GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1378

TO BE ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, THE 22nd SEPTEMBER, 2020

Vision document by NLSA

1378 # Shri Satish Chandra Dubey:

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to implement the vision document brought out by National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) to provide expeditious legal help to poor people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to strengthen Legal Services Clinics in prisons and to extend legal help in aspirational districts so that no poor should be deprived of justice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a)&(b)National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has prepared a vision document (called Vision 2020) for promoting inclusive legal system by strengthening and improving the delivery of legal services to the weaker and marginalised section of society, with better responsiveness at the ground level. The Vision 2020 consists of the following goals and the legal services authorities are implementing the various activities envisaged under these goals to achieve the vision:

(i) To increase quality of legal aid in court based matters.

(ii) Enhancing legal assistance to prisoners.

(iii) Strengthening Front Offices and Legal Services Clinics.

(iv) Maximizing Access to Justice by coordinating with Law Colleges and NGOs.

(v) Target oriented outreach programmes aligned with local needs.

(vi) Legal assistance to Victims of Crime.

(vii) Strengthening Lok Adalats.

(viii) Promoting Legal assistance at early stages of Criminal Justice.

(c)&(d)Legal Services Institutions have been set up under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 at all levels from Taluk Courts to Supreme Court for providing free legal services to the persons eligible under Section 12 of the said Act. Around 23,000 Legal Services Clinics have been set up in Jails, courts, Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), community centres, villages/rural areas and law colleges/universities. In these centres, free legal services are provided to the needy. To strengthen Front Offices and Legal Services Clinics, NALSA has following vision:

(i) Engaging Front Office coordinators and Front Office lawyers.

(ii) Maintaining data of legal aided cases & applications and daily cause lists of legal aided cases at Front Offices.

(iii) Increasing the frequency of functional days of legal services clinics in 115 aspirational districts.

(iv) Dedicating one Clinic exclusively for women in each of the 115 aspirational districts.

In addition, Tele-Law programme of Department of Justice which identifies and connects citizens in need of Legal advice with lawyers through phone or video

conferencing facility, has been launched in 115 aspirational districts of the country from September, 2019.

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