GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1467 TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10thFEBRUARY, 2023

Time Limit for Disposal of Cases of Offence against Children and Women

1467. SHRI CHANDESHWAR PRASAD: SHRIMATI RANJANBEN DHANANJAY BHATT: SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY:

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

(a) whether many cases of sexual offences/harassments against children and women are pending in various courts of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to fix any time-limit to ensure speedy/early disposal of cases such as rapes, sexual offences and harassments etc. against women and children;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be enforced;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether in view of the increasing number of courts cases, the Government proposes to take any steps to categorise the cases to be disposed of early or in a fixed time period; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a): As per information made available by High Courts, 3,56,491 cases related to rape and offences under POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, were pending as on 31^{st} December 2022 in various courts of the country. Details of such cases pending in various courts of the country is given at **Annexure –I.**

(b) to (f): To ensure speedy/early disposal of cases related to sexual offences against women & children, a time limit of 2 months each for investigation and trial is prescribed through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 vide Sections 173(1A) and Section 309 of Cr PC. Though investigation and trial comes under the domain of State Governments and Judiciary, efforts are made to ensure compliance of these provisions through regular review meetings taken by Department of Justice with functionaries of States and High Courts and also through Inter-State Council Secretariat Meetings held on regular basis. Further, in pursuance to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018, and the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Suo Moto 1/2019 dated 25.7.2019, Union of India started a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in October, 2019 for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) in 31 States/UTs for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act. Initially, the Scheme was for 1 year which has been continued up to 31.03.2023. As per information received from the High Courts, 768 FTSCs including 418 exclusive POCSO Courts are operationalized in 28 States/UTs as on 31.12.2022 which have disposed more than 1,37,000 Cases. For FTSCs, Central Government has released an amount of Rs.140 Cr. in FY 2019-20, Rs.160.00 Cr in FY 2020-21, Rs.134.56 Cr., in FY 2021-22 and Rs.186.93 Cr. during the current financial year up to 31/1/2023 to various States/UTs. The details of functional FTSCs, State/UT-wise, is placed at Annexure-II.

As per the Scheme of FTSCs, each such Court is expected to dispose 165 cases in a year for which State/UT Governments have been kept informed.

Annexure-I

Annexure for Lok Sabha Unstarred Question Number 1467 to be replied on 10/2/2023

Details of cases related to sexual offences of rape and POCSO Act, pending in various courts of the country (As on 31st December, 2022)

S.No	Name of the States/UTs	No. of Cases pending as on December -2022	
1	Andhra Pradesh	9081	
2	A&N Island	0	
3	Arunachal Pradesh	490	
4	Assam	10939	
5	Bihar	22592	
6	Chandigarh	233	
7	Chhattisgarh	7637	
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	58	
9	Delhi	11570	
10	Diu & Daman	59	
11	Goa	177	
12	Gujarat	12043	
13	Haryana	6807	
14	Himachal Pradesh	1729	
15	Jammu & Kashmir	2171	
16	Jharkhand	6797	
17	Karnataka	8008	
18	Kerala	13806	
19	Ladakh	3	
20	Lakshadweep	44	
21	Madhya Pradesh	17115	
22	Maharashtra	44741	
23	Manipur	130	
24	Meghalaya	2305	
25	Mizoram	354	
26	Nagaland	0	
27	Odisha	18791	
28	Puducherry	353	
29	Punjab	2982	
30	Rajasthan	18383	
31	Śikkim	15	
32	Tamil Nadu	22153	
33	Telangana	12587	
34	Tripura	757	
35	Uttar Pradesh	62010	
36	Uttarakhand	2625	
37	West Bengal	36946	
	Total	356491	

Annexure for Lok Sabha Unstarred Question Number 1467 to be replied on 10/2/2023

S.NO.	State/UT	FTSCs including ePOCSO	Exclusive POCSO Courts (Out of Col. 3)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Chhattisgarh	15	11
2	Gujarat	35	24
3	Mizoram	3	1
4	Nagaland	1	0
5	Jharkhand	22	16
6	Madhya Pradesh	67	57
7	Manipur	2	0
8	Haryana	16	12
9	Chandigarh	1	0
10	Rajasthan	45	30
11	Tamil Nadu	14	14
12	Tripura	3	1
13	Uttar Pradesh	218	74
14	Uttarakhand	4	0
15	Delhi	16	11
16	Meghalaya	5	5
17	J&K	4	2
18	Punjab	12	3
19	Himachal P	6	3
20	Telangana	34	0
21	Andhra Pradesh	14	14
22	Bihar	48	48
23	Assam	17	17
24	Maharashtra	39	20
25	Karnataka	30	17
26	Kerala	52	14
27	Odisha	44	23
28	Goa	1	1
	TOTAL	768	418

Status of Functional FTSCs (As on 31/12/2022)