

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *124**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 26TH JULY, 2022/ SRAVANA 4, 1944 (SAKA)

FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

***124. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dependence of the criminal justice system has been increased on forensic investigation in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has reviewed the forensic science capabilities available in the country;

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the forensic investigation system in the country;

(d) the percentage of conviction rate at present and the extent to which the Government proposes to increase the rate of conviction thereafter;

(e) whether the Government has requested the States to affiliate at least one of their colleges with National Forensic Science University; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the response of various States in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI AJAY KUMAR MISHRA)**

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*124 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 26.7.2022 REGARDING "FORENSIC INVESTIGATION"

(a): As per available information, a steady rise in the number of cases referred to the Forensic Sciences Laboratories for forensic analysis over the last few years is indicative of the fact that the dependence of Criminal Justice System on forensic investigation is increasing.

(b) and (c): The Government is focused on strengthening the capacities for investigation and prosecution, including the eco-system for forensic sciences in the country. The process of strengthening of forensic facilities in the country is an ongoing and continuous process which is dependent on gap-analysis and demand assessment. 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibilities to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens including investigation, prosecution of crime and criminals, and related forensic science facilities, are with the State/Union Territory concerned. As per available information, there are 32 State Forensic Science Laboratories, 81 Regional Forensic Science Laboratories, and 529 Mobile Forensic Science Vehicles with States/ Union Territories. Apart from these, there are 7 Central Forensic Science Laboratories in the country which, inter-alia, supplement the task of

forensic analysis of crime exhibits referred to them by States/ Central agencies, and also undertake Research and Development activities in forensics. The major challenges faced by forensic sector in the country include, increasing the capacities in forensic science laboratories to be able to analyse cases referred for timely investigation, technology upgrade in the forensic science laboratories, making available trained manpower in the laboratories, and Quality Assurance and Quality Control of the Forensic Science Laboratories.

In order to address the above challenges, the Ministry of Home Affairs has taken several steps for strengthening of forensic capacities in the country, and include, inter-alia:

- (i) Modernization of Central Forensic Sciences Laboratories at Bhopal, Guwahati, Pune and Kolkata. The modern laboratories at Bhopal, Guwahati and Pune have already commenced functioning.**
- (ii) Upgrading of machinery & equipment in the Central Forensic Sciences Laboratories, including in the new disciplines of Forensics in Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances, Digital Forensics, DNA Forensic analysis, Forensic Psychology.**

(iii) Setting-up a State-of-the-art DNA Analysis and Research & Development facility at the Central Forensic Sciences Laboratory at Chandigarh. The new facility has commenced operations since December 2019.

(iv) Setting-up a National Cyber Forensic Science Laboratory at the Central Forensic Sciences Laboratory, Hyderabad to investigate important cases of digital fraud / cyber forensics. The laboratory has started functioning.

(v) Operationalizing an e-Forensics IT platform, which connects 117 forensic science laboratories (Central and State) in the country.

(vi) Assistance to States/ Union Territories for strengthening the DNA analysis, Cyber-forensics and related facilities in their forensic laboratories. Projects have been approved for 23 States/ Union Territories at a total cost of Rs.203.45 crore.

(vii) A Scheme for Modernization of Forensic Capacities has been approved. This will provide assistance to States/ Union Territories to develop high quality forensic science facilities for modernization of machinery and equipment, and facilitating availability of trained manpower in these laboratories through expansion of educational facilities for forensic science in the country.

(viii) The Directorate of Forensic Science Services under the Ministry of Home Affairs, to ensure quality and standardization in forensic examination in the Forensic Science Laboratories in the country, has issued Quality Manuals for accreditation of laboratories as per NABL standards (ISO 17025); Working Procedure Manuals in various disciplines of Forensic Sciences; Guidelines for collection, preservation & transportation of forensic evidence in sexual assault cases for Investigation Officers and medical Officers; a Standard list of Equipment for establishing/upgrading of Forensic Sciences Laboratories; and Standard Operating Procedures for Crime Scene Investigation.

(d) The Government has a target to match the high conviction rate as in advanced nations. The present conviction rate is 73.4 % (NCRB data).

(e) and (f): Yes, sir. The Ministry of Home Affairs has requested States/ Union Territories to identify the colleges/institutions for affiliation with the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU). The NFSU has also invited applications from the interested colleges/institutions for affiliation. As per available information, a total of 19 institutions/colleges have applied with the NFSU for affiliation.
