

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2034**  
ANSWERED ON 08/08/2024

**GRAM NYAYALAYAS IN BIHAR**

2034. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

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

- (a) the number of Gram Nyayalayas that have been notified and set up in Bihar and the number out of them currently operational, location-wise;
- (b) the total number of cases filed and currently pending in each of the operational Gram Nyayalayas in Bihar;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to expedite the resolution of pending cases in the Gram Nyayalayas there;
- (d) whether there are any plans to establish additional Gram Nyayalayas at other locations in Bihar; and
- (e) if so, the details of the proposed locations and the timelines for their establishment?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a): The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 came into effect from 02<sup>nd</sup> October, 2009 with the avowed objective of providing affordable and quick access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps. However, the Act does not make establishment of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory for the State Governments. As per Section 3(1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, *“for the purpose of exercising the jurisdiction and powers conferred on a Gram Nyayalaya by this Act, the State Government, after consultation with the HighCourt, may, by notification, establish one or more Gram Nyayalayas for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of*

*contiguous Panchayats at intermediate level in a district or where there is no Panchayat at intermediate level in any State, for a group of contiguous Gram Panchayats”.*

As far as the State of Bihar is concerned, there are no Gram Nyayalayas functioning in the State. Instead, the State has a system of Gram Kutcheharies, as the court of first resort, functioning in every Gram Panchayat, established under the Bihar Panchayati Raj Act, 2006, to adjudicate on local issues and provide legal redressal. These Gram Kutcheharies are democratically elected judicial bodies, presided over by the elected Sarpanch who is assisted by Panchayat Sachiva and Nyay Mitra.

(b) & (c): Does not arise in light of part (a) above.

(d) & (e) : As per information provided by the State Government of Bihar, the main reason for non-establishment of Gram Nyayalayas is the likely conflict with and infringement upon the jurisdiction of Gram Kutcheharies established under the Bihar Panchayati Raj Act, 2006. Moreover, the system of Gram Kutcheharies which is working satisfactory does not warrant the setting up of a parallel system.

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