GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2310

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9^{TH} AUGUST, 2023/ SRAVANA 18, 1945 (SAKA) EVIDENCE PROCESSING AT CFSL

2310 SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the average time taken to process evidence in CFSLs;
- (b) the details of number of requests received at each CFL for processing evidence and the evidence actually processed;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to reduce time taken to process evidence in CFSL; and
- (d) whether Government intends to improve efficiency of processing evidence by introducing a 'Document Management System' and protocols for evidence collection and crime scene management system within forensic sciences laboratories?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY KUMAR MISHRA)

(a) to (c) The average time taken to process evidence in the Central Forensic Science Laboratories (CFSLs) varies widely depending on the nature of the evidence, number of exhibits, and complexity of the case. The details of number of requests received at each CFSL for processing evidence and the evidence actually processed may be seen at Annexure.

The process of strengthening of forensic facilities in the country is an ongoing and continuous process which is dependent on gap-analysis and demand assessment. The Ministry of Home Affairs has taken several steps for strengthening of forensic capacities of the CFSLs in the country, and include, inter-alia:

- (i) Modernization of Central Forensic Sciences Laboratories at Bhopal, Guwahati, Pune and Kolkata. The modern laboratories at Bhopal, Guwahati and Pune have already commenced functioning.
- (ii) Upgrading of machinery & equipment in the Central Forensic Sciences Laboratories, including in the new disciplines of Forensics in Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances, Digital Forensics, DNA Forensic analysis, Forensic Psychology.
- (iii) Setting-up a State-of-the-art DNA Analysis and Research & Development facility at the Central Forensic Sciences Laboratory at Chandigarh.
- (iv) Setting-up a National Cyber Forensic Science Laboratory at the Central Forensic Sciences Laboratory, Hyderabad to investigate important cases of digital fraud / cyber forensics.
- (v) The National Forensic Sciences University has been set up under the Act of the Parliament in the year 2020 for providing quality and trained forensic manpower across all parts of the country.

(vi) The Directorate of Forensic Science Services (DFSS) has issued guidelines for standard turnaround time.

(d) Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) provides for integration of data maintained by Police, Courts, Prosecution, Forensic Science Laboratories and Prisons to streamline workflow for timely and scientific investigation and as a part of it e-forensics IT platform has been operationalized.

The Directorate of Forensic Science Services under the Ministry of Home Affairs, to ensure quality and standardization in forensic examination in the Forensic Science Laboratories in the country, has issued Quality Manuals for accreditation of laboratories as per NABL standards (ISO 17025); Working Procedure Manuals in various disciplines of Forensic Sciences; Guidelines for collection, preservation & transportation of forensic evidence in sexual assault cases for Investigation Officers and medical Officers; and Standard Operating Procedures for Crime Scene Investigation.

ANNEXURE R.S.US.Q.NO. 2310 FOR 09.08.2023.

The details of number of requests received at each CFSL for processing evidence and the evidence actually processed.

(From 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023)

Name of	Cases	Exhibits	Cases	Exhibits	Cases	Exhibits
the CFSL	B/F	B/F	received	received	disposed	disposed
Chandigarh	1140	28385	4457	70318	3821	94452
Hyderabad	403	50467	1735	43776	1860	88459
Kolkata	1092	28957	2765	32260	2385	36421
Delhi*	953	66065	1029	77057	1021	73199
Pune	490	40593	811	30342	816	31110
Bhopal	438	46323	598	39768	954	76496
Guwahati	561	3258	1340	25547	949	19536

^{*} The CFSL Delhi (erstwhile CFSL-CBI) has been brought under the control of the DFSS from November, 2022. Hence the data given in respect of CFSL, New Delhi is from November, 2022 to March, 2023.
