GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4918

TO BE ANSWRED ON FRIDAY, THE 31st MARCH 2023

UTILISATION OF FUNDS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FTCs

4918. SHRI MANOJ TIWARI: DR.NISHIKANT DUBEY:

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government intends to increase the number of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total funds allocated and utilised for the establishment of these courts during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) whether the Government has allocated more funds to States for the establishment of these courts and for the appointment of more judges and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (d): Setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and allocation of funds lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts. FTCs were created during 11th Finance Commission for disposal of long pending cases based

on the findings of a study that one such court can dispose up to 168 cases in a year. Central funding has been discontinued after 31.03.2015. Subsequently, 14th Finance Commission had recommended that the number of FTCs to be established should be 10% of the sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers of the State. The 14th Finance Commission had recommended the setting up of 1800 FTCs during 2015-2020 for trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc and property related cases pending for more than 5 years and had urged State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. As per information received from High Courts the number of functional FTCs, State/UT-wise as on 31stJanuary, 2023, is given in **Annexure**.

Information on funds allocated by the respective States for functioning of FTCs is not maintained centrally. As Central funding stands discontinued for FTCs since April 2015, the question of allocation of more funds by the Centre to the States does not arise. However, pursuant to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018, the Central Government since October, 2019 is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO (Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences) Courts for speedy disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act. The Scheme, initially, was for a period of one year which has been extended up to 31st March 2023 with a budgetary outlay of Rs.1572.86 Cr. including Rs.971.70 Cr. as Central Share. Rs.

634.6 Cr. has been released as central share to the States/UTs for operationalization of FTSCs since2019. As per information made available by High Courts, as on 31st January, 2023, 764 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO courts are functional which have disposed more than 1,44,000 pending cases. Regular review meetings have been conducted by the Department of Justice to expedite the robust implementation of the scheme including establishment of remaining FTSCs. In addition, Minister of Law and Justice has addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of States/UTs and Chief Justice of High Courts for operationalisation of the remaining FTSCs.

For further extension of FTSCs beyond 31st March 2023,Third Party evaluation of the scheme has been undertaken by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).

Annexure for Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4918 for 31.03.2023

S.No	State/UTs	Functional FTCs
1	Andhra Pradesh	22
2	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	18
5	Bihar	0
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	23
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
9	Delhi	10
10	Diu & Daman	0
11	Goa	4
12	Gujarat	51
13	Haryana	6
14	Himachal Pradesh	3
15	Jammu & Kashmir	4
16	Jharkhand	34
17	Karnataka	0
18	Kerala	0
19	Ladakh	0
20	Lakshadweep	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	0
22	Maharashtra	111
23	Manipur	6
24	Meghalaya	0
25	Mizoram	2
26	Nagaland	0
27	Odisha	0
28	Puducherry	0
29	Punjab	7
30	Rajasthan	0
31	Sikkim	2
32	Tamil Nadu	73
33	Telangana	0
34	Tripura	3
35	Uttar Pradesh	372
36	Uttarakhand	4
37	West Bengal	88
	TOTAL	843

Status of Functional Fast Track Courts (FTCs) (As on 31st January, 2023)