

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-746
ANSWERED ON – 08/02/2024

FAST TRACK COURTS IN THE STATE OF GOA

746. SHRI SADANAND SHET TANAWDE:

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

The steps taken by Government to implement the Fast Track Special Courts Scheme in the State of Goa?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTC) lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts. The 14th Finance Commission (FC) had recommended for setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during 2015-2020 for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The FC had further urged State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. The Union Government has also urged the State Governments to allocate funds for the setting up of FTCs, from the financial year 2015-16 onward. As per information made available by High Courts, 06 FTCs are functional in the in the State of Goa as on 31.12.2023.

Pursuant to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018, the Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts since October, 2019 for expeditious trial and disposal of pending cases pertaining to Rape and Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in a time-bound manner.

The scheme was initially for one year, which was further extended up to March 2023. The Union Cabinet has now extended the Scheme for another three years i.e. from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026 at a total outlay of Rs. 1952.23 cr. with Rs. 1207.24 cr. as Central Share to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund.

As per the data submitted by High Courts, 757 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs which have disposed more than 2,14,000 cases as on December 31, 2023. In the State of Goa, 1 FTSC is functional since March 2022, which has disposed of more than 40 cases.

For efficient implementation of the scheme, the Department of Justice is conducting regular review meetings through Video Conferencing with the State Governments and High Court officials. Communications have been sent at the level of Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice to the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of the States/UTs and Hon'ble Chief Justices of High Courts to ensure adherence to timelines as prescribed by the amendment to CrPC in 2018. To ensure effective monitoring and data collection, a Dashboard has been created to gather detailed information and track the performance of the FTSCs. The performance of FTSCs is also a permanent item on the agenda of Inter-State Zonal Council Meetings.
