

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:277

ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012

GRAM NYAYALAYAS

Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.;Natarajan Shri P.R.

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

- (a) whether even after enactment of Gram Nyayalayas Act in 2009, only six States have set up Gram Nyayalayas with 1512 courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the tardy progress in the matter;
- (c) the details of the total number of Gram Nyayalayas across the country, State-wise;
- (d) the quantum of funds allocated for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure setting up of Gram Nyayalayas in the other remaining States within a fixed time limit?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) to (e); A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 277 FOR ANSWER ON 30 AUGUST, 2012.

The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 provides for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas to improve access to justice for common man. The Act has come into force with effect from 2nd October, 2009. In terms of Section 3(1) of the Act, it is for the State Governments to establish Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts.

As per information available, 166 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified by six State Governments, of which 151 Gram Nyayalayas have started functioning. State-wise progress is as under:-

Sl. No	Name of State	Number of Gram Nyayalayas notified	Number of Gram Nyayalayas operationalized
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1	Madhya Pradesh	89	89
2	Rajasthan	45	45
3	Orissa	14	8
4	Karnataka	2	0
5	Maharashtra	10	9
6	Jharkhand	6	0

Total 166 151

Most of the States to which the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 extends, have supported the setting up of Gram Nyayalayas. But a number of States have either requested for higher central financial assistance while indicating their willingness to establish Gram Nyayalayas or conveyed their disinclination. While Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Rajasthan are among States which have demanded higher amount, States / UTs of Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Chandigarh and Lakshdweep have, for different reasons, not felt the need to set up Gram Nyayalayas.

As per the scheme for assistance for establishing and operating Gram Nyayalayas to State Governments, the Central Government provides one-time assistance to States towards non-recurring expenses for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 18.00 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya. The Central Government also provides assistance towards recurring expenses for operating these Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 3.20 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya per year for the first three years. The allocation of funds to various States under the Scheme in the last three years is as under:-

(Rupees in lakhs)

SI. State 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 Total
No

1	Madhya Pradesh	632.00	745.40	156.80	1534.20
2	Rajasthan	567.00	0.00	144.00	711.00
3	Orissa	15.80	0.00	110.60	126.40
4	Karnataka	132.60	0.00	9.60	142.20
5	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	25.20	25.20
6	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Total 1347.40 745.40 446.20 2539.00

The Government of India has, from time to time, requested the State Governments to take advantage of the provisions of the Act and initiate action for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas with the Central Assistance being provided under the Scheme. The Minister of Law and Justice has addressed letters to Chief Ministers in this regard. Further, series of regional meetings were held with the State Governments and the High Courts in July-August, 2010, where they were urged to take expeditious steps for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas. Setting up of Gram Nyayalayas was one of the agenda items for the State level meeting with Law / Home Secretaries and Finance Secretaries of States / UTs and Registrar Generals of High Courts on 19th and 20th April, 2012. The States were impressed upon the urgency for quick operationalization of Gram Nyayalayas for providing affordable justice to people at their doorsteps.