

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 600**  
ANSWERED ON - 24/07/2025

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND FREE LEGAL AID**

600 DR. SASMIT PATRA:

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

- (a) the percentage of eligible citizens (SC/STs, women, disabled, undertrials) that have actually received legal aid under National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) in the last two years;
- (b) whether there are regional disparities in accessing legal aid, and the reforms being proposed to improve outreach in rural and tribal areas; and
- (c) whether Government has audited the performance of empanelled legal aid lawyers and the measures in place to ensure quality and accountability?

**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): SCs/STs, women, persons with disability and in custody are, inter alia, entitled to legal aid under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987. The details of SCs/STs, women, persons with disability and in custody who have been benefited through legal aid provided under the LSA Act, 1987 by State Legal Services Authorities under the aegis of NALSA during the last two years are as follows:

| Category for legal aid  | 2023-24  |             | 2024-25  |             |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|-------------|
|                         | Number   | Percentage* | Number   | Percentage* |
| SCs                     | 1,07,673 | 6.94        | 1,29,402 | 7.80        |
| STs                     | 1,00,823 | 6.50        | 1,28,440 | 7.74        |
| Women                   | 2,83,738 | 18.30       | 3,16,151 | 19.07       |
| Persons with disability | 11,591   | 0.74        | 8,313    | 0.50        |
| In custody              | 3,53,924 | 22.83       | 4,72,954 | 28.53       |

\* Total beneficiaries for the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 were 15,50,164 and 16,57,527 respectively.

The details of SCs/STs, women, persons with disability and in custody who received legal aid under the LSA Act, 1987 through SCLSC and their cases disposed of during last two years are as follows:

| Category for legal aid  | 2023-24 |             | 2024-25 |             |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|
|                         | Number  | Percentage^ | Number  | Percentage^ |
| SCs                     | 53      | 3.23        | 37      | 3.76        |
| STs                     | 11      | 0.67        | 10      | 1.01        |
| Women                   | 502     | 30.60       | 214     | 21.74       |
| Persons with disability | 26      | 1.58        | 6       | 0.60        |
| In custody              | 476     | 29.02       | 262     | 26.62       |

^ Total beneficiaries for the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 were 1640 and 984 respectively.

(b): The existing regional disparities in access to justice are generally pronounced in rural and tribal areas, where geographical remoteness, lack of infrastructure, low legal awareness, and deep-rooted social barriers significantly limit the reach and effectiveness of Legal Services Institutions. The Marginalized communities, particularly Adivasis and Denotified/Nomadic Tribes, often remain excluded from formal justice systems due to linguistic, cultural, and institutional disconnects. To address these gaps, the following Schemes have been launched in the year 2025:

- (i) NALSA (SAMVAD - Strengthening Access to Justice for Marginalized, Vulnerable Adivasis and Denotified/Nomadic Tribes) Scheme, 2025 which focuses specifically on marginalized tribal and nomadic communities by adopting a community-driven approach rooted in awareness and assistance.
  - (ii) NALSA (JAGRITI - Justice Awareness for Grassroots Information and Transparency Initiative) Scheme, 2025 which aims to institutionalize legal awareness across rural India.
- (c): The National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010 provide for establishment of the Monitoring and Mentoring Committee (MMC) at all tiers i.e. Supreme Court of India, High Courts, State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs)/District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and Taluka Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) for close monitoring of the court based legal services rendered and the progress of the cases in the legal aid matters and to guide and advise the panel lawyers in providing quality legal services.

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