

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1641
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2011
UPGRADATION OF COURTS
Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to augment the infrastructure of the subordinate courts across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has a standard benchmarking that flags the minimum levels of facilities that should mandatorily be present in a judicial complex at the subordinate courts' level;
- (d) the total cost involved in upgrading all the subordinate court complexes;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to generate adequate resources including raising of the court fees to fund the upgradation of subordinate courts; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a)&(b); Yes, Madam. 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. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary is now under implementation 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 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 14,249 courts in the country.

(c): No such standard has been fixed by the Central Government. It is for the State Governments and Courts to decide.

(d): On the basis of the information received from the State Governments, the total cost of improvement of infrastructure facilities for subordinate judiciary is tentatively estimated to the tune of Rs. 7345.65 crore,

(e)&(f): The Central Government has no proposal for raising of court fees. The levying of court fees on institution and trial of suits and petitions presented to various High Courts and lower courts is regulated under the Court Fees' Act, 1870. This is Central enactment. However, under the Devolution Act, 1920 the power to amend the Act in its application to the States has been delegated to the State Governments.