GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No 2504

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 24TH MARCH, 2022

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for judicial infrastructure

2504. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY:

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

- (a) details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by Government for judicial infrastructure;
- (b) details of allocations made and utilized during the last five years and the current year for judicial infrastructure, year-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that States are not utilizing the allocated amount;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and efforts being made by Government to persuade States to utilize the amount and develop infrastructure in lower courts; and
- (e) to what extent the proposed National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India helps to address this issue?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a): 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 for Judiciary by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern between Centre and States. The Scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of court buildings and residential

accommodations for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary. As on date a sum of Rs. 8758.71 crore has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 5314.40 crore (60.68 %) has been released since 2014-15. The Scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crore including Central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore. Besides the construction of Court Halls and Residential Quarters, the Scheme now also covers the construction of Lawyers' Halls, Digital Computer Rooms and Toilet Complexes in the District and Subordinate Courts. The scheme guidelines have also been revised accordingly on 19.08.2021.

For monitoring the status of the projects under the scheme, three broad monitoring mechanisms have been provided viz. High Court Level Monitoring Committee at State level, Central Level Monitoring Committee in the Department of Justice which are required to meet every six months and Nyaya Vikas Online monitoring system.

For online monitoring of construction projects, a web portal and mobile app named "Nyaya Vikas" was launched in 2018. Geotagging of projects using Nyaya Vikas mobile application has helped better monitoring of the judicial infrastructure projects. The new version of the Mobile App was launched in April 2020 is more user friendly and runs on iOS phones as well as Android systems.

(b): The details of funds allocated and utilized during the last five years and the current year under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary is as follow:

(Rs. in crore)

| Year | Funds Allocated | Funds utilized/ Expenditure |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| | (Revised Estimate) | |
| 2016-17 | 538.74 | 538.74 |
| 2017-18 | 620.21 | 620.21 |
| 2018-19 | 650.00 | 650.00 |
| 2019-20 | 982.00 | 982.00 |
| 2020-21 | 593.00 | 593.00 |
| 2021-22* | 770.44 | 433.4576* |

^{*}Expenditure as on 21.03.2022.

- (c) & (d): Some States have not been able to utilise the allocated funds on account of slump in construction activities due to covid pandemic and time taken for compliance with revised Public Financial Management System (PFMS) procedure for release of funds under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Central Government has been vigorously pursuing the matter with the State Governments/UT Administrations to speed up expenditure. Besides imparting a number of trainings on PFMS and Nyaya Vikas Geotagging to all the States, six meetings of Central Level Monitoring Committee have also been held during this year besides other review meetings.
- (e): The Registry of Supreme Court of India has compiled data on the status of judicial infrastructure and court amenities. 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 Governments/UTs, as they constitute an important stakeholder, for their views on the contours of the proposal to enable taking a considered view on the matter.
