

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3553
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST MARCH, 2025**

ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE COURT IN ODISHA

3553. SHRI PRADEEP PUROHIT:

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

(a) the status of recommendation of High Court to set up an Additional District and Sessions Judge Court at Sohela, Bargarh district of Odisha;

(b) whether the Government is aware that litigants and advocates in Sohela face hardships under the new Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2024, if so, the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether a feasibility study has been conducted following the representation by the President, Bar Association, Sohela, if so, the details of its finding;

(d) whether the Government proposes to expedite establishing the Additional District and Sessions Judge Court at Sohela to ease the 52 km travel to Padampur, and if so, the time line by which the court will be established; and

(e) the details of financial and administrative measures being planned to implement the High Court's recommendation for speedy justice delivery in Sohela?

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) to (e): As per information provided by the High Court of Orissa, the proposal to set up an Additional District and Sessions Judge Court at Sohela, Bargarh District, Odisha is under active consideration of the Hon'ble Court. A feasibility

assessment has been conducted, which discloses that the average figures of the institution of cases of the last three years justify the said proposal. However, the requirement of suitable infrastructure facility for the proposed Court at Sohela has been reported as not available, at present.

However, the Government is committed to strengthening judicial infrastructure to improve the efficiency of courts and facilitate better access to justice. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Judicial Infrastructure Development, financial assistance is provided to supplement the resources of the State/UT Governments for the construction of court halls, residential units for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms. Under the aforementioned Scheme, Rs. 256.13 crore has been released to the State Government of Odisha from 1993-94 till date including Rs. 45.33 crore for the current Financial Year 2024-25. Further releases to the State will be made as per the extant guidelines of the scheme and the demand for ongoing and upcoming projects.
