

- (c) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) Yes Sir. Article 39 A of the Constitution of India provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society and ensures justice for all. In the year 1987, the Legal Services Authorities Act was enacted by the Parliament which came into force on 9 November, 1995 to establish a nationwide uniform network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society on the basis of equal opportunity. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to monitor and evaluate implementation of legal aid programmes. Legal services institutions have been set up at all level from Taluk Courts to the Supreme Court. Apart from these legal services institutions, High Court Legal Services Committees have been constituted at all High Courts and the Supreme Courts Legal Services Committee at the Supreme Court level to provide free legal services to the persons eligible under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act. The free Legal Aid Services include:—

- (i) Payment of court fee, process fees and all other charges payable or incurred in connection with any legal proceedings;
- (ii) Providing service of lawyers in legal proceedings;
- (iii) Obtaining and supply of certified copies of orders and another documents in legal proceedings; and
- (iv) Preparation of appeal paper book including printing and translation of document in legal proceedings.

(b) and (c) Receipts of requests in this regard is a continuous process. These are received very often and the same are forwarded to NALSA for taking up the matter with the concerned State Legal Services Institutions for appropriate action. NALSA closely monitors the action on such requests. Social organizations are also involved in various awareness and out reach programmes conducted by the State Authorities.

Modernisation of District Courts

3751. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the pathetic conditions, in which the courts functions for administering justice, such as lack of adequate facilities like toilets and

drinking water especially for women, senior citizens and children on the court premises and even the bad state of courtrooms of our judges which requires immediate attention; and

(b) whether Government proposes to modernise District Courts and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to provide Judicial Infrastructure and Court Rooms in District and Subordinate Courts. The Union Government has been administering a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in order to augment the resources of State Governments, in association with the States/UT Governments. The scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of court halls and court complexes and residential accommodations of judicial officers of District and subordinate Judiciary. As on date, ₹ 6,986 crores have been sanctioned since the inception of the Scheme in 1993-94. Out of this, ₹ 3,542 crores (50.70%) have been sanctioned to the States and UTs since April, 2014. 19,179 court halls and 16,852 residential accommodations have been made available for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts under this scheme as on date against the working strength of 17,970 Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts of the country. In addition, 2,818 court halls and 1,856 residential units are under construction.

(b) The Central Government has also been administering a Central Sector Scheme of eCourt Mission Mode Project (Phase-II), (2015-19) under which funds are made available to various organisations involved in the implementation of the project and High Courts with the aim for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of district and subordinate courts, across the country in association with eCommittee of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. So far, out of total outlay of ₹ 1,670 crore, the Government has sanctioned a sum of ₹ 1,248 crore as on date to various organizations involved in the implementation of the project. This includes a sum of ₹ 955.86 crore sanctioned to High Courts. Number of computerised District and Subordinate courts in the country, by the end of first phase of eCourts Project (2014) increased from 13,672 to 16,845 registering an increase of 3,173.

Recommendations on Uniform Civil Code

3752. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state: