

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3980**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2023**

**Court Rooms in Lower Courts**

**3980. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:  
SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:  
SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of court rooms available for lower courts in the country is less than the sanctioned strength of judges in the subordinate judiciary, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of infrastructural facilities available and the constraints, if any, being faced by the Government in dealing with infrastructural challenges faced by lower judiciary and the steps taken to address the same; and
- (c) the details of the tangible plan to overcome the gap between sanctioned strength of judges and availability of court halls and gap between sanctioned strength and available residential units?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (c): As against sanctioned strength of 25,189 and working strength of 19,524 judicial officers, there are 21296 Court Halls and 18741 Residential Units that are available for the District & Subordinate judiciary in the country. Compared with the sanctioned strength of 25189 Judicial Officers, there is a gap of 3893 court halls and 6448 residential units but, when compared with the actual working strength of Judicial Officers, there is no shortage of courts halls, and a small shortage of residential units. However, there are already 1655 number of Residential Units and 2806 number of Court Halls that are under construction. The State-wise details are at *Annexure*.

The primary responsibility of development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments. However, to augment the resources of the State Governments/UTs, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary by providing financial assistance to them in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the Centre 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. The scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crores including central share of Rs. 5307 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. A sum of Rs. 9812.82 crores has been released under the scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6368.51 crores (64.90 %) has been released since 2014-15. Allocation for Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Judicial Infrastructure during 2022-23 is Rs. 848 crore out of which by 20.03.2023 the utilization is Rs. 803 crores and for the coming financial year 2023-24, the allocation is Rs.1051 crore which is 24% increase over the last year. Hence, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Judicial Infrastructure plans to overcome any gap in the availability of requisite infrastructure.

As regards constraints, the COVID-19 pandemic led to general slowdown of the spending on infrastructure projects by the States/UTs, Further, it was observed by the Ministry of Finance that the funds being released to the States/UTs under the CSS' were not being put to use in a time bound manner, resulting in huge unspent balances with the State Governments. The Government introduced a revised Public Financial Management System(PFMS) for release of funds to the CSS' to ensure that the central funds and corresponding state share of funds are used appropriately and are invested solely in that specific scheme. Owing to fulfillment of a number of procedural and technical requirements,

the states/UTs had some problems in on-boarding the PFMS. However, with passages of time all those technical problems were got rectified/settled and all the states have now on-boarded the PFMS and are making expenditure through PFMS only. Besides writing to the States regularly, the Central Level Monitoring Committee of the Department of Justice held bi-monthly meetings on regular basis with the States/UTs during which, all the States and UTs were urged to utilize the unspent balance available with them expeditiously.

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Annexure

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3980 for reply on 24.03.2023, State/UT-wise details of Sanctioned/Working Strength and Court Halls/Residential Units as on 20.03.2023

Sl. No.	States &UTs	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Court Halls	Total Residential Units
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	13	17	10
2	Andhra Pradesh	618	548	647	574
3	Arunachal Pradesh	41	33	29	29
4	Assam	485	425	424	371
5	Bihar	2016	1350	1505	1197
6	Chandigarh	30	30	31	30
7	Chhattisgarh	552	436	475	460
8	D & N Haveli	3	2	3	3
9	Daman & Diu	4	4	5	5
10	Delhi	887	709	694	348
11	Goa	50	40	53	26
12	Gujarat	1582	1151	1524	1341
13	Haryana	772	574	561	518
14	Himachal Pradesh	179	163	170	153
15	Jammu and Kashmir	314	222	199	122
16	Jharkhand	694	505	658	609
17	Karnataka	1375	1134	1185	1142
18	Kerala	601	471	564	538
19	Ladakh	17	9	9	6
20	Lakshadweep	4	4	3	3
21	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1642	1543	1681
22	Maharashtra	2190	1940	2350	2055
23	Manipur	59	42	43	16
24	Meghalaya	99	57	53	26
25	Mizoram	74	41	47	37
26	Nagaland	34	24	30	39
27	Odisha	1001	814	814	707
28	Puducherry	28	11	36	29
29	Punjab	797	589	589	625
30	Rajasthan	1587	1249	1338	1137
31	Sikkim	30	23	20	15
32	Tamil Nadu	1343	1061	1215	1343
33	Telangana	560	419	533	475
34	Tripura	128	108	82	91
35	Uttar Pradesh	3694	2494	2758	2349
36	Uttarakhand	299	269	253	210
37	West Bengal	1014	918	836	421
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>25189</b>	<b>19524</b>	<b>21296</b>	<b>18741</b>

Source: MIS Portal (Department of Justice)