

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No 4104

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 7TH APRIL, 2022

Infrastructure at court complexes

4104. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

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

- (a) whether 26 per cent of court complexes do not have separate toilets for ladies and 16 per cent do not have toilets for gents;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that only 68 per cent of courts rooms have separate record rooms and 50 per cent do not have library;
- (c) whether only 5 per cent court complexes have medical facilities and just 27 per cent court rooms have computer placed on Judge's dais for video conferencing;
- (d) details of planning to address these problems;
- (e) whether Government is considering giving financial autonomy to judiciary to address these and other issues; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (f): The Registry of Supreme Court of India has compiled data on the status of judicial infrastructure and court amenities, as per which 26% of court complexes do not have separate toilet for ladies and 16% do not have toilets for gents, 32% court rooms have separate record rooms and 49% do not have library and only 5% court complexes have medical facilities and 27% court rooms have computer placed

on judge's dais for video conferencing. A proposal has been received from Chief Justice of India for setting up of National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India (NJIAI) for arrangement of adequate infrastructure for courts, as per which there will be a Governing Body with Chief Justice of India as Patron-in-Chief. The other salient features of the proposal are that NJIAI will act as a central body in laying down the road map for planning, creation, development, maintenance and management of functional infrastructure for the Indian Court System, besides identical structures under all the High Courts. The proposal has been sent to the various State Government/UTs, as they are important stakeholders, for their views on the contours of the proposal to enable taking a considered view on the matter.

The primary responsibility of development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments. To augment the resources of the State Governments, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities in district and subordinate courts by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern. The scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. Till date, the Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 9,009 crore under the scheme to States/UTs, out of which Rs. 5,565 crore has been released since 2014-15 which is around 61.77% of the total release under the scheme. Under this scheme, funds are released by the Central Government for construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for judicial officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary. The scheme has been extended from time to time. The scheme was

earlier extended in 2017 for 3 years from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with budgetary outlay of Rs.3,320 crore. The scheme was again extended for one year i.e. upto 31.03.2021. This scheme was evaluated by NITI Aayog which recommended its continuance. The Government has now approved the continuance of this CSS for a period of 5 years from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026, with a total budgetary outlay of Rs.9,000 crore, including central share of Rs.5,307 crore. The scheme components have been expanded, to also cover the construction of toilets, digital computer rooms and lawyers' hall, in addition to the court halls & residential units in the district and subordinate courts.

The above scheme only caters to the civil infrastructure of the district and subordinate courts. As regards information technology needs, the Government of India implemented the eCourts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for information and communication enablement of district and subordinate courts. In the phase I of the project, out of total outlay of Rs.935 crore, the Government incurred an expenditure of Rs.639.41 crore. One video conference equipment each has been provided to all court complexes including taluk level courts and additionally funds have been sanctioned for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms. Funds for setting up 2,506 VC Cabins have been made available. Additional 1,500 VC licences have been acquired. VC facilities are already enabled between 3,240 court complexes and corresponding 1,272 jails. A sum of Rs.7.6 crore has been released for procurement of 1,732 document visualizers.

As per information made available by the High Courts, against sanctioned strength of 24,521 and working strength of 19,341 judges, presently 20,812 court halls (including 578 rented ones) and 18,338 residential units are available in the District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.03.2022. Moreover, 2,767 court halls and 1,651 residential units are under construction. It may therefore be seen that number of court halls available presently are more than the present working strength, but less than the sanctioned strength of the judicial officers.
