

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1389
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH JULY, 2023**

SHORTAGE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES

1389. SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that absence of forensic science laboratories caused delay in examination of the cases under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in the country;
- (b) whether Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Madhuban has been asked to follow the directions of Supreme Court in ensuring that DNA PCR kits are purchased immediately for testing critical evidences in the cases under POCSO;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether forensic science laboratories in the country have sufficient stock of DNA PCR testing kits; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a): The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has informed that registration of cases against offences and its investigation is a continuous process. Forensic examination for all cases including those booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act are undertaken in all 7 Central Forensic Science Laboratories and 32 State Forensic Science Laboratories.

MHA has taken several steps for strengthening forensic capacities in the country, which includes, inter-alia:

- (i) Setting-up a State-of-the-art DNA Analysis and Research & Development facility at the Central Forensic Sciences Laboratory at Chandigarh.
- (ii) Setting-up a National Cyber Forensic Science Laboratory at the Central Forensic Sciences Laboratory, Hyderabad to investigate important cases of digital fraud / cyber forensics.

(iii) Assistance to States/ Union Territories for strengthening the DNA analysis, Cyber-forensics and related facilities in their forensic laboratories. Projects have been approved for 30 States/ Union Territories at a total cost of about Rs. 250 Crore.

(iv) 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.

(b) and (c): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the seventh schedule to the Constitution of India. The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Madhuban comes under the control of the Government of Haryana.

(d) and (e): The availability of the number of DNA PCR testing kits depends on the cases received and their use. The kits have a shelf life and cannot be stocked in bulk. However, the DNA kits have been made available on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal for ease of procurement
