

No.J-12021/5/2009-JR  
Government of India  
Ministry of Law and Justice  
Department of Justice

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Jaisalmer House, Mansingh Road,  
New Delhi. Dated 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2009.

To

The Chief Secretary,  
All State Governments/UTs,  
(As per list)

Subject: Establishing Gram Nyayalayas by the State Governments – General guidelines for central assistance to be provided to the States

Sir,

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.

2. The Act has come into force in all the States to which it applies, with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009. Such State Governments are, therefore required to establish Gram Nyayalayas in terms of Section 3(1) of the Act on or after that date.

3. 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.18.00 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.

4. The States have also been requested to provide information, year-wise, on the number of Gram Nyayalayas proposed to be established and operated from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 onwards.

5. In order to enable release of central assistance to the State Governments in an 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 to the States shall be provided on the basis of the information provided by the State Governments. While sending the proposal

to the Central Government, the State Governments would be required to make a firm commitment that they would meet the non-recurring expenditure required to set up Gram Nyayalayas in excess of the ceiling of Rs.18.00 lakhs as well as the recurring expenditure for operation of these Gram Nyayalayas after the first three years.

## II Central assistance for meeting the non-recurring expenditure

- (a) The central assistance for meeting the non-recurring expenditure will be limited to Rs.18.00 (eighteen) lakhs for provision of accommodation, vehicle, office equipment, furniture, computer, etc.
- (b) The State Governments will furnish information on the Gram Nyayalayas that have been notified for being established in a financial year. A copy of the notification issued in this regard may also necessarily be enclosed.
- (c) Upon the State Government informing the Department of Justice of having notified the setting up of a Gram Nyayalaya along with a copy of the notification issued in this regard, 70% of the central assistance of Rs.18.00 lakhs per Nyayalaya shall be released / disbursed to the State Governments as an advance payment for meeting the cost of setting up of a Gram Nyayalaya.
- (d) The remaining 30% of the central assistance to the State in this regard shall be disbursed to the States upon the State Government furnishing the documentary evidence of the Gram Nyayalaya having been established in the identified premises and the vehicle / office equipment / furniture / computer etc. for equipping the office of the Gram Nyayalaya having been purchased.

## III 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 Nyayalaya.
- (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.

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 for meeting the recurring expenditure of the Gram Nyayalaya for the first year of its operation.



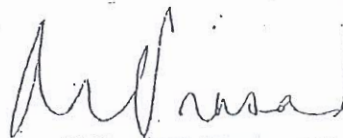
- (c) The central assistance for subsequent years will be released on receipt of a utilization certificate / statement of expenditure from the State Governments of having utilised the funds released for meeting the recurring expenditure of the previous year.
- (d) Central Government shall release the central assistance to the State Government at the earliest possible after receipt of information as mentioned in the preceding paragraphs. 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.

#### IV Need for Utilization Certificate / Statement of Expenditure

In respect of both recurring as well as non recurring expenditure to the State Governments, the Utilisation 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.

6. It is requested that information with regard to the Gram Nyayalayas to be established and operated in the financial year 2009-10 may be furnished at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,



(Mrs. BHUPINDER PRASAD)  
Special Secretary to the Govt. of India