

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:638

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011

FUNDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IN JUDICIARY

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

(a) the States in which judiciary is still functioning in old infrastructure without modern amenities like computers and lack of civic amenities also as on date; and

(b) the funds allocated by the Union Government for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary to various States during the last three years along with the details of the funds utilized by those States?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a): The development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary is the primary responsibility of the State Government. The Supreme Court of India in Interlocutory Application No. 279/2010 in WP (C) No. 1022/1989 in All India Judges Association & Ors. Vs Union of India & Ors has directed the State Governments to submit detailed information in prescribed format regarding the infrastructure facilities of subordinate judiciary. The matter is pending in the ` Supreme Court. However, The Department of Justice is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary since 1993-94 to augment the resources of the State Governments / UTs in this regard. Earlier, the scheme covering construction of court buildings and residential accommodation of judicial officers/judges of the High Courts and the Subordinate Courts. The Government has approved setting up of the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in June 2011 under which the infrastructure development for the judiciary is a thrust area. Centrally Sponsored Scheme funds now supporting infrastructure for subordinate judiciary only will be implemented by the Mission.

Under the modified scheme, the ratio of central assistance has been increased from 50:50 basis to 75:25 basis, except in the case of the States in North Eastern Region, where the Centre / State share ratio is on 90:10 basis. The releases to States/UTs are made based on their demand, the resources available with the centre and the receipt of utilization certificate (including State`s share) for the past releases.

The Government is implementing a central sector scheme for computerization of the District and Subordinate Courts (e-Courts project) in the country and for upgradation of the ICT infrastructure of the Supreme Court and the High Courts, at a cost of Rs. 935 crore for the first phase which will connect 14,229 courts in the country including video conferencing facilities. In the subsequent phase, digitization, library management, e-filing and establishment of data warehouse are expected to take place. The Project output would be beneficial to both improving court process and rendering citizen centric services. Automation of case flow would cover case scrutiny, registration, court proceedings and electronic monitoring of all court-wise case pendency and performance assessment of Judges. In terms of citizen centric services, online availability of case status, copies of orders and judgments, cause list and eventually e-filing of cases will be available. This project will also achieve one of the important goals of the Vision Document 2009, namely, the creation of National Arrears Grid, with the last mile connectivity up to Taluqa courts. The complete coverage of the 14,249 courts internally of hardware and software will be achieved by March 2014 and the largest number of courts (12,000) will be covered by March 2012.

(b): A Statement indicating the funds allocated by the Union Government for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary, Gram Nyayalayas and Computerization to various States during the last three years is annexed at Annexure, The funds to the States are released only after they submit utilization certificate of the funds released to them in the past year.