GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2517

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16th MARCH, 2018

**Disposal of backlog of pending cases by FTCs**

2517. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fast Track Courts (FTCs), established for speedy trial of cases related to crimes against women, have a backlog of more than 2000 pending cases till now;

(b) if so, the details of pending cases for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the measures Government would take to counter the inefficiencies of FTCs to conduct speedy trials?

**ANSWER**

**Minister of State for Law & Justice and Corporate Affairs**

 **(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)**

(a) to (b): Setting up of subordinate courts, which includes Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and their functioning/monitoring, lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such Courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the concerned High Courts. Therefore the data regarding pendency in these courts is maintained by the respective High Courts. As per information received from High Courts a total of 5.7 lakh cases are pending in the FTCs as on 31.12.17. These cases pertain to heinous crimes involving marginalized sections of the society including women, senior citizens and children etc.

(c): The 11th Finance Commission had recommended a scheme for creation of 1734 FTCs in the country for disposal of long pending cases. The scheme was started in 2000-01 and continued till 2010-11 and then it was continued in a different form. However, central funding for the Scheme continued till 31.03.2015 for meeting the expenditure on salaries of the 10% additional positions of Judges which was being created in the subordinate judiciary on matching basis (between Central and State Governments) as per the directions of the Hon’ble Supreme Court in the case of Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India.

The Government of India had proposed setting up of 1800 FTCs with a cost of Rs.4144 crore in the Memorandum submitted to the 14th Finance Commission (14th FC) in order to dispose of cases pertaining to heinous crimes involving marginalized and vulnerable persons including women, children etc. The 14th FC endorsed the proposal of the Union Government and accordingly the State Governments were provided the additional fiscal space in the 14th Finance Commission award with the expectation to set up FTCs in the States. The Government of India has also followed up the matter and requested State Governments/High Courts for setting up FTCs for expeditious disposal of cases of crimes against women, senior citizens and children as per the recommendations of the 14th FC.