

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3214
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2008
MODERNIZATION OF COURTS
Athawale Shri Ramdas

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

- (a) the details of funds allocated for modernisation and infrastructure development of Supreme Court, High Courts and lower courts during last year and current year, court-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has received proposals to increase the said allocation; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R.BHARDWAJ)

(a) to (c) The responsibility for modernization and infrastructure development of the High Courts and lower courts lies with the respective State Governments. So far as the Supreme Court is concerned, the requisite information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

However, the Government is implementing a scheme for upgradation of the Information and Communication Technology infrastructure of the Supreme Court and the High Courts and for computerizing the District and Subordinate Courts in the country at a cost of Rs.441.8 crore. This scheme was approved in February, 2007 and is being implemented by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). NIC has been given Rs. 187.05 crore so far for implementation of this scheme. The allocation under this scheme is not made court-wise.

For the development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented since 1993-94 under which central assistance is provided to the States/UTs to augment their resources for the construction of court buildings (including construction requirement for High Court buildings) and residential accommodation of Judges. Allocations are not made court-wise. The budget provision for the scheme for 2007-08 (for all States and UTs) was Rs. 65.00 crore and in the current financial year the budget provision is Rs. 133.00 crore. The amounts are released to the States/UTs based on utilization reported by them to the satisfaction of the Central Government. Some State Governments have requested for additional funds under the scheme. In the year 2007-08 against the budget provision of Rs. 65.00 crore, a higher amount of Rs. 117.96 crore was finally allocated. The details of State-wise, UT-wise allocation of this amount and the amount released to the State Governments and UTs are given in the Annex. The Annex also has State-wise, UT-wise details of the amount allocated for 2008-09 and the amount released to the States and UTs so far. After the budget provisions for 2008-09 were finalised, requests for central assistance were received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for construction of a new building for the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court and from the Government of Nagaland for construction of High Court building at Kohima. These requests are under examination.