

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 310

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST JULY, 2023

Gram Nyayalayas

310. DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

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

- (a) the names of places where Gram Nyayalayas and Nyay Panchayats are operational in Jharkhand;
- (b) the details of such Nyay Panchayats in tribal areas of Jharkhand, district-wise;
- (c) the nature of cases being heard in these Gram Nyayalayas;
- (d) whether the Government has analysed the success rate of these Gram Nyayalayas and Nyay Panchayats; and
- (e) 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) & (b): In order to provide access to justice to the citizens at their door steps, the Central Government had enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008. In terms of Section 3 (1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the State Governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with their respective High Courts. However, the Act does not

make setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory. There is only one operational Gram Nyayalaya in the State of Jharkhand in the district of Koderma, Jharkhand.

(c): In terms of the provisions contained in the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, Gram Nyayalayas shall be deemed to be a court of Judicial Magistrate of the First Class and exercise both civil and criminal jurisdiction to the extent provided in the Schedules to the said Act. Central Government and State Government have the power to add or omit any item in such Schedules.

Section 3(3) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 provides that Gram Nyayalayas shall be in addition to the ordinary courts established under any other law for the time being in force. For every Gram Nyayalaya, the State Government shall in consultation with the High Court appoint a Nyayadhikari in terms of Section 5 of the above Act. The provisions of appeals from any judgment, sentence or order of a Gram Nyayalaya in criminal cases and civil cases is laid down in Sections 33 and 34 of the said Act.

(d)&(e): As per data uploaded by the High Courts on the Gram Nyayalaya portal set up by the Department of Justice, 15,405 cases have been disposed of during the period April 2023 to July, 2023 (as on 17th July, 2023) in 269 Gram Nyayalayas operational in the country as on 17th July, 2023.

The Gram Nyayalayas scheme has been evaluated from time to time. Following the recommendation of third party evaluation of Gram Nyayalaya

Scheme, conducted by NITI Aayog during 2019-2021, the Government has extended the CSS for financial assistance to Gram Nyayalaya for a further period of five years from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026, with a budgetary outlay of Rs.50 crores. Revised guidelines of the scheme have also been issued accordingly on 19.08.2021. As per the directions of the Government, further review of the performance of Gram Nyayalayas was to be done after one year to assess its efficacy as an institution in providing speedy and affordable justice to the rural marginalised and decide on its future. Consequently, the third party evaluation of the Scheme has been awarded and currently underway.
