

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION No *289

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17TH DECEMBER, 2021

Gram Nyayalayas

***289. SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:**

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

- (a) the present status of establishment of permanent Gram Nyayalayas across the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for new judicial officers to serve in these Gram Nyayalayas to ensure speedy and accessible justice to underprivileged citizens;
- (c) if so, the details and the present status thereof including allocation of resources to the Gram Nyayalayas in this regard, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to minimize the difficulties faced by rural population in getting justice from subordinate/High Courts as they are residing in remote areas far away from the courts ?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *289 FOR ANSWER ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2021.

(a) to (d) : To provide access to justice to the citizen at their door steps, the Central Government has enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008. It provides for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at intermediate panchayat level. The State Governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts. Department of Justice has not issued any directives to make it mandatory for new judicial officer to serve in these Gram Nyayalayas, as appointment of Nyayadhikari in Gram Nyayalayas falls within the domain of the State Government.

As per information made available by State Governments / High Courts, 476 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified so far by 15 States. Out of these 256 are operational in 10 States at present. State-wise details of the Gram Nyayalayas notified, operationalised by the State Governments and status of fund release by this Department is as under:

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Gram Nyayalayas Notified	Gram Nyayalayas Functional	Fund released (Amount in Rs.lakh)
1	Madhya Pradesh	89	89	2456.40
2	Rajasthan	45	45	1240.98
3	Kerala	30	30	828.00
4	Maharashtra	36	23	660.80
5	Odisha	23	19	337.40

6	Uttar Pradesh	113	43	1323.20
7	Karnataka	2	2	25.20
8	Haryana	2	2	25.20
9	Punjab	9	2	25.20
10	Jharkhand	6	1	75.60
11	Goa	2	0	25.20
12	Andhra Pradesh	42	0	436.82
13	Telangana	55	0	693.00
14	Jammu & Kashmir	20	0	0.00
15	Ladakh	2	0	0.00
Total		476	256	8153.00

The Gram Nyayalayas scheme has been evaluated from time to time. The third party evaluation of the Scheme was done through NITI Aayog recently, which recommended continuance of the scheme. The Government has extended the above scheme for a further period of five years from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026, with a budgetary outlay of Rs.50 crores.

The Central Government has been encouraging the States to set up Gram Nyayalayas by providing financial assistance. As per the scheme, the Central Government provides one-time assistance to States towards non-recurring expenses for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 18.00 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya. The Central Government also provides assistance towards recurring expenses for operating these Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 3.20 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya per year for the first three years.

The Central Government has been regularly following up with the State Governments and the High Courts for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas in the respective States. During the current year, 05 (five) meetings have been held with the Registrar Generals of High Courts and Law / Home / Finance Secretaries of State Governments to expeditiously set up Gram Nyayalayas and appoint Nyayadhikaris to enable rural population to get justice at the village level.
