

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1593

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 27TH NOVEMBER, 2019

Gram Nyayalayas

1593. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up Gram Nyayalayas across the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Jharkhand and the present status thereof;
- (b) whether the villages are facing difficulties in getting justice from Subordinate/High Courts as they are far away from their places of residence and if so, the steps taken by the Government to set up Gram Nyayalayas in villages;
- (c) whether the cases pending in lower courts would be considered in these Nyayalayas and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of funds allocated and released to the States for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas in the country; and
- (e) the other steps being taken to provide speedy justice in rural areas?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a): In terms of Section 3 (1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the State Governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts. However, the Act does not mandate setting up of Gram Nyayalayas because of this only 11 States have established Gram Nyayalayas. The Central Government has been requesting States and High Courts for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas in the respective States. As per the information made available by the various State Governments / High Courts there are 353 Gram Nyayalayas notified, out of which 221 are operational. The State-wise details including Jharkhand, are given as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Gram Nyayalyas Notified	Gram Nyayalayas operational
1	Madhya Pradesh	89	87
2	Rajasthan	45	45
3	Karnataka	2	0
4	Odisha	22	16
5	Maharashtra	39	24
6	Jharkhand	6	1
7	Goa	2	0
8	Punjab	2	2
9	Haryana	3	2
10	Uttar Pradesh	113	14
11	Kerala	30	30
Total		353	221

(b): The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 has been enacted vide notification dated 7th January, 2009 for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grass roots level for the purposes of providing access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps. The Gram Nyayalayas Act provides for establishment of 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 group Panchayats.

(c): As per Section 16 of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the District Court or the Court of Session, as may be notified by the High Court, may transfer all the civil or criminal cases pending before the courts subordinate to it, to the Gram Nyayalayas and that the Gram Nyayalaya may, in its discretion, either re-try the cases or proceed from the stage at which it was transferred to it.

(d): Funds allocated under the Scheme of Gram Nyayalayas are fully released to States. The details of funds released to States under the Scheme are given as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total
1	Madhya Pradesh	2456.40
2	Rajasthan	1240.98
3	Karnataka	25.20
4	Odisha	337.40
5	Maharashtra	337.80
6	Jharkhand	75.60
7	Goa	25.20
8	Punjab	25.20
9	Haryana	25.20
10	Uttar Pradesh	1323.20
11	Kerala	828.00

Total	6700.18
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(e): The issues affecting operationalization of the Gram Nyayalayas were discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers of the States on 7th April, 2013. It was decided in the Conference that the State Governments and High Courts should decide the question of setting up of Gram Nyayalayas wherever feasible, taking into account the local issues and situation. It is, therefore, upto State Governments and High Courts to set up Gram Nyayalayas accordingly.
