

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4272

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 20TH DECEMBER, 2024

Establishment of Gram Nyayalaya

4272. SHRI N K PREMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to establish more Gram Nyayalayas for speedy disposal of the litigations, if so details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to provide more infrastructure and facilities for the functioning of Gram Nyayalayas, if so the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has received request from the State Government of Kerala and the Registrar General of its High Court to extend the jurisdiction of Gram Nyayalayas and amend the schedule of Gram Nyayalayas, if so the details thereof and response of the Government thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW
AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 provides for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grass roots level for the purposes of providing access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps and ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of social, economic or other disabilities. In terms of Section 3 (1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, for the purpose of exercising the jurisdiction and powers conferred on a Gram Nyayalaya by this Act, the State Government, after consultation with the High Court, may, by notification, establish one or more 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 Gram Panchayats. The Act therefore, does not make it mandatory for the States to establish Gram Nyayalayas. It is for the States and the respective High Courts to decide about establishing more Gram Nyayalayas, as per their need in accordance to the extant provision of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008.

As per the extant guidelines, 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 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. As on date, 15 States have implemented Gram Nyayalayas Scheme by notifying 488 Gram Nyayalayas, out of which 313 are functional in 11 States since the inception of the Scheme.

(c): The High Court of Kerala has made certain suggestions for extending the jurisdiction of the Gram Nyayalayas and amending the relevant Schedule of the said Act. A decision is yet to be taken on these suggestions.
