GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1542

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

Lack of Modern facilities in Court Complexes

1542. Shri Kuruva Gorantla Madhav:

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

(a) whether the courts in India lack infrastructure such as court rooms with adequate space and modern facilities and court complexes not having basic facilities such as separate toilets for women, medical aid centre, water purifier and libraries making it difficult for them to perform effectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the percentage of lower courts not having separate toilets for women;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve judicial infrastructure to ensure ease of doing business in court complexes; and

(d) the details of funds provided or proposed to be provided by the Government to the States?

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 such as separate toilets for women, medical aid centre, water purifier and libraries, is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government basically supplements the resources of the State Governments by releasing financial assistance under a 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.

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. 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. The scheme guidelines also include the Norms and Specifications for the Court Buildings which advises the state governments to comply with the existing standards of CPWD while preparing the construction plan for ongoing court complexes and facilities and the new projects.

For providing suitable climate for ease of doing business in the country, the infrastructure of the subordinate courts is being constantly improved. Dedicated and designated commercial courts are functional in these court complexes with exclusive manpower to expeditiously dispose of commercial cases. However, project wise funds are not released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for infrastructure for subordinate judiciary.