

The Union Government has adopted a coordinated approach to assist the judiciary for reduction in pendency of court cases. This involves upgradation of infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of judicial officers/judges etc. and emphasis on human resource development.

The Government of India had proposed setting up of 1800 FTCs with a cost of ₹4144 crore in the Memorandum submitted to the Fourteenth Finance Commission (14th FC) in order to dispose off cases pertaining to heinous crimes involving marginalized and vulnerable persons including women, senior citizens and children etc. The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Union Government and accordingly the State Governments were provided additional fiscal space in the Fourteenth Finance Commission award with the expectation to set up Fast Track Courts in the States.

Disposal of backlog of pending cases by FTCs

2517. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fast Track Courts (FTCs), established for speedy trial of cases related to crimes against women, have a backlog of more than 2000 pending cases till now;

(b) if so, the details of pending cases for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the measures Government would take to counter the inefficiencies of FTCs to conduct speedy trials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Setting up of subordinate courts, which includes Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and their functioning/monitoring, 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. Therefore the data regarding pendency in these courts is maintained by the respective High Courts. As per information received from High Courts a total of 5.7 lakh cases are pending in the FTCs as on 31.12.17. These cases pertain to heinous crimes involving marginalized sections of the society including women, senior citizens and children etc.

(c) The Eleventh Finance Commission had recommended a scheme for creation of 1734 FTCs in the country for disposal of long pending cases. The scheme was started in 2000-01 and continued till 2010-11 and then it was continued in a different form. However, central funding for the Scheme continued till 31.03.2015 for meeting the

expenditure on salaries of the 10% additional positions of Judges which was being created in the subordinate judiciary on matching basis (between Central and State Governments) as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Brij Mohan Lal *Vs.* Union of India.

The Government of India had proposed setting up of 1800 FTCs with a cost of ₹4144 crore in the Memorandum submitted to the Fourteenth Finance Commission (14th FC) in order to dispose of cases pertaining to heinous crimes involving marginalized and vulnerable persons including women, children etc. The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Union Government and accordingly the State Governments were provided the additional fiscal space in the Fourteenth Finance Commission award with the expectation to set up FTCs in the States. The Government of India has also followed up the matter and requested State Governments/High Courts for setting up FTCs for expeditious disposal of cases of crimes against women, senior citizens and children as per the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission.

Expenditure on elections

†2518. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether expenditure on elections is increasing indiscreetly because elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies are not held simultaneously;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the expenditure on elections will decrease if elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies are held simultaneously; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) The Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice in its 79th Report on the "Feasibility of Holding Simultaneous Elections to the House of the People and State Legislative Assemblies" has, *inter alia*, observed that holding simultaneous elections would reduce the massive expenditure incurred for conduct of separate elections. However, at this stage, it is not possible to estimate or ascertain the quantum of reduction in expenditure in case elections are held simultaneously.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.