
8	Delhi	22099	27514	28584	10425
9	Gujarat	46370	54048	59008	22735
10	Himachal Pradesh	26128	26648	29862	11402
11	Jammu and Kashmir	5920	7069	5236	1656
12	Jharkhand	28030	34859	32365	8724
13	Karnataka	35192	43772	39381	11382
14	Kerala	44575	26833	18577	8623
15	Madhya Pradesh	77909	95366	91342	37280
16	Manipur	1368	1879	2112	560
17	Meghalaya	957	996	1000	412
18	Punjab and Haryana	77193	91034	91718	32016
19	Rajasthan	88872	104576	101670	33631
20	Sikkim	128	143	89	21
21	Tripura	2158	2058	1888	537
22	Uttarakhand	10046	11266	11763	4675
23	Madras	153158	187017	214763	96796
24	Orissa	74458	115197	85049	33673
25	Patna	51089	88726	83942	32640
Total		10,59,266	13,37,660	13,56,714	5,23,338

*Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †285 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2023 REGARDING 'SETTLEMENT OF CASES IN COURTS'.

Detailed Statement showing State-wise disposal of cases for last 3 year(s) 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023(till 17th July, 2023)*

S.No	Name of the State	No. of cases disposed			
		Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023 (till 17.07.2023)
1	Uttar Pradesh	1606083	2527703	3698994	2022823
2	Maharashtra	256229	1188934	1553069	860415
3	Bihar	611536	386816	635678	385177
4	West Bengal	233658	365242	608746	279727
5	Rajasthan	453978	723598	1048909	525877
6	Madhya Pradesh	94418	201984	916960	480141
7	Karnataka	312127	742786	305772	825773
8	Kerala	422946	746005	958382	577040
9	Odisha	862533	1774039	1655931	145314
10	Gujarat	385729	1408146	1409917	789238
11	Haryana	681104	1264515	686311	227895
12	Tamil Nadu	216988	402207	2077873	1408796
13	Delhi	223606	307406	496401	335617
14	Telangana	125743	320170	625526	208736
15	Punjab	169334	260624	712985	436595
16	Andhra Pradesh	182422	481684	522831	264751
17	Jharkhand	278998	216603	348352	219438
18	Himachal Pradesh	56692	313541	274206	223251
19	Assam	167376	119821	459938	151416
20	Chhattisgarh	88471	206262	193003	170702
21	Jammu and Kashmir	68643	137985	149899	73786
22	Uttarakhand	87130	134773	185619	101480
23	Chandigarh	14170	30889	31293	12136
24	Goa	10050	17228	28545	15868
25	Tripura	14381	25772	38468	19493
26	Puducherry	11100	36004	38083	18987
27	Meghalaya	3155	8840	15902	8267
28	Manipur	1921	2197	1162	6286
29	Andaman and Nicobar	7831	8512	16718	332
30	Mizoram	2950	4386	5922	917
31	DNH at Silvassa	905	1686	2107	858
32	Nagaland	273	476	816	275
33	Diu and Daman	1126	2035	2069	807
34	Sikkim	0	0	40	1718
35	Arunachal Pradesh	456	3094	3753	280
36	Ladakh	2040	1007	1336	839
Total		76,56,102	1,43,72,970	1,97,11,516	1,08,01,051

*Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)