

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1697
ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023

RATIO OF FREE LEGAL AID LAWYERS

1697.SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that at present the ratio of "free legal aid" lawyers per population is extremely low in the country;
- (b) the State-wise list of the number of lawyers empaneled to provide free legal aid services and total vacancies for similar posts;
- (c) the State-wise list of total beneficiaries granted free legal aid in the country for the last 3 years; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to improve and promote legal aid services in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) and (b) National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society. For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court.

The panel lawyers are empanelled by the Legal Services Institutions as per the requirement. As per the feedback from State Legal Services Authorities, adequate number of panel lawyers are available with the Legal Services Institutions and there is no

shortage of panel lawyers for providing the free legal services to the eligible persons. Presently, around 49000 Panel Lawyers are empanelled by the Legal Services Authorities throughout the country. State/UT-wise details of Panel Lawyers as on 31.12.2022 is at Annexure - A.

(c) State/UT-wise details of persons benefited/availed free legal services by the Legal Services Institutions during the last three financial years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 are at Annexure – B.

(d) NALSA has taken various digital initiatives to improve and promote legal aid services in the country. Web Portal and Mobile App has been created to file online legal assistance applications. The Web Portal can be accessed on www.nalsa.gov.in and is available in Ten (10) languages i.e., English, Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Gujarati, Bengali, Odia and Kannada.

Further, a scheme on Access to Justice titled “Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India” is implemented by the Government of India which aims to strengthen pre-litigation advice and consultation through Tele-Law; ensure pan - India dispensation framework to deliver Pro Bono legal Services through Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) programme and to empower citizens through Pan India legal literacy and legal awareness programme. The Scheme embeds use of technology and developing contextualized IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material in regional / local dialect to support its intervention and to achieve easy accessibility of legal services to the poor and weakest sections of the society. All these services under the scheme are provided free of cost to all citizens including the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and other Economically Weaker sections of the society.

Statement as referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1697 for answering on 03.08.2023 raised by Shri S Niranjana Reddy, MP - Ratio of free legal aid lawyers

Statement containing details of Panel Lawyers as on 31.12.2022

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	Panel Lawyers (excluding HCLSC)	Panel Lawyers in HCLSC/Sub Committee
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	38	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	1767	46
3	Arunachal Pradesh	148	12
4	Assam	1076	40
5	Bihar	2120	57
6	Chandigarh	131	199
7	Chhattisgarh	2912	198
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	10	0
9	Daman and Diu	19	0
10	Delhi	1547	150
11	Goa	150	11
12	Gujarat	2199	1041
13	Haryana	1756	199
14	Himachal Pradesh	329	162
15	Jammu and Kashmir	663	27
16	Jharkhand	1148	88
17	Karnataka	2649	112
18	Kerala	3181	74
19	Ladakh	16	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	2046	296
22	Maharashtra	4828	565
23	Manipur	193	10
24	Meghalaya	174	16
25	Mizoram	55	0
26	Nagaland	102	12
27	Odisha	1116	166
28	Puducherry	297	0
29	Punjab	969	199
30	Rajasthan	1701	160
31	Sikkim	161	0
32	Tamil Nadu	4088	350
33	Telangana	1596	80
34	Tripura	268	39
35	Uttar Pradesh	2515	84
36	Uttarakhand	310	25
37	West Bengal	2194	0
	Total	44472	4418

Annexure-B**Statement as referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1697 for answering on 03.08.2023 raised by Shri S Niranjana Reddy, MP - Ratio of free legal aid lawyers****Statement containing details of persons benefited through Legal Services provided under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the last three financial years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23**

S.No.	Name of State/UT Authority	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	65	79	134
2	Andhra Pradesh	4474	6371	9473
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1984	2657	5559
4	Assam	10027	110254	38335
5	Bihar	38653	1689158	209809
6	Chandigarh	1242	1781	2653
7	Chhattisgarh	26814	42394	44106
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	10	27	28
9	Daman and Diu	0	17	24
10	Delhi	82131	79055	96433
11	Goa	875	1101	2041
12	Gujarat	8302	21953	32422
13	Haryana	11059	23260	43098
14	Himachal Pradesh	2083	4806	5998
15	Jammu and Kashmir	7675	8870	7992
16	Jharkhand	131691	649481	145217
17	Karnataka	23211	32794	45663
18	Kerala	11242	16895	23418
19	Ladakh	93	2408	711
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	87843	3343800	191921
22	Maharashtra	12278	22595	36663
23	Manipur	56635	22651	26929
24	Meghalaya	2131	2346	2769
25	Mizoram	1670	3201	5038
26	Nagaland	4231	7750	7390
27	Odisha	6029	8849	11880
28	Puducherry	309	884	788
29	Punjab	27096	36404	56448
30	Rajasthan	12274	13833	13472
31	Sikkim	702	986	1127
32	Tamil Nadu	26491	38181	49570
33	Telangana	3488	6712	12615
34	Tripura	2156	2671	5055
35	Uttar Pradesh	3545	132629	24890
36	Uttarakhand	2343	3775	5386
37	West Bengal	20906	29015	49714
	Total	631758	6369643	1214769

