GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 910 ANSWERED ON 09/02/2023

JUDICIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

910. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) to provide infrastructural facilities for judiciary;
- (b) if so, the details of infrastructure and other facilities proposed to be provided to judiciary in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government has allocated ₹ 20 crore in 2019-20 and ₹ 10.28 crore in 2020-21 for judicial infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) if so, the reasons for budget not been allocated in 2021-22 and 2022-23;
- (e) the funds allocated for the budget in FY 2023-24; and
- (f) the efforts being made to take up the infrastructure and other facilities for judiciary in Andhra Pradesh?

ANSWER THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (f): The primary responsibility of development of Infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments. Since 1993-94, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities in district and subordinate courts by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern. The Government has approved the continuance of this CSS for a further period of 5 years from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026, with a total budgetary outlay of Rs.9000 crores, including Central share of Rs.5307 crores. The scheme components have been expanded, to also cover the construction of toilets, digital computer rooms and Lawyers' Hall, in addition to the Court Halls & Residential Units in the district and

subordinate courts. Till date, the Central Government has released Rs. 9749.30 crore under this Scheme to States/UTs, out of which an amount of Rs. 199.92 crore has been released to the State of Andhra Pradesh, including Rs. 20 crore and Rs. 10.28 crore in 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively. During the financial year 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 848.00 crore has been allocated for the scheme, out of which Rs. 739.90 crore has been released till date, and allocation of Rs. 12.29 crore has been made for the State of Andhra Pradesh. However the release of funds to any State is subject to fulfillment of laid down conditions viz submission of Utilization Certificate(s) for the unspent balance of Central and State share lying unutilized with the State Government, compliance of revised Public Financial Management System guidelines and complete Action Plan for the projects to be taken up. For better monitoring and tracking of funds, the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure in April, 2021 introduced a new system of fund release through Single Nodal Account (SNA) under which, all the States have to on-board onto the PFMS portal and to ensure that all expenditure gets timely captured / reflected on the relevant reports of the PFMS portal. However, in case of Andhra Pradesh the utilization of Rs.4.70 crore of year 2020-21 is yet to be provided by the State Government. Further, in case of Andhra Pradesh no expenditure is getting shown / captured on the PFMS portal. Thus due to non fulfillment of laid down conditions/compliances, release of funds to Andhra Pradesh could not be considered in the current financial year also.

Besides, regularly sending letters for expediting fulfillment of all the pre-conditions for release of funds under the scheme, the Department of Justice has been holding bi-monthly review meetings with the State Governments and High Courts and other Stakeholders to monitor the progress of ongoing projects and utilization of unspent balance and to resolve the State specific issues pertaining to PFMS compliances so as to facilitate release of funds to the States.
