

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.273

ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 8TH DECEMBER, 2022

Fast Track Special Courts under POCSO Act

273 Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts set up under POCSO Act;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the period of the above courts is only up to March, 2023;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to extend the period of these Fast Track Special Courts;
- (d) if so, details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the reasons that only 1 out of every 3 cases results in conviction under POCSO Act?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): Department of Justice has started a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in October 2019 for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, in pursuance to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018. Initially, the scheme was for 1 year which has been continued up to 31.03.2023 at a cost of Rs.1,572.86 crore with central share of Rs.971.70

crore.733 FTSCs including 413 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 28 States/UTs (up to 31.10.2022).

(b to d): Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) is operational till 31.03.2023. FTSCs have disposed more than 1,24,000 cases till October, 2022. However, more than 1,93,000 cases are still pending in these courts and hence, there is a need to extend the Scheme beyond March, 2023. Accordingly, an evaluation study of the Scheme has been taken up as per the instant provisions.

(e): Trial of cases comes under the domain of Judiciary. Lack of proper investigation, insufficient evidences and witnesses, family members, victim, turning hostile etc. are some of the reasons of less conviction under POCSO Act, as per information received from the High Courts.
