

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. †*220.

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 01ST AUGUST, 2018.

Number of Courts / POCSO Courts

**†*220. SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:
SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA:**

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

- (a) whether the number of courts in the country are adequate at present and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State-wise;**
- (b) the details of the steps being taken by the Government in this direction;**
- (c) whether there is any provision to set up one Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court for every 50 cases and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the number of POCSO courts functioning in the country at present, State and district-wise?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. †*220FOR ANSWER ON 01st August, 2018.

(a) to (d) : A Supreme Court of India, 24 High Courts and 13 Benches of High Courts have been established in accordance with the constitutional provisions. Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the control over District and Subordinate Courts in the States vests with the concerned High Court. As per information available in the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), details of the number of courts, State-wise / UT-wise, in District and Subordinate judiciary as on 31.03.2018, is given in ***Annexure – I.***

In the Supreme Court of India, as against the sanctioned strength of 31 Judges, working strength is 22 as on date. The Government, in conjunction with the CJI, appoints Judges in the Supreme Court, and during the period May 2014 – July 2018, 18 Judges were appointed in the Supreme Court. In addition, the sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts was increased from 906 (in May, 2014) to 1079 (as on date). As against the sanctioned strength of 1079 Judges in High Courts, working strength is 660 as on date. Appointment of Judges in High Courts is an on-going process. Details of number of judges appointed during the last three years, year and court-wise in the Supreme Court and High Courts are given in ***Annexure II.***

Steps have also been taken to increase the sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts. The sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers was increased from 19,518 as on 31.12.2013 to 22,545 as on 31.03.2018 and the working strength has also increased from 15,115 as on 31.12.2013 to 17,109 as on 31.03.2018. As per information made available by various High Courts, details of sanctioned / working strength of judicial officers in District and Subordinate judiciary as on 31.03.2018 are given in ***Annexure – III.***

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary, implemented by Union Government in association with States / UT governments since 1993-94, funds have been allocated for development of court halls and residential units in district and subordinate judiciary. As on date, Rs. 6,302 crore has been released by the Union Government since the inception of the Scheme. The number of available court halls for district and subordinate judiciary is 18,444, and number of residential units for judicial officers is 15,853 as on date. In addition, 2,709 court halls and 1,472 residential units are under construction, in various States / UTs. The Central Government has approved continuation of this Scheme for the period 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with an estimated additional outlay of Rs.3,320 crores. Under the Scheme, the fund sharing pattern between Centre and State is 60:40 respectively in respect of States other than North-East and Himalayan States; 90:10 in respect of North East and Himalayan States. In respect of Union Territories, 100% funding is done by Centre.

Section 28 of the POCSO Act, 2012 states that, for the purposes of providing a speedy trial, the State Government shall, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the relevant High Court, designate for each district, a Court of Session to be a Special Court to try the offences under the POCSO Act.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is mandated to monitor the implementation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. As per information received from NCPCR, as on date, there are 620 Special Courts designated under the POCSO Act in the country. State / UT-wise details (as provided by NCPCR) is given in ***Annexure – IV***.

Annexure - I

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 220 dated 01.08.2018

Total Number of Court Halls as on 31.03.2018

Sr. No.	Name of the State / UT	Total Number of Court Halls
1	A & N Islands	16
2	Andhra Pradesh	636
3	Arunachal Pradesh	24
4	Assam	344
5	Bihar	1340
6	Chandigarh	31
7	Chhattisgarh	373
8	Delhi	482
9	Daman & Diu	7
10	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	3
11	Goa	60
12	Gujarat	1444
13	Haryana	519
14	Himachal Pradesh	151
15	Jammu & Kashmir	202
16	Jharkhand	604
17	Karnataka	992
18	Kerala	492
19	Lakshadweep	3
20	Madhya Pradesh	1395
21	Maharashtra	2191
22	Manipur	37
23	Meghalaya	38
24	Mizoram	34
25	Nagaland	37
26	Odisha	536
27	Puducherry	20
28	Punjab	558
29	Rajasthan	994
30	Sikkim	15
31	Tamilnadu	1035
32	Tripura	68
33	Telangana	439
34	Uttar Pradesh	2192
35	Uttarakhand	223
36	West Bengal	909
Total		18444

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 220 dated 01.08.2018

Details of number of judges appointed during the last three years, year and court-wise in the Supreme Court and High Courts

A. Supreme Court:

Fresh appointment made during 01.01.2016 to 31.12.2016	Fresh appointment made during 01.01.2017 to 31.12.2017	Fresh appointment made during 01.01.2018 to 23.07.2018
04	05	01

B. High Courts:

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Fresh appointment made during 1.1.2016 to 31.12.2016	Fresh appointment made during 1.1.2017 to 31.12.2017	Fresh appointment made during 1.1.2018 to 23.07.2018
1	Allahabad	20	31	--
2	Telangana & Andhra Pradesh	01	10	--
3	Bombay	06	14	--
4	Calcutta	01	06	07
5	Chhattisgarh	03	03	04
6	Delhi	05	04	--
7	Gauhati	05	02	--
8	Gujarat	05	--	--
9	Himachal	04	--	--

	Pradesh			
10	Jammu & Kashmir	--	03	--
11	Jharkhand	04	02	03
12	Karnataka	05	02	07
13	Kerala	05	03	--
14	Madhya Pradesh	18	--	05
15	Madras	25	12	07
16	Manipur	01	--	--
17	Meghalaya	--	--	--
18	Orissa	--	--	--
19	Patna	06	06	--
20	Punjab & Haryana	01	08	--
21	Rajasthan	11	05	--
22	Sikkim	--	01	--
23	Tripura	--	--	01
24	Uttarakhand	--	03	--
	Total	126	115	34

Annexure - III

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 220 dated 01.08.2018

Statement showing details of Sanctioned / Working Strength of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Judiciary as on 31.03.2018			
Sr. No.	Name of State / UT	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength

1	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	987	912
2	Arunachal Pradesh	28	17
3	Assam	430	350
4	Bihar	1837	1153
5	Chandigarh	30	30
6	Chhattisgarh	399	376
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveili and Daman and Diu	7	6
8	Delhi	799	518
9	Goa	55	44
10	Gujarat	1496	1116
11	Haryana	645	496
12	Himachal Pradesh	159	148
13	Jammu & Kashmir	261	224
14	Jharkhand	672	462
15	Karnataka	1303	1061
16	Kerala	536	479
17	Lakshadweep	3	2
18	Madhya Pradesh	2021	1315
19	Maharashtra	2097	1914
20	Manipur	50	39
21	Meghalaya	97	39
22	Mizoram	67	46
23	Nagaland	33	21
24	Orissa	862	649
25	Puducherry	26	12
26	Punjab	674	538
27	Rajasthan	1237	1121
28	Sikkim	23	19
29	Tamilnadu	1121	913
30	Tripura	107	75
31	Uttar Pradesh	3224	1864
32	Uttarakhand	292	231
33	West Bengal & A & N Islands	967	919
	Total	22545	17109

Annexure -IV

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 220 dated 01.08.2018

Special Courts designated under POCSO Act, 2012 in the States/UTs

Sr. No.	Name of States	Number of Districts	No. of Special Courts designated
1	Andhra Pradesh	13	13
2	Assam	27	24
3	A & N Islands	3	1
4	Arunachal Pradesh	20	5
5	Bihar	38	38
6	Chhattisgarh	27	51
7	Chandigarh UT	1	1
8	Delhi	13	13
9	Daman & Diu	2	2
10	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1
11	Goa	2	1
12	Gujarat	33	21
13	Himachal Pradesh	12	11
14	Haryana	22	21
15	Jharkhand	24	24
16	Kerala	14	14
17	Karnataka	30	30
18	Lakshadweep	1	1
19	Manipur	9	7
20	Mizoram	8	2
21	Madhya Pradesh	51	51
22	Meghalaya	11	6
23	Maharashtra	36	36
24	Nagaland	11	11
25	Odisha	30	30
26	Punjab	22	22
27	Pondicherry	2	2
28	Rajasthan	35	35
29	Sikkim	4	4
30	Tamil Nadu	32	32
31	Telangana	31	10
32	Tripura	8	8
33	Uttar Pradesh	75	56
34	Uttrakhand	13	13
35	West Bengal	23	23
Total		681	620

