GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No 3363

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 05TH AUGUST, 2022

National Judicial Infrastructure Authority

3363. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Judiciary specially High Courts and subordinate courts lacks basic infrastructure all over the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 50 percent of the judicial infrastructure lacks basic amenities like ladies toilet, purified drinking water, basic medical facilities and video conferencing facilities in the age of e-governance, if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has recently desired for providing adequate judicial infrastructure, financial autonomy and setting up of National Judicial Infrastructure Authority to meet the growing needs of the judiciary; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (d): The Registry of Supreme Court of India has compiled data on the status of judicial infrastructure and court amenities, as per which 74% of court complexes have separate ladies toilets and 84% have gents toilets, 54% of court complexes have drinking water facility with purifiers, 5% court complexes have basic medical

facilities and 27% court rooms have computer placed on judge's dais for video conferencing facility.

A proposal has been received from the Chief Justice of India for setting up of National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India (NJIAI) for arrangement of adequate infrastructure for courts and which 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. The proposal was 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. The issue was also discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held on 30.04.2022 and after deliberations since there was no consensus the proposal was not agreed to.

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. 9013 crore under the Scheme to States/UTs, out of which Rs. 5569 crore has been released since 2014-15 which is around 61.79% of the total release under the scheme. As per information made available by the High Courts as on 30.06.2022, against sanctioned strength of 24,623 and working strength of 19,313 Judicial Officers, 20,993 Court Halls and 18,502 Residential Units are available in the District and Subordinate Courts. Moreover, 2,677 Court Halls and 1,659 Residential Units are under construction as per the data available on Nyaya Vikas portal. 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.9,000 crores, including Central share of Rs.5,307 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. Pursuant to the extension of the scheme and introduction of new features in the scheme, revised guidelines have been issued on 19.08.2021 for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary.
