

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *51
ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, 7th DECEMBER, 2023.**

Free legal assistance to poor people in remote and rural areas

***51. Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has drawn any plan to provide weaker sections of the society, seeking legal assistance, with the opportunity to get their legal problems solved with ease and free of cost; and
- (b) if so, the details in this regard, particularly with reference to providing legal assistance to poor people in remote and rural areas?

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): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) and (b) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 51 for reply on 07.12.2023 regarding 'Free legal assistance to poor people in remote and rural areas' asked by Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta.

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government has set up National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society as covered under Section 12 of the Act, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunities.

For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. The activities/ programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities include Legal Aid and advice; Legal Awareness Programmes; Legal Services/Empowerment camps; Legal Services Clinics; Legal Literacy Clubs; Lok Adalats and implementation of Victim Compensation Scheme. Details of activities/ programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities is at **Annexure-A**.

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; to 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 weaker sections of the society.

The Tele-Law service seeks to connect the beneficiary with the lawyer via tele/ video conferencing facilities available at the Common Service Centers and through Tele-Law Citizens Mobile Application. As on 30th November 2023, Tele-Law services is available across 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in 766 districts across 36 States and UTs and has rendered legal advice to 60,23,222 beneficiaries, which includes women, children, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe etc. The Nyaya Bandhu platform enables seamless connect on the Nyaya Bandhu Application (available on Android/ iOS) between the interested Pro Bono Advocates and registered beneficiaries entitled for free legal aid under section 12 of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. As on 30th November, 2023, there are 10,629 Pro Bono advocates and 89 law schools have constituted Pro Bono Clubs to facilitate the culture of Pro bono among law students. All these services under the scheme are provided free of cost to all citizens of the weaker sections of the society.

Annexure-A

Legal aid and advice:

Years	Persons provided Panel Advocates	Persons benefited through Advice/ Counselling	Persons benefited through other services	Total
2022-23	2,91,410	6,39,230	2,84,129	12,14,769
2023-24 (upto Sept,23)	1,65,362	3,92,999	1,87,354	7,45,715

Legal Awareness Programmes:

Years	No of Legal Awareness programmes organised	No. of Persons attended
2022-23	4,90,055	6,75,17,665
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	1,93,605	1,76,93,492

Legal Services / Empowerment Camps:

Year	2022
No. of camps organised	38,541
No. of beneficiaries in all camps	1,15,10,207

Legal Services Clinics:

Year	2022-23		2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	
Categories	Legal Services Clinics	Number of persons provided legal assistance	Legal Services Clinics	Number of persons provided legal assistance
Law Colleges/ Universities	1,093	37,351	1,025	9,520
Villages	4,134	2,82,140	3,953	1,15,321
Community Centres	776	88,638	744	39,174
Courts	904	1,16,563	936	66,921
Jails	1,177	2,64,593	1,200	1,55,588

JJB/CWC/ Observation Homes	439	29,280	454	21,151
For the people of North-East	64	1,170	52	348
Others	3,124	1,94,729	2,771	88,674
Total	11,711	10,14,464	11,135	4,96,697

Lok Adalats:

National Lok Adalats

	Pre-litigation Cases disposed of	Pending Cases disposed of	Total Cases disposed of
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023 (upto Sept, 23)	4,94,88,552	1,06,83,225	6,01,71,777

State Lok Adalats

	Pre-litigation Cases disposed of	Pending Cases disposed of	Total Cases disposed of
2022-23	94,939	7,56,370	8,51,309
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	42,352	6,10,724	6,53,076

Permanent Lok Adalats(Public Utility Services)

Years	Cases settled
2022-23	1,71,138
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	1,10,412

Implementation of Victim Compensation Schemes:

Years	Compensation Awarded in (Rs.)
2022-23	3,47,80,37,352/-
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	1,97,09,14,235/-