

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2675

ANSWRED ON 23 /03/ 2023

SPEEDY DISPOSAL OF POCSO CASES

2675. MS. SUSHMITA DEV:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that about 2 lakh cases are pending before the POCSO courts across the country;

(b) the reasons for such a large pendency of cases despite the establishment of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) specifically to deal with POCSO cases; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to ensure the speedy disposal of POCSO cases in these courts?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a): As per information made available by High Courts, 2,43,237 cases related to offences under POCSO Act, were pending as on 31st January, 2023 in various courts of the country. Details are given at **Annexure –I**.

(b): Pendency of court cases is due to multiple factors. With the increase in the population of the country and awareness of rights amongst the general public, filing of fresh cases is increasing exponentially year after year. Reasons for large pendency of cases in the courts inter-alia, include complexity of facts involved; nature of evidence; co-operation of stake holders viz. bar,

investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants; proper application of rules and procedures, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing and also paucity of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure. In case of criminal cases including POCSO Cases, it is to be taken into account that the Criminal Justice System functions on assistance by various agencies viz. Police, Prosecution, Forensic Labs, Handwriting Experts and Medico-Legal Experts. Delay in providing assistance by allied agencies is instrumental in causing delay in disposal of cases.

(c):To ensure speedy disposal of cases related to sexual offences against women & children, a time limit of 2 months each for investigation and trial is prescribed through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 vide Sections 173(1A) and Section 309 of Criminal Procedure Code. Though investigation and trial comes under the domain of State Governments and Judiciary, efforts are made to ensure compliance of these provisions through regular review meetings taken by Department of Justice with functionaries of States and High Courts and also through Inter-State Council Secretariat Meetings held on regular basis. Further, in pursuance to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018, and the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Suo Moto 1/2019 dated 25.7.2019, Union of India started a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in October, 2019 for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO Courts in 31 States/UTs for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act. Initially, the Scheme was for 1 year

which has been continued up to 31.03.2023. Details of fund released for FTSCs are given below:

Financial Year	Amount In Rs. Cr.
2019-20	140
2020-21	160
2021-22	134.56
2022-23	198.84 (till date)

The details of FTSCs along with the cases disposed is as under:

Courts	Number of Courts	Cases Disposed
FTSCs dealing exclusively POCSO Courts	411	92,226
FTSCs dealing POCSO and rape cases	353	51,943
Total	764	1,44,169

For further extension of the scheme beyond 31.03.2023, a Third-Party Evaluation by Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) has been undertaken which has inter-alia recommended for continuation of the scheme.

Annexure-I**Annexure for Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question Number 2675 to be replied on 23/3/2023****Status of cases pending in POCSO courts of the country (As on 31st January, 2023)**

S.No	State/UTs	No of cases pending in POCSO Courts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8137
2.	A & N island	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	395
4.	Assam	6875
5.	Bihar	15594
6.	Chandigarh	158
7.	Chhattisgarh	5332
8.	D&N Haveli	39
9.	Delhi	9108
10.	Diu & Daman	44
11.	Goa	62
12.	Gujarat	3043
13.	Haryana	4688
14.	Himachal Pradesh	417
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	644
16.	Jharkhand	4408
17.	Karnataka	919
18.	Kerala	3381
19.	Ladakh	4
20.	Lakshadweep	0
21.	Madhya Pradesh	10066
22.	Maharashtra	33072
23.	Manipur	103
24.	Meghalaya	1531
25.	Mizoram	276
26.	Nagaland	0
27.	Odisha	11940
28.	Puducherry	244
29.	Punjab	2250
30.	Rajasthan	8921
31.	Sikkim	284
32.	Tamil Nadu	9753
33.	Telangana	10605
34.	Tripura	406
35.	Uttar Pradesh	67153
36.	Uttarakhand	1221
37.	West Bengal	22164
	Total	243237

