

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:934
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013
RURAL COURTS
Singh Shri Ganesh

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

- (a) the number of rural courts set up across the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise including Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up more such courts;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (d) The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 provides for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at intermediate panchayat level for the purpose of providing access to justice to the citizens at their door steps. The Act has come into force with effect from 2nd October, 2009. So far nine States have notified 172 Gram Nyayalayas. Year-wise progress of Gram Nyayalayas notified is as follows:-

Sl.No. State 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 2012-13 2013-14 Total

1 Madhya Pradesh 40 49 - - - 89

2 Rajasthan 45 - - - - 45

3 Maharashtra 9 - 1 - - 10

4 Jharkhand - - - 6 - 6

5 Orissa 1 - 7 6 - 14

6 Karnataka - - 2 - - 2

7 Goa - - - 2 - 2

8 Punjab - - - 2 - 2

9 Haryana - - - 2 - 2

Total 95 49 10 18 - 172

As per the Act, it is for the State Governments to establish Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts.

Central Government has been making regular requests to the Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas in respective States. In order to encourage State Governments to set up Gram Nyayalayas, Central Government provides financial assistance within the prescribed norms.

The issues affecting implementation of the Gram Nyayalayas Act were recently discussed in the conference of Chief Justices of the High Courts and Chief Ministers of the States on 7th April, 2013. It has, inter-alia, been decided by the Conference that the State Governments and High Courts should decide the question of establishment of Gram Nyayalayas, wherever feasible taking into account their local problems.