

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2767

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2023

Non-Operational Gram Nyayalayas

**2767. SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:**

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

- (a) whether a number of notified Gram Nyayalayas are non-operational in various States;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the non-operability of Gram Nyayalayas across the length and breadth of these States and the Union Territories;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any step to expeditiously operationalise them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a)& (b): Yes Sir, as per the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, 477 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified by 15 States/UTs, out of which 265 Gram Nyayalayas are functional in 10 States. The State Governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts but the Act does not make it mandatory for the states to set up the Gram Nyayalayas. As per the information provided by the States/High Courts the main reason for non-operability of Gram Nyayalayas is non-filling of the post of Nyayadhikari in many States, non-availability of public prosecutors, notaries and general shortage of First Class Judicial Magistrates who man these Gram

Nyayalayas. Besides, the issue of overlapping jurisdiction with regular courts is another reason due to which the scheme is not taking off. Moreover, many states have their own parallel systems of village courts functioning at panchayat level.

(c) & (d): Regular correspondence has been made with the States/High Courts concerned for taking expeditious action for making the notified Gram Nyayalayas functional. During the regular meetings of the Central Level Monitoring Committee of Department of Justice, the States are regularly being reminded to expedite operationalization of the notified Gram Nyayalayas.
