

The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 has been enacted for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grass roots level for providing access to justice to citizens at their doorstep. The Central Government is providing 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 running these Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 3.20 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya per year for the first three years. As informed by the State Governments, 153 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified already. Out of these 151 Gram Nyayalayas have started functioning.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary is being implemented since 1993-94 under which Central assistance for construction of court buildings and residential quarters for judicial officers is released to augment the resources of the State Governments. The expenditure on the scheme is shared by the Centre and the State Governments on 75:25 basis, except for States in North East Region, which is on 90:10 basis. An expenditure of Rs. 1841 crore has been incurred on this scheme up to 31.03.2012 since inception.

For 2012-13, following budget provisions have been proposed under different plan schemes :-

- (a) Central Sector Scheme for infrastructure : Rs. 660.00 crore.
- (b) Computerisation district and subordinate courts : Rs. 233.66 crore.
- (c) Assistance to State Governments for establishing and operating Gram Nyayalayas : Rs. 114.00 crore.
- (d) National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms : Rs. 37.50 crore.

Review of pending corruption cases

3333. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has recently turned down Government's request seeking a panel of names of its recently retired judges to head a proposed committee for reviewing cases of corruption pending in courts across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the exact number of cases of corruption pending in various courts in the country, as on 31 January, 2012; and
- (d) the mechanism to be adopted by Government to clear such cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) :

(a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) As per information available, there were 9926 CBI cases pending trial (as on 31.03.2012) in various courts including exclusive courts all over the country.

(d) On the recommendation of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Central Government has decided to set up 71 additional special courts exclusively for the trial of CBI cases in different States. Of these, 62 CBI courts have started functioning.

Status of 230th Report of the Law Commission

3334. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the salient recommendations contained in the 230th report of the Law Commission;

(b) the follow up action taken by Central/State Governments; and

(c) the reason for non-action/delayed action?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) :

(a) The 230th Report of the Law Commission deals with the need to 'Reforms in Judiciary'. The Report contents are in two parts. The first part consists of the Theme and Thought on those areas where re-evaluation and, or reforms need to be taken up. The second part contains the recommendations for reform in the judiciary with a view to liquidate the huge backlog of cases. These are as under :

- (1) There must be full utilization of the court working hours. The judges must be punctual and lawyers must not be asking for adjournments, unless it is absolutely necessary. Grant of adjournment must be guided strictly by the provisions of Order 17 of the Civil Procedure Code.
- (2) Many cases are filed on similar points and one judgment can decide a large number of cases. Such cases should be clubbed with the help of technology and used to dispose other such cases on a priority basis; this will substantially reduce the arrears. Similarly, old cases, many of which have become infructuous, can be separated and listed for hearing and their disposal normally will not take much time. Same is true for many interlocutory applications filed even after the main cases are disposed of. Such cases can be traced with the help of technology and disposed of very quickly.
- (3) Judges must deliver judgements within a reasonable time and in that matter, the guidelines given by the apex court in the case of Anil Rai vs. State of Bihar, (2001) 7 SCC 318 must be scrupulously observed, both in civil and criminal cases.
- (4) Considering the staggering arrears, vacations in the higher judiciary must be curtailed by at least 10 to 15 days and the court working hours should be extended by at least half-an hour.