

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *338

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11th August 2023

OPERATIONAL FAST TRACK COURTS

*338. COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE:

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

- (a) the details of recent data related to the project for setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs), the quick disposal of cases thereby and the average performance of the operational FTCs out of their total recommended number specifically in the State of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh along with the reasons for delays, if any, in setting up of recommended and more number of FTCs therein;
- (b) the share of funds allocated to the States of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh as envisaged in the recent Finance Commission;
- (c) the steps taken for setting up Nyaya Mitras in the said States and strict monitoring mechanism for time-bound disposal of cases by the FTCs to prevent backlog of cases;
- (d) the State-wise progress report of the Nyaya Bandhu programme under the Pro bono Legal Services scheme; and
- (e) the reasons for not setting up Live streaming mechanism in the High Courts in different States including Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh to bring more transparency in court proceedings?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 338 FOR THE 11th AUGUST 2023 REGARDING ‘OPERATIONAL FAST TRACK COURTS’

(a) & (b): **Fast Track Courts**

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. The 14th Finance Commission (2015-2020) had recommended the setting up of 1800 FTCs for disposal of long pending cases pertaining to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. It had urged State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through increased tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. As per information received from High Courts, there are 843 Fast Track Courts operational as on 30th June 2023.

The details of disposal of cases by these FTCs are as under:

2020	2021	2022	2023 (up to 30 th June, 2023)	Total
2,39,956	4,05,168	5,33,229	6,53,699	18,32,052

Information on funds allocated by the individual States from their State Budget for functioning of FTCs is not maintained centrally. The performance of the Fast Track Courts is monitored by the respective High Courts.

The status of FTCs operational in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh is as under:

State	No. of FTCs operational	Number of cases disposed of				
		2020	2021	2022	2023 (up to 30 th June, 2023)	Total
Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chhattisgarh	23	2877	5324	4158	1519	13878

In addition to Fast Track Courts (FTCs), the Department of Justice is implementing a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO Courts for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and the POCSO Act. As per information received from High Courts, the number of

functional FTSCs State/UT-wise as on 30th June, 2023, is given in **Annexure-I** which includes 45 FTSCs including 30 ePOCSO courts for Rajasthan and 15 FTSCs including 11 ePOCSO courts for Chhattisgarh. Information regarding release of Central Share to Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh during 2020-21 to 2023-24 (up to June, 2023) is given in **Annexure-II**.

For efficient implementation of the scheme, the Department of Justice is conducting regular review meetings through Video Conferencing with the State Governments and High Court officials. Letters have been written by the Minister of Law & Justice to the Chief Ministers of the States/UTs and Chief Justices of High Courts for operationalization of the remaining FTSCs.

To ensure effective monitoring and data collection, a Dashboard has been created to gather detailed information and track the performance of the FTSCs. The performance of FTSCs is also a permanent item on the agenda of Inter-State Zonal Council Meetings.

(c) Nyaya Mitra

Department of Justice launched Nyaya Mitra programme in April, 2017 with the objective to reduce pendency of cases in the Courts. It aimed to facilitate disposal of 10 to 15 years old cases which included civil cases such as matrimonial, accident claim cases and also criminal cases pending in High Courts and Subordinate Courts. Since the introduction of Nyaya Mitra programme, a total of 39 Nyaya Mitras were positioned in various district courts of the States of Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. No Nyaya Mitra could be engaged during the year 2020-2021 due to closure of courts and social distancing protocols caused by Covid-19 pandemic.

In the financial year 2021-2022, the Nyaya Mitra program was reviewed and evaluated. Based on the recommendations and considering its implementation related issues, it was observed that Nyaya Mitra programme could not achieve its envisaged goal of facilitating disposal of old pending cases. Hence, it has been decided to not continue Nyaya Mitra programme during the financial year 2023-2024.

(d) Nyaya Bandhu

The Government launched Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) in the year 2017 with the overarching vision to advance the culture of pro bono. The Nyaya Bandhu service aims to connect the persons entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. As on 31st July, 2023, 10298 Pro Bono advocates have registered for the scheme across the country through 27 States/UT Bar Councils. Data related to pro bono

advocates are maintained State Bar Council-wise (**Annexure- 'III'**). So far, 1882 beneficiaries have registered on the Nyaya Bandhu mobile application for availing the service of a pro bono lawyer (**Annexure- 'IV'**)

As part of the Nyaya Bandhu programme, Department of Justice initiated a new sub-module called Pro Bono Club Scheme in 2020. The Scheme aims to instill in young legal minds the culture of pro bono legal services. Since 2020, Pro Bono clubs have been constituted in 89 Law schools. There is a standard operating procedure (SOP) for conducting various activities under Pro Bono Clubs being run by these Law Schools. It broadly covers providing pro bono litigation assistance to lawyers, dedicating certain number of hours for the pro bono services throughout the year, conducting community legal awareness camps in the nearby villages, undertaking research and documentation work and promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanism etc.

(e) Live streaming of courtcases

Live streaming of court proceedings is an administrative matter which falls within the purview and domain of the judiciary and Central Government has no direct role in this matter. However, Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Constitutional Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing lawyers, litigants and other related parties to join the proceedings virtually.

Annexure-I

**Statement as referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Starred Question
No. 338 for answering on 11.08.2023 raised by COL. RAJYAVARDHAN
RATHORE, Hon'ble MP on 'Operational Fast Track Courts'**

State-wise details of Fast Track Special Courts (as on 30.06.2023)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Earmarked Courts		Functional Courts		Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme		
		FTSCs including ePOCSO	ePOCSO	FTSCs including ePOCSO	ePOCSO	FTSCs	ePOCSO	Total
1	Chhattisgarh	15	11	15	11	566	3053	3619
2	Gujarat	35	24	35	24	1680	6775	8455
3	Mizoram	3	1	3	1	98	34	132
4	Nagaland	1	0	1	0	48	3	51
5	Jharkhand	22	8	22	16	1702	3135	4837
6	Madhya Pradesh	67	26	67	57	2933	16484	19417
7	Manipur	2	0	2	0	96	0	96
8	Haryana	16	12	16	12	1125	3084	4209
9	Chandigarh	1	0	1	0	174	0	174
10	Rajasthan	45	26	45	30	3239	7290	10529
11	Tamil Nadu	14	14	14	14	0	5316	5316
12	Tripura	3	1	3	1	116	137	253
13	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	218	74	23783	21767	45550
14	Uttarakhand	4	4	4	0	1164	0	1164
15	Delhi	16	11	16	11	351	722	1073
16	Meghalaya	5	5	5	5	0	299	299
17	J&K	4	0	4	2	63	63	126
18	Punjab	12	2	12	3	1247	1521	2768
19	Himachal P	6	3	6	3	200	586	786
20	Karnataka	31	17	31	17	2114	4927	7041
21	Telangana	36	10	36	0	4182	2731	6913
22	Puducherry	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
23	Andhra Pradesh	18	8	16	16	0	2897	2897
24	Assam	27	15	17	17	0	3783	3783
25	Bihar	54	30	46	46	0	7835	7835
26	Goa	2	0	1	1	0	30	30
27	Kerala	56	14	53	14	9247	4142	13389
28	Maharashtra	138	30	34	13	5948	9207	15155
29	Odisha	45	22	39	23	2898	5654	8552
	TOTAL	1023	389	763	412	62974	111475	174449

Statement as referred to in reply to part (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 338 for answering on 11.08.2023 raised by COL.RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE, Hon'ble MP on 'Operational Fast Track Courts'

Amount released towards Fast Track Special Courts (FTSC)

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Amount released in FY 2019-20	Amount released in FY 2020-21	Amount released in FY 2021-22	Amount released in FY 2022-23	Amount released in FY 2023-24 (up to June, 2023)
1.	Chhattisgarh	3.375	3.375	4.259	3.93	1.488375
2.	Rajasthan	5.85	14.4	19.745	11.895	13.83263

Statement as referred to in reply to part (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 338 for answering on 11.08.2023 raised by COL.RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE Hon'ble MP on 'Operational Fast Track Courts'

A State/UT Bar Council-wise Statement containing number of advocates registered for Nyaya Bandhu scheme across the country

(2017-2023)

Sl.No.	State/UT Bar Councils	No. of Advocates
1	Andhra Pradesh	651
2	Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim	264
3	Bihar	594
4	Chhattisgarh	340
5	Delhi	827
6	Gujarat	188
7	Himachal Pradesh	382
8	Jammu & Kashmir	144
9	Jharkhand	329
10	Karnataka	284
11	Kerala	147
12	Madhya Pradesh	608
13	Maharashtra & Goa	535
14	Manipur	55
15	Meghalaya	48
16	Odisha	283
17	Punjab & Haryana	1960
18	Rajasthan	1116

19	Tamil Nadu	369
20	Telangana	185
21	Tripura	6
22	Uttar Pradesh	651
23	Uttarakhand	154
24	West Bengal	157
25	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	15
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
27	Daman & Diu	5
	Grand Total	10298

Statement as referred to in reply to part (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 338 for answering on 11.08.2023 raised by COL.RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE Hon'ble MP on 'Operational Fast Track Courts'

A State/UT- wise Statement containing number of beneficiaries registered for Nyaya Bandhu scheme across the country (2017-2023)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Beneficiaries
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4
2	Andhra Pradesh	94
3	Assam	16
4	Bihar	95
5	Chandigarh	7
6	Chhattisgarh	23
7	Delhi	146
8	Goa	4
9	Gujarat	53
10	Haryana	54
11	Himachal Pradesh	8
12	Jammu & Kashmir	7
13	Jharkhand	43
14	Karnataka	77
15	Kerala	16
16	Madhya Pradesh	65
17	Maharashtra	352
18	Manipur	10
19	Odisha	113
20	Puducherry	1
21	Punjab	29
22	Rajasthan	56
23	Sikkim	3
24	Tamil Nadu	32
25	Telangana	87
26	Tripura	4
27	Uttar Pradesh	285
28	Uttarakhand	24
29	West Bengal	171
30	Nagaland	1
31	Mizoram	1
32	Arunachal Pradesh	0
33	Lakshadweep	0
34	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
35	Daman & Diu	0
36	Meghalaya	1
	Total	1882