

- (b) the response of Government and the Election Commission thereto; and
- (c) the details of private agencies involved in maintenance of EVMs during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The Election Commission has informed that they are aware of the RTI reply given by the District Election Officer, Buldana regarding the technical fault in one particular Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) which was used at the polling station 57/6-Sultanpur from 57-Sultanpur Constituency of Buldana Zila Parishad. The Commission has requested the Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra to send the defective EVM in question to the Commission immediately for further examination by the Technical Expert Committee. No private agencies are involved in the maintenance of Electronic Voting Machines.

Funds for Fast Track Courts

2974. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the total number of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) set up in the last three years in different States;
- (b) the details of the funds allocated to set up FTCs in the last three years, State-wise, and
- (c) the details of the amount utilised in the creation of these courts along with the amount unspent in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources in consultation with the concerned High Courts.

The 11th Finance Commission had recommended a scheme for creation of 1734 FTCs in the country for disposal of long pending cases and the cases involving undertrial prisoners. The scheme recommended by the 11th Finance Commission was for a period of five years upto 2004-05. The Government accorded its approval for the continuation of central funding of 1562 FTCs that were operational as on 31.3.2005 for a further period of 5 years *i.e.* up to 31st March, 2010. The scheme was continued for another one year upto 31st March, 2011.

An amount of ₹ 870 crore was released to the State Governments for FTCs during a period of 11 years from 2000-01 to 2010-2011 and Central funding was discontinued beyond 31.03.2011. In its judgment in Brij Mohan Lal and Others Vs. Union of India and Others on 19.04.2012, Supreme Court has endorsed the position of Government of India that continuation of FTCs is within the domain of the States and has directed the States that they need to decide either to bring the FTC scheme to an end or to continue the same as a permanent feature in the State. A number of States have continued FTCs beyond 31.03.2011 with their own resources.

However, the Central Government decided to provide funds upto a maximum of ₹ 80 crore per annum on a matching basis upto 31.03.2015 from the 13th Finance Commission Award for meeting expenditure on salaries of the 10% additional positions of Judges being created in the subordinate judiciary pursuant to the direction of Supreme Court in the case of Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India.

The 14th Finance Commission (14th FC) has endorsed the proposal of the Union Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which includes, *inter alia*, establishing 1800 FTCs for a period of five years for all cases of heinous crimes like cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. at a cost of ₹ 4144 crore. Further, the 14th FC has urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister vide his letter dated 23rd April, 2015 has urged the State Governments to allocate funds for the activities mentioned in the 14th FC recommendations from their State budget from 2015-16 onwards. This issue was also discussed in the CM/CJ Conference on the 05th April, 2015 and 24th April, 2016 wherein it was resolved to strengthen the existing coordination and monitoring mechanism between the State Government and the Judiciary for effective implementation of the recommendations of the 14th FC. The Minister of Law and Justice has further urged all the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts to implement the resolution of the Conference vide letters dated 3rd June, 2015, 26th September, 2016 and 2nd May, 2017 respectively.

As per the information received from the High Courts, at present 575 FTCs are functional in the country and the funds allocated to set up these Courts during the 14th Finance Commission period through the tax devolution are given in the Statement (*See below*). The details regarding the amount utilized/unspent with the respective State Governments/High Courts is not maintained centrally.

Statement-I*(A) Details of 575 FTCs functional in the country*

Sl. No.	State	No. of FTC functional (as on date)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-
3.	Assam	3
4.	Bihar	51
5.	Chhattisgarh	14
6.	Delhi	13
7.	Goa	5
8.	Gujarat	0
9.	Haryana	0
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	-
12.	Jharkhand	12
13.	Karnataka	0
14.	Kerala	0
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0
16.	Maharashtra	100
17.	Manipur	-
18.	Meghalaya	0
19.	Mizoram	-
20.	Nagaland	-
21.	Odisha	0
22.	Punjab	0
23.	Puducherry	-
24.	Rajasthan	0
25.	Sikkim	1
26.	Tamil Nadu	39
27.	Telangana	34

1	2	3
28.	Tripura	1
29.	Uttar Pradesh	183
30.	Uttarakhand	4
31.	West Bengal	77
TOTAL		575

(B) Funds allocated for establishment of 1800 Fast Track Courts for a period of five years (2015-2020) as endorsed by the 14th Finance Commission

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Funds allocated*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	108.21
2.	Telangana	85.18
3.	Assam	82.88
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00
5.	Mizoram	16.12
6.	Nagaland	6.91
7.	Bihar	338.43
8.	Chhattisgarh	64.46
9.	Gujarat	400.59
10.	Himachal Pradesh	29.93
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	48.35
12.	Jharkhand	115.11
13.	Karnataka	218.72
14.	Kerala, Lakshadweep	94.39
15.	Madhya Pradesh	306.20
16.	Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	469.67
17.	Goa	11.51
18.	Manipur	6.91
19.	Meghalaya	9.21
20.	Odisha	145.04

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Funds allocated*
21.	Punjab	115.11
22.	Chandigarh	4.61
	Haryana	110.51
23.	Rajasthan	214.11
24.	Sikkim	2.3
25.	Tamil Nadu, Puducherry	204.91
26.	Tripura	20.72
27.	Uttar Pradesh	488.08
28.	Uttarakhand	64.46
29.	West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	216.42
30.	Delhi	145.05
	TOTAL	4144.11

*The amount is to be allocated by the State Governments from their enhanced State budgets made available to them in the form of tax devolution.

Fast-Track Justice System

2975. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government has taken any new initiative to expedite delayed court cases into fast-track justice system in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of cases disposed of in the various High Courts in the last two years under "five plus zero" policy initiative under National Court Management System; and

(c) the data of pendency of civil and criminal cases in Supreme Court and the High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) A new initiative, the Integrated Court Management Information System (ICMIS) has been launched with effect from 10.05.2017 to usher in a higher level of objectivity, consistency, timeliness and transparency. In this behalf a new automated, dynamic and a responsive software has been prepared to provide speedy justice to all the stakeholders in the Supreme Court of India.