

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:171  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2014  
CASES DISPOSED OF BY GRAM NYAYALAYAS  
Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram

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

- (a) the various steps being taken by the Government in the direction of judicial reforms, modernisation and infrastructural development in the judiciary along with the achievements made thereunder so far;
- (b) whether the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 authorises Gram Nyayalayas to conduct mobile courts for speedy disposal of cases to provide speedy justice to rural people;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of cases reported / disposed of by the Gram Nyayalayas during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to make Gram Nyayalayas more effective?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRID. V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a): The overall goal of the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms is timely delivery of justice and enhancing accountability through structural changes. The National Mission was set up in August, 2011 and has a time frame of five years. The major initiative under the National Mission relate to Infrastructure Development for Subordinate Judiciary and Computerization of Courts. The Central Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 2,198 crores to State Governments and Union Territories for upgradation / construction of court complexes and residential units for judicial officers in the last three years. Under the eCourts Project 13,323 courts have been computerized by 31st October, 2014. Computerization of courts would enable the courts to exercise greater control over management of cases in the docket. It will also provide designated services to the litigants and the lawyers, in order to reduce government litigation in courts the Central Government has encouraged the States to notify their litigation policies which contain provisions for weeding out infructuous cases and promote dispute resolution through alternative mechanisms. The Government has also identified the areas prone to excessive litigation for adopting suitable policy and legislative measures to curb such litigation. As a result of the concerted efforts made by all stake-holders the increasing trend of pendency of cases in subordinate courts has been checked.

(b) to (e): In terms of section 3 (1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the State Governments may establish Gram Nyayalayas at intermediate Panchayat level in consultation with the respective High Courts with a view to provide access to justice to citizens at their doorsteps. Further, in terms of Section 9 of the Act, the Nyayadhikari shall periodically visit the villages ralling under his jurisdiction and conduct trial or proceedings at any place which he considers is in close proximity to the place where the parties ordinarily reside or where the whole or part of the cause of action had arisen, provided that where the Gram Nyayalaya decides to hold mobile court outside its headquarters, it shall give wide publicity as to the date and place where it proposes to hold mobile court.

Central Government has been encouraging the States to set up Gram Nyayalaya by providing financial assistance within the prescribed norms. The details of cases settled by Gram Nyayalayas are however not maintained centrally.

Central Government has been making regular requests to the Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts for establishment of Gram Nyayafayas in the respective States. The issues affecting the implementation of Gram Nyayalayas Act were discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices of the High Courts and Chief Ministers of the States on 07th April, 2013. It has, inter-alia, been resolved in 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.