GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *304

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 02ND JANUARY, 2019.

Infrastructure of Courts

*304. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to check the standard of infrastructure of the courts in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the courts are Divyang friendly and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to provide Judicial Infrastructure / Court Rooms for High Courts and District / Subordinate Courts. The Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in order to augment the resources of State Governments in this regard in association with the States / UT Governments. The scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of court halls and court complexes and residential accommodations of judicial officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary. As on date, Rs. 6,623 crore has been released since the inception of the Scheme in 1993-94. Out of this, Rs. 3,179 crore (48%) has been released to the States and UTs since April, 2014. 18,731 court halls and 16,539 residential accommodations have been made available for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts under this scheme as on date against the working strength of 17,509 Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts of the country. In addition, 2,906 court halls and 1,754 residential units are under construction.

Infrastructure Development for judiciary in the States is being monitored by the State level monitoring Committee headed by *portfolio* judge of the concerned High Court in terms of the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in All India Judges Association Case.

The Scheme has been evaluated by third party. The Evaluating Agency has concluded as under:

i.   The CSS has immensely contributed towards improving judicial infrastructure;

ii.   It has helped in improving the quality of overall justice delivery system at the subordinate courts in the country; and

iii.   It has also been also instrumental in reducing the pendency of cases and for the partial establishment of the elements of model courts and e-Courts at the District level.

The above mentioned scheme covers court buildings of District and Subordinate Courts which are able to be accessed by all categories of people in the society. However, State Governments ensure construction of buildings is differently-abled friendly as per standard and mandatory norms.

The Union Cabinet while approving continuation of the above scheme from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020, *inter-alia,* directed formulation of norms and specification of court halls and residential units to be constructed under Scheme for implementation throughout the country for future. In pursuance, Department of Justice has formulated norms and specification of court halls and residential units to be constructed under Scheme for implementation throughout the country for future and circulated them to all concerned.

A Sub-Group on 'Model Courts' was constituted by the Advisory Council of the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms. The Sub-Group was headed by Shri Justice P. V. Reddi. Shri Justice A. P. Shah and Prof. N. R. Madhav Menon were the members. The Sub-Group submitted its Report in 2014 which was circulated to all the High Courts. The Report of the Sub-Group, *inter-*

alia, recommended that a Model Court Complex would need to ensure access by persons with disability.

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