No. 15011/18/2022-Jus-II/7504
Government of India
Ministry of Law & Justice
Department of Justice
***

Jaisalmer House, 26 Mansingh Road,
New Delhi-110011
Date: 15/04/2025

To,

Law Secretary of all State/ UT Governments
Registrars General of all High Courts

Subject: **Implementation of Recommendations of the Western Zonal Council Meeting held on 22.02.2025 regarding Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for expeditious disposal of rape and POCSO Act cases**

Sir/Madam,

I am to refer to the deliberations held during the Western Zonal Council Meeting held on 22.02.2025 at Pune, Maharashtra, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Union Home Minister, wherein several key recommendations were made pertaining to the strengthening of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), dealing with cases relating to rape and those registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

2. In view of the critical and sensitive nature of these cases and the need for their timely disposal, the following recommendations were made for immediate consideration and implementation by the State Governments/Union Territories and High Courts (**relevant extracts of the Minutes attached**):

I. **Specific Training for Public Prosecutors:**
Public Prosecutors handling POCSO cases must undergo dedicated training on the type and sufficiency of evidence required, efficient case handling to avoid undue delays, and procedural mechanisms to minimize adjournments. It is advised that States may organize regular training sessions and capacity-building programs in coordination with State Judicial Academies and other relevant institutions.

II. **Limitation on Adjournments:**
It was recommended that number of adjournments in POCSO and rape-related cases should be limited to a maximum of two. This measure is aimed at promoting timely justice and reducing pendency.

III. **Establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres:**
States are requested to ensure that all POCSO Courts are equipped with Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres to protect the identity, privacy, and psychological well-being of victims, especially minors, during court proceedings.

IV. **High Court Directives for Expeditious Disposal:**
It is further advised that High Courts may consider issuing comprehensive directions to subordinate courts for the expeditious and time-bound disposal of rape and POCSO cases, ideally within **two months** from the date of filing of the charge sheet. Strict adherence to procedural timelines and effective monitoring may also be ensured.

V. **Maintaining High Conviction Rates with Justice Delivery:**
While time-bound disposal is essential, it is equally important to ensure that the quality of investigation, prosecution, and judicial process leads to fair and just outcomes, thereby maintaining a high rate of conviction in genuine cases.

5. **Implementation of the Scheme of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for expeditious disposal of rape and POCSO Act cases**
(Sponsored by Ministry of Law & Justice (Department of Justice)

Union Home Secretary brought to the knowledge of the Council that the scheme of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) was started in 2019 for expeditious disposal of rape and POCSO Act cases against women and children. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act came in 2018 which mandated that all sexual crimes, their investigation etc. should be completed within two months. Accordingly, the Govt. decided to set up 1023 FTSC in the country, of which 389 courts were exclusively for POCSO cases. The scheme was started in 2019 and was initially for one year. It has now been extended till 31.03.2026.

Against the revised target of 790 FTSCs, there are 747 courts in the country as on date, out of which 406 are courts dealing exclusively with POCSO cases. These courts have had a very positive impact and since their establishment in 2019, about 3,00,000 cases have been disposed of through these FTSCs. He presented the State-wise status of pending cases of rape and POCSO Act, as detailed in the table below: -

Parameters	Maharashtra	Gujarat	Goa	DNH&DD	WZC	ALL INDIA
Total pendency of Rape & POCSO Cases (including FTSC)	55,727	9,461	189	125	65,502	4.31 lakh
Pendency in FTSCs	1,354	5,703	143	NA	7,200	2.04 lakh
Average Monthly Disposal of Cases across FSTCs	309	352	04	NA	-	More than 6,000

He mentioned that FTSCs have been given a target of disposal of 165 rape and POCSO Act cases per year per court or 13.75 cases per month per court. If the disposal capacity of these FTSCs is compared with that of regular courts, then 9.51 cases are being disposed of per month in FTSCs, whereas in ordinary courts, this figure is 3.26 cases per month. This shows that the system of FTSCs has proved very effective in bringing such heinous crimes to their conclusion as quickly as possible.

He thereafter presented the status of FTSCs in Western Zonal States (Jan-Dec, 2024) as per table given below: -

State/UT	FTSCs Approved by Union Cabinet (to be set up by 31.03.26)	Functional FTSCs as on 31.12.24	New Cases Instituted during Jan – Dec 24	Cases Disposed during Jan-Dec 24	Cases Disposed within 2 months out of col (5)	Average monthly disposal	Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the scheme till 31.12.24	Cumulative Pendency as on 31.12.24	Cases Pending for more than 2 months since filing of chargesheet
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Maha	38	06	1454	3716	118 (3.17%)	26.65	20623	1384	1324
Guj	35	35	3593	4228	43 (1.01%)	10.06	14523	5703	5233
Goa	01	01	38	51	0	4.25	95	143	135
WZ	74	42	5085	7995	161 (2.01%)	13.65	35241	7200	6692
All India	790	747	88902	85595	3357 (3.92%)	9.51	299624	204122	188032

While in Gujarat & Goa, all the FTSCs are functional, in Maharashtra only 6 FTSCs are presently functional against 38 approved FTSCs. The Govt. of Maharashtra is required to operationalize all the 38 FTSCs. The cases disposed within 2 months of filing of chargesheets during Jan-Dec 2024 (as shown in column 6 above) is very less as compared to the total cases disposed during Jan-Dec 2024 (as shown in column 5 above). While the Average monthly disposal of cases in FTSCs in Maharashtra is 26.65 cases per court, the disposal rate of Gujarat and Goa is less than the target of 13.75 cases per month per court.

He stated that we still have a long way to go in achieving our target of disposal of cases within two months. To achieve this target, the investigating agencies have to conduct their investigations with quality and speed and States have to enhance the capabilities of forensic labs and appoint adequate number of public prosecutors. Similarly, the judiciary is required to ensure disposal of 165 cases per court per year as per scheme guidelines and focus on completion of trails within the mandated period of 2 months.

He further mentioned that there was a provision for Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres. The purpose of these centres was that the woman or child, who is a victim of rape or a sexual crime, should not be brought in front of the accused under any circumstances. There was a system that the statement of such victims will be taken in a separate place. In the new laws, this system has been embedded in the law itself and the Home Ministry has also developed an app named 'Nyay Shruti'. The testimony of witnesses can be taken at various places, at remote points and there will be no need to bring

HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

7448
23 MAY 2025

THROUGH E-MAIL

No. 03 /Nodal Officer(POCSO)/DHC/2025 Dated : 22.05.2025

From

The Registrar General,
High Court of Delhi,
New Delhi.

To

1. The Principal District & Sessions Judge (HQ), Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi.
2. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, North-West District, Rohini Courts, Delhi.
3. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, South District, Saket Courts, New Delhi.
4. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, South-West District, Dwarka Courts, New Delhi.
5. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, North District, Rohini Courts, Delhi.
6. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, South-East District, Saket Courts, New Delhi.
7. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, East District, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi.
8. The Principal District & Sessions Judge,New Delhi District, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi.
9. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, Shahdara District, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi.
10. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, North-East District, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi.
11. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, West District, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
12. The Principal District & Sessions Judge-cum-Special Judge, CBI (PC Act), Rouse Avenue District Court Complex, New Delhi

Sub: Implementation of Recommendations of the Western Zonal Council Meeting held on 22.02.2025 regarding Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for expeditious disposal of rape and POCSO Act cases

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of letter dated 15.04.2025 of Joint Secretary, Government of India with the request to circulate the same to all Judges of POCSO Courts for information and compliance.

Yours sincerely,

22-5-25

Encl : As above

(Syed Zishan Ali Warsi)
Nodal Officer (POCSO Committee)
For Registrar General

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE: ROHINI COURTS, DELHI

No. 7482-7491 .....**Genl.I/N-W & N/RC/2025** **Dated** 23/05/2025

Copy alongwith its enclosures forwarded for information & necessary action/compliance, to :

1. All Ld. Judicial Officers **(FTSCs/POCSO), North-West & North District**, Rohini Courts, Delhi
2. The Dealing Official, Computer Branch, Rohini Courts for uploading the same on WEBSITE.
3. The Dealing Official, R & I Branch, Rohini Courts, Delhi for uploading the same on LAYERS.

(SUSHIL KUMAR)
Link Officer In-Charge, General Branch-I
North-West & North District
Rohini Court Complex, Delhi