

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:547

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES FOR JUDICIARY

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

- (a) whether the Government has been providing assistance to States for development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds provided to various State Governments during the last three years and the current year, State- wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to implement the e-court project in the country with a view to upgrading information and communication technology infrastructure in various courts including Supreme Court and High Courts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the funds spent, so far; and
- (e) the time by which all the courts will be connected with video-conferencing?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary has been under implementation since 1993-1994. Under the Scheme, Central Government augments the resources of State Governments for improving the physical infrastructure of the Courts as well as for meeting the housing needs of judicial officers. The ratio of Central share vis-a-vis State share under the scheme has been altered from 50:50 to 75:25 and the Scheme has been modified to cover only district and subordinate courts, from 2011-12 onwards. For North-Eastern States, it is 90:10 and has been in force w.e.f. 2010-11. Central assistance is restricted to the budgetary allocation made for the Scheme. However, States are free to spend additional amount. The State/UT-wise details of funds released under CSS during the last three years and current year, State-wise, are given in statement annexed.

(c) to (e): Under the e-courts Integrated Mission Mode Project being implemented in the country, the Government has approved the ICT enablement (computerization) of the Supreme Court, High Courts and 14,249 district & subordinate courts by March 2014 with a budget of Rs. 935 crore. National Informatics Centre (NIC) is the implementing agency for the Project. A total amount of Rs. 597.35 crore has been released till date to NIC for the implementation of eCourts Project.

In 2010, the Government approved video-conferencing in approximately 500 locations covering prisons and corresponding courts by March 2014. Since a sizeable number of prisons have already acquired video-conferencing facility, it has been decided that ten prisons and corresponding courts be shortlisted to conduct a pilot study to determine the equipment and software best suited for connectivity between the Prisons and Courts through video-conferencing.