GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No 1683

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11TH FEBRUARY, 2022

Status of Judicial Infrastructure

1683. DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Registry of Supreme Court of India has compiled data on the status of judicial infrastructure and court amenities including size of court room, basic medical facilities, drinking water with purifiers, library and toilets in all district courts of country including Gopalganj district;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps being taken in these areas;

(c) whether it is fact that the district courts of country are faced with the problem of lack of judicial infrastructure and facilities, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the measures are being taken by the Ministry to extend a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for developing the infrastructure for the judiciary, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds allocated/released and spent in Bihar and the amount yet to be released to the State?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (e): The Registry of Supreme Court of India has compiled data on the status of judicial infrastructure and court amenities, including shortage of toilets and waiting rooms for lawyers and litigants. A proposal has been received from Chief Justice of India for setting up of National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India (NJIAI) for arrangement of adequate infrastructure for courts, as per which there will be a Governing Body with Chief Justice of India as Patron-in-Chief. The other salient features of the proposal are that NJIAI will act as a Central body in laying down the road map for planning, creation, development, maintenance and management of functional infrastructure for the Indian Court System, besides identical structures under all the High Courts. The proposal has been sent to the various State Government/UTs, as they constitute an important stakeholder, for their views on the contours of the proposal to enable taking a considered view on the matter.

As far as status of judicial infrastructure in Gopalganj District is concerned, as per information made available by the State Government there are 29 old and 24 new court rooms. Facility of drinking water and toilets is also available.

The primary responsibility of development of Infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments. To augment the resources of the State Governments, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities in district and subordinate courts by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern. The scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. Till date, the Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 8758.70 crore under the Scheme to States/UTs, out of which Rs. 5314.39 crore has been released since 2014-15 which is around 60.68% of the total release under the scheme. During the financial year 2021-22, an amount of Rs. 770.44 crore has been allocated for the scheme, out of which Rs. 433.45 crore has been released till date. The Government has approved the continuance of this CSS for a period of 5 years from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026, with a total budgetary outlay of Rs.9000 crores, including Central share of Rs.5307 crores. The scheme components have been expanded, to also cover the construction of toilets, digital computer rooms and Lawyers' Hall, in addition to the Court Halls & Residential Units in the district and subordinate courts.

Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 412.97 crore has been released to the State of Bihar till date. In the current financial year, an allocation of Rs. 51.74 crore has been made for the State of Bihar, however, the same can be released after submission of Utilization Certificate(s) for the unspent balance of Central and State share lying with the State Government, compliance of revised Public Financial Management System guidelines and complete Action Plan for the projects to be taken up.
