

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2255

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15TH DECEMBER, 2023

Gram Nyayalayas in Andhra Pradesh

**2255. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:
SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:**

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

- (a) the number of Gram Nyayalayas that have been notified and set up in Andhra Pradesh and the number out of them currently operational, location wise;
- (b) the total number of cases filed and currently pending in each of the operational Gram Nyayalayas in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the resolution of pending cases in the Gram Nyayalayas of Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) whether there are any plans to establish additional Gram Nyayalayas in other locations in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) if so, the details of the proposed locations and the timeline for their establishment?

ANSWER

**THE 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): In order to provide access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps, 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, after consultation with their respective High Courts, may, by notification, establish one

or more Gram Nyayalayas for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at intermediate level in a district or where there is no Panchayat at intermediate level in any State, for a group of contiguous Gram Panchayats. Gram Nyayalayas are deemed to be a Court of Judicial Magistrate of First Class with civil and criminal jurisdiction as provided in the Schedule to the Act. Central Government and State Government have the power to add or omit any item in such Schedules. However, the Act does not make setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory.

Thus, it is up to States to notify and operationalize Gram Nyayalayas in their State, as per their need and urgency. As per the scheme guidelines, the Central Government provides nonrecurring expenses for setting up these courts with an assistance limited to Rs.18 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya as a one-time measure, as well as recurring expenses of these courts subject to a ceiling of Rs.3.2 lakhs per court per annum during the first three years of operation. After the year 2021, the Central assistance funds for Gram Nyayalayas is provided on reimbursement mode.

So far as the State of Andhra Pradesh is concerned, it had notified 42 Gram Nyayalayas for which a sum of Rs.4.36 crore was provided to the State in the financial year 2020-21. However, no Gram Nyayalaya has been made functional by the state so far. The Department of Justice has been holding review meetings with the State Governments and High Courts including the State of Andhra Pradesh for taking urgent action for operationalization of the already notified Gram Nyayalayas. There is at present no proposal with the Central Government for establishment of additional Gram Nyayalayas in Andhra Pradesh.
