

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1461

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH JULY, 2023

Judicial Access to Differently Abled Citizen

1461. Dr. A. Chellakumar:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the dire shortage of 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 accessibility within judicial infrastructure suitable to disabled citizens; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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 (d): The development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary in the States, including facilities essential for differently-abled persons, is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government supplements the resources of the State Governments by releasing financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the development of judicial infrastructure by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in

the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between 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. As against the sanctioned strength of 25,215 and working strength of 19,876 judges/judicial officers there are 21,365 court halls and 18,846 residential units available as on 30.06.2023. 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. 10035.35 crore has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6591.04 crore (65.68 %) 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 central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore. The scheme guidelines provides for certain norms and specifications for the construction of court halls and other structures which the States/UTs have to comply with. The States/UTs have to certify that the projects proposed to be taken up by them are disabled friendly and meet the requisite norms/accessibility standard as laid down by CPWD/Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, from time to time.
