

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3388
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 8TH AUGUST, 2025

Establishment of Gram Nyayalayas in Assam

3388. Shri Pradyut Bordoloi:

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

- (a) the number of cases pending before district courts in Assam and the Guwahati High Court;
- (b) whether any Gram Nyayalayas have been notified, established, or made functional in Assam under the provisions of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has observed any measurable benefits or positive outcomes from the functioning of Gram Nyayalayas in States where they have been established, particularly in terms of speedy and accessible rural justice;
- (d) if so, the reasons for the continued delay in bringing the initiative to the North Eastern region; and
- (e) whether any steps are being undertaken to support and encourage its implementation in the North Eastern region, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) As per information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal, the details of cases pending in district courts of Assam and the Guwahati High Court are as under: -

| Court | Civil | Criminal | Total |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| District Courts in Assam | 1,08,997 | 4,38,266 | 5,47,263 |
| Guwahati High Court | 46,526 | 16,362 | 62,888 |

- (b) to (e) The Government of Assam has not notified or made operational any Gram Nyayalaya in the State of Assam. As per the Gram Nyayalaya Act, 2008, the State Government, after consultation with the High Court, may, by notification, establish one or more Gram Nyayalayas

for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at intermediate level in a district or where there is no Panchayat at intermediate level in any State, for a group of contiguous Gram Panchayats. The Act, therefore, does not make setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory. However, the Department of Justice has been encouraging the States/ UTs and the High Courts for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas. In order to support the establishment and effective functioning of the Gram Nyayalayas, the Department has been implementing the Gram Nyayalaya Scheme, which is a Sub-scheme of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Judicial Infrastructure. As per the extant guidelines, the Central Government provides one time assistance to States/UTs for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 18 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya. Further, the Central Government provides assistance for operation of the Gram Nyayalayas for the first three years, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 3.20 lakhs per Gram Nyayalayas per year.

The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 was enacted for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grass root level for the purposes of providing access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of social, economic or other disabilities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. In order to meet these objectives, the Act has several provisions for speedy trial and disposal of cases such as holding of mobile courts by the Nyayadhikaris, summary trial for criminal cases, plea bargaining, efforts for conciliation and settlement in civil cases, legal aid to the accused etc. A recent third-party evaluation of the Gram Nyayalayas Scheme has, in its findings, brought out that the Gram Nyayalayas have been successful in achieving social justice by providing accessible legal recourse to the marginalized communities in the rural areas. As per the details available on the Gram Nyayalayas portal, 331 Gram Nyayalayas operational in 10 states have disposed of 4,11,071 cases till 30.06.2025.
