

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 426
ANSWERED ON 06/02/2025

Female friendly infrastructure in district courts

426 DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that only 6.7 per cent court infrastructure at district level is female-friendly;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of measures taken to establish creches, baby care rooms and separate washrooms in District Courts;
- (c) whether any infrastructural audits have been conducted for district-level courts and High Courts to assess their accessibility to women; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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) to (d): The primary responsibility of development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments. However, to augment the resources of the State and UT Governments, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the district and subordinate judiciary since 1993-94, by providing financial assistance to them in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States. There are five components covered under the scheme, viz., court hall, residential units, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms for the convenience of lawyers and litigants.

Specific aspects including the female friendly nature of court infrastructure at the district level and their infrastructural audits are issues within the domain of the respective State

Governments and the concerned High Courts, which exercise supervisory jurisdiction over the district courts.

The planning and design of a court room is done by the building / infrastructure committees of the respective High Courts, who sanction the projects to be funded under the CSS. The Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, has developed certain norms and specifications of the court halls. These norms and specifications have been calculated based on recommendations of the National Courts Management System (NCMS) Committee of the Supreme Court in the baseline report on Court Development Planning System, existing norms and practices being followed by different State Governments and certain CPWD norms and are part of the CSS guidelines. The guidelines have provision for flexi-funds under which, the State/UTs, if they so desire, can set aside the funds allocated (25% in case of States and 30% in case of UTs), including Central and State Share, as flexi-fund to be spent on any component, which is in line with the overall aim and objective of the approved CSS. No data on district-wise female-friendly infrastructure is available centrally.
