

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1837

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2011

FAST TRACK COURTS

Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal;Rao Shri Kavuri Samba Siva

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

- (a) the number of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) functioning as on date, State- wise;
- (b) whether central funding for FTCs has been stopped since 31.03.2011;
- (c) if so; the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the 13th Finance Commission had set apart Rs, 5000 crore for FTCs; and
- (e) if so, the funds/grant released to States out of that fund during the last one year?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a): A statement is enclosed.

(b): Yes, Madam.

(c): The Eleventh Finance Commission recommended a scheme for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) in the country for disposal of long pending Sessions and other cases. Fast Track Courts are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Court. The scheme was for a period of 5 years. The Government accorded its approval for the continuation of 1562 Fast Track Courts that were operational as on 31.3.2005 for a further period of 5 years i.e. up to 31st March, 2010. The scheme of central assistance for Fast Track Courts was further extended for a period of one year i.e. upto 31.3.2011.

Fast Track Courts were supported by the 11th Finance Commission ; one-time measure to reduce the pendency of the session`s cases and were further continued by the Central Government for 5 years. It was felt that if the term of these courts is extended from time to time, then these courts virtually become part of the regular judicial structure which was not intended. The role of the Central Government should be more in the area of supporting infrastructure development, capacity building and procedural reforms rather than meeting the recurring costs of courts which is the responsibility of the State Governments. Therefore, it was decided to support these courts for another year so that there could be a smooth transition and to stop central funding beyond 31.3.2011. However there is no bar on State Governments, if they so wish, to continue funding these courts fully.

(d): Grant for the Fast Track Courts scheme is not recommended by the Thirteenth Finance Commission (TFC). With the objective of improving justice delivery, Thirteenth Finance Commission (TFC) has recommended a grant of 5000 Cr to be utilized over a period of five years up to 2010-15. This grant is aimed at providing support to improve judicial outcomes, and is allocated for the initiatives such as (i) Increasing the number of court working hours using the existing infrastructure by holding morning / evening / shift courts; (ii) Enhancing support to Lok Adalats to reduce the pressure on regular courts; (iii) Providing additional funds to State Legal Services Authorities to enable them to enhance legal aid to the marginalized and empower them to access justice; (iv) Promoting the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism to resolve part of the disputes outside the court system; (v) Enhancing capacity of judicial officers and public prosecutors through training programmes; (vi) Supporting creation or strengthening of a judicial academy in each State to facilitate such training; (vii) Creation of the post of Court Managers in every judicial district to assist the judiciary in their administrative functions and (viii) Maintenance of heritage court buildings.

(e): Does not arise.