

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1871**

ANSWERED ON 22/12/2022

OVERCROWDED COURT ROOMS

1871. SHRI ANIL DESAI:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that there are scenes of overcrowded court rooms of not only lower courts but the highest court chambers also;
- (b) whether it is hampering the dignity of the court proceedings and sometimes the arguments remain inaudible to those who are present inside the court rooms; and
- (c) if so, the efforts Government is making in consultation with presiding officers of the concerned courts to give a dignified look to the court proceedings?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c): The Registry of Supreme Court of India has compiled data on the status of judicial infrastructure and court amenities and *inter alia*, stated that court premises must be armed with better crowd management arrangements along with adequate security measures. It has been seen, time and again, that at the time of court proceedings of cases which are well covered by the media, the crowd management in court premises become a challenge. Measures must be taken to ensure that whenever court premises are thronged with heightened crowds, there is smooth ingress and egress of both vehicular traffic as well as citizens in the court premises.

The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 16.11.2017 while approving the continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of judicial infrastructure for district and subordinate courts from 2017 to March, 2020 also directed to formulate uniform norms and specifications for court buildings and residential units in the country. The Department of Justice has developed norms and specifications for construction of court halls and included in the revised guidelines issued on 16th May, 2018. The norms and specifications have been calculated based on recommendations of the National Court Management Systems Committee of the Supreme Court in the Baseline Report on Court Development Planning System chaired by the then Supreme Court Judge, Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed (Retd.). These norms and specifications are in addition to the existing norms and practice being followed by different State Governments and certain CPWD norms. These norms and specifications suggest the size and construction cost applicable, additional facilities / common facilities such as judges' chambers, office rooms, conference rooms, judges' libraries, lawyers' libraries, etc. to be made available in each court complex and are different for different category of States depending upon whether the sanctioned strength of judges is greater or less than 500. Also, the States have been given the option to use norms higher than prescribed for creating court infrastructure for which the cost shall be borne by the respective States.

A sum of Rs. 9291.79 crores has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 5847.48 crore (62.93 %) has been released since 2014-15. The scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crores including central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore. Besides the construction of court halls and residential quarters, the scheme now also covers the construction of lawyers' halls, digital computer rooms and toilet complexes in the district and subordinate Courts. The release of funds under the scheme is only supplementary in nature and project / component-

wise funds are not released under the scheme. The State Governments while formulating the design of the court halls may include the above components or any other component depending upon their local needs and allocate additional funds for the same.
