(b) if so, whether the Ministry plans to bring about uniformity in the same by introducing common video-conferencing platform that can be made available to the States to facilitate ease of access to justice in all the District Courts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A centralized and upgraded cloud based Video-Conferencing infrastructure with latest features including robust data security and facility to support a larger number of concurrent users has been approved by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India, which can be usable for district and subordinate courts also.

Vision document by NLSA

†1378. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to implement the vision document brought out by National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) to provide expeditious legal help to poor people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to strengthen Legal Services Clinics in prisons and to extend legal help in aspirational districts so that no poor should be deprived of justice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b)National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has prepared a vision document (called Vision 2020) for promoting inclusive legal system by strengthening and improving the delivery of legal services to the weaker and marginalised section of society, with better responsiveness at the ground level. The Vision 2020 consists of the following goals and the legal services authorities are implementing the various activities envisaged under these goals to achieve the vision:—

(i) To increase quality of legal aid in court based matters.

(ii) Enhancing legal assistance to prisoners.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iii) Strengthening Front Offices and Legal Services Clinics.

(iv) Maximizing Access to Justice by coordinating with Law Colleges and NGOs.

(v) Target oriented outreach programmes aligned with local needs.

(vi) Legal assistance to Victims of Crime.

(vii) Strengthening Lok Adalats.

(viii) Promoting Legal assistance at early stages of Criminal Justice.

(c) and (d) Legal Services Institutions have been set up under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 at all levels from Taluk Courts to Supreme Court for providing free legal services to the persons eligible under Section 12 of the said Act. Around 23,000 Legal Services Clinics have been set up in Jails, courts, Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), community centres, villages/rural areas and law colleges/universities. In these centres, free legal services are provided to the needy. To strengthen Front Offices and Legal Services Clinics, NALSA has following vision:—

(i) Engaging Front Office coordinators and Front Office lawyers.

(ii) Maintaining data of legal aided cases and applications and daily cause lists of legal aided cases at Front Offices.

(iii) Increasing the frequency of functional days of legal services clinics in 115 aspirational districts.

(iv) Dedicating one Clinic exclusively for women in each of the 115 aspirational districts.

In addition, Tele-Law programme of Department of Justice which identifies and connects citizens in need of Legal advice with lawyers through phone or video conferencing facility, has been launched in 115 aspirational districts of the country from September, 2019.

Rural courts set up across the country

1379. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of rural courts set up across the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) how many of them were set up in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Gujarat;