GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 551

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09TH DECEMBER, 2022

Inadequate Judicial Infrastructure

551. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the extensive shortages of proper judicial infrastructure in the country, particularly in the lower courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether efforts have been made to improve judicial infrastructure to make it easily accessible to differently abled citizens; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (d): The primary responsibility of the development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary in the states, including facilities essential for differently-abled persons, rests with the State Governments. To augment the resources of the State Governments, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary by providing financial assistance to the State

Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the center and states. The scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of court buildings and

residential accommodations for judicial officers of district and subordinate judiciary. As against the sanctioned strength of 24,989 and the working strength of 19,235 judges/judicial officers, there are 21,159 available court halls and 18,557 residential units as on 30.11.2022.

As on 30.11.2022, a sum of Rs. 9291.79 crores has been released under the scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 5847.48 crores (62.93 %) has been released since 2014-15. The scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crores including a central share of Rs. 5307.00 crores. Besides the construction of court halls and residential quarters, the scheme now also covers the construction of lawyers' halls, digital computer rooms, and toilet complexes in the district and subordinate courts. The scheme also includes the norms & specifications for the court buildings, which suggest the state governments have to comply with the existing standards for disabled-friendly people.
