

**File No.J-12021/01/2021- JR/efile 5847**

Government of India  
Ministry of Law & Justice  
(Department of Justice)

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Jaisalmer House, 26-Man Singh Road,  
New Delhi 110011.

Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021

### **REVISED GUIDELINES**

#### **Sub: Establishing Gram Nyayalayas by the State Governments - Revised General Guidelines for Central assistance to be provided to the States/UTs**

The undersigned is directed to say that the existing guidelines issued vide O.M. number J-12021/05/2009-JR dated 16.12.2009 on the above subject is revised and replaced as follows:

#### **2. Objectives of the Scheme**

2.1 The Gram Nyayalayas Act 2008 (henceforth called the 'Act' in this letter) has been enacted to provide for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grass root level for the purpose of providing access to justice to the citizens at their door steps and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of social, economic or other disabilities.

#### **3. Coverage of the Scheme of Gram Nyayalayas**

3.1 The Gram Nyayalaya Act has come into force in all the States to which it applies, with effect from 2nd October 2009. Guidelines for Central assistance are to be provided to the States/UTs for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in terms of Section 3(1) of the Act on or after that date.

#### **4. Central Assistance**

4.1. As has separately been communicated to the State Governments, the Central Government has committed to fund the initial cost in terms of the non-recurring expenses for setting up these courts with an assistance limited to Rs.18 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya as a one time measure and to bear 50% of the recurring expenses of these courts subject to a ceiling of Rs.3.2 lakhs per court per annum during the first three years. In order to enable release of central assistance to the State Governments in expeditious manner, the following procedure is enumerated for receipt of proposals from the State Governments and for release / disbursement of central assistance for setting up and operation of Gram Nyayalayas:

**I. Central Assistance for meeting the Non-Recurring Expenditure**

- a. The central assistance for meeting the non-recurring expenditure **will be limited to Rs. 18 lakhs** for provision of accommodation, vehicle, office equipment, furniture, computer, etc for the Gram Nyayalaya.
- b. The funds for the Gram Nyayalayas will be released only after they have been notified as well as made operational alongwith the appointment of Nyayadhikaris and reported on the Gram Nyayalayas Portal of the Department of Justice.
- c. The State Governments will furnish information on the Gram Nyayalayas that have been notified/made operational in a financial year as per (b) above. A copy of the notification issued in this regard may also be enclosed.

**II. Central assistance for meeting the recurring expenditure**

- a. The central assistance to the States for meeting the recurring expenditure will be limited to **Rs. 3.2 lakhs per completed year of**



- operation of a Gram Nyayalaya** and will be released to the States for the **first three completed years** of operation of the Gram Nyayalayas.
- b. The State Governments will furnish information on the number of Gram Nyayalayas that have commenced operation indicating the date from which such operation has commenced.
  - c. Upon the State Government informing the Department of Justice that a Gram Nyayalaya has been established and has commenced operation, the central assistance of Rs.3.2 lakhs shall be released to the State Government as recurring expenditure of the Gram Nyayalaya for the first year of its operation.
  - d. The Central Assistance for subsequent years will be released on receipt of a utilization certificate / statement of expenditure from the State Government of having utilized the funds released for meeting the recurring expenditure of the previous year. In addition to utilization certificate, the State Governments will have to furnish month-wise details of pending cases, fresh cases instituted and cases disposed.
  - e. Central Government shall release the central assistance to the State Government at the earliest possible after receipt of information as mentioned in the preceding paragraphs.
  - f. As different Gram Nyayalayas in a State may commence operation from different dates, the central assistance for meeting the recurring expenditure shall be released at the beginning of each quarter in respect of those Gram Nyayalayas that have commenced operation in the preceding quarter.

## 5. Monitoring and Evaluation

5.1. Two Monitoring Committees will be constituted at the Central and State level each to monitor progress and timely completion of projects and to facilitate coordination between the various Departments officials. These Committees will

hold meetings either in person or through video conference. The Committee details are as follows:

- I. High Court Level Monitoring Committee in the State:** The Committee will be chaired by the Chief Justice of the respective High Court and shall consist of the Registrar General of the High Court, Portfolio Judges, Law/Home Secretary of the State and, Secretary of the State PWD. The Committee shall have the responsibility of overall monitoring of the implementation of the Scheme in the State.
- II. Central Level Monitoring Committee in the Department of Justice:** The Committee will be chaired by Secretary (Department of Justice, GoI) and will comprise of representatives from all States (Department of Law/Home, High Courts and PWD), concerned Joint Secretary (Department of Justice, GOI), Financial Advisor (Ministry of Law and Justice, GoI) and concerned Deputy Secretary (Department of Justice) will be the Convenor. The Committee shall have the following responsibilities:
  - (a) Periodically review the progress of the Gram Nyayalayas
  - (b) Take necessary steps to ensure achievement of the objectives of the Scheme
  - (c) Review UCs submitted by States/UTs.
- III.** A review of the performance of Gram Nyayalayas will be done after one year to assess its efficacy as an institution in providing speedy and affordable justice to the rural marginalised and decide on its future.

#### ***6. New Initiatives: Online Monitoring System***

An online monitoring system namely Gram Nyayalaya Portal has been developed by the Department of Justice for better management by enabling data collection in respect of date of notification/operationalization of the Gram Nyayalayas, their location taluk and district wise, status of release of funds, status of utilization of



funds released and data on pending cases, fresh cases instituted and cases disposed in respect of civil and criminal cases in the Gram Nyayalayas. The States/UTs are required to upload/update data regularly on the portal by 5<sup>th</sup> day of every month.

7. **Need for Utilization Certificate/ Statement of Expenditure**

In respect of both recurring as well as non recurring expenditure to the State Governments, the Utilization Certificate / Statement of Expenditure of the grant received for the purpose shall be furnished by the State Government before any further release of funds is made.

8. **Clarification and Dispute Resolution**

In case of any doubt relating to implementation of the Scheme as per these revised guidelines, States/UTs are free to contact Department of Justice for clarification or explanation. However, in case of any dispute, the decision of Department of Justice will be final.

9. **Date of effect**

These guidelines will replace the existing guidelines dated 16 December 2009 and will be effective from date of issue.

10. These instructions issue with the approval of the competent authority.



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To  
The Chief Secretaries  
All State Governments/UTs