

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government for more mechanisation in the counting of votes to match the pace of mechanisation available in the process of voting through EVMs. However, the Election Commission has submitted a proposal for introduction of a machine called Totaliser in counting of votes. The Government has not taken a considered view on introduction of Totaliser in the counting of votes as proposed by the Election Commission. Secrecy of votes being the essence of Indian democracy will certainly be ascertained before introduction of any technological advancement in the voting or counting.

(c) The Election Commission has intimated that use of Totaliser will further add to the level of secrecy in voting. The Election Commission has further intimated that by use of Totaliser, the purpose of mixing of votes at the time of counting will be substantially achieved, which will prevent the disclosure of the pattern of voting at a particular Polling Station.

Setting up of Gram Nyayalayas

2390. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the State Governments have notified Gram Nyayalayas pursuant to the enactment of Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) 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 Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, 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.	State	Gram Nyayalayas notified	Gram Nyayalayas operationalized
1	Madhya Pradesh	89	89
2	Rajasthan	45	45
3	Orissa	14	8
4	Karnataka	2	0
5	Maharashtra	10	9
6	Jharkhand	6	-
TOTAL		166	151

Most of the States to which the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 extends had supported the setting up of Gram Nyayalayas. A number of States have, however, requested for higher central financial assistance while indicating their willingness to establish Gram Nyayalayas. Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Rajasthan are some such States. Some States/UTs, however, have for different reasons, not felt the need to set up Gram Nyayalayas. Such as Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Chandigarh and Lakshdweep.

The difficulties faced by States in setting up of Gram Nyayalayas were discussed in the meeting of the Law/Home Secretaries of State Governments and Registrar Generals of the High Courts held on 19th and 20th April, 2012. One of the main reasons for the slow pace of setting up of Gram Nyayalayas has been the request by the States for greater financial assistance. Besides that, lukewarm response of Bar, reluctance of police officials and other State functionaries to invoke jurisdiction of Gram Nyayalayas, non-availability of notaries and stamp vendors, problem of concurrent jurisdiction of regular courts are other issues indicated by the States which are coming in the way of speedy operationalization of the Scheme.

National Law School of Nagpur

2391. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the lawyers of Nagpur and the Maharashtra Government have requested the Ministry to set up a National Law School at Nagpur;