

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 69  
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

**FREE LEGAL AID AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

**69 # SHRI PRADIP KUMAR VARMA:**

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

- (a) the number of people benefited from free legal aid, legal awareness and literacy campaigns under NALSA and the outcomes thereof;
- (b) the effectiveness of special legal aid cells, fast-track courts and victim compensation schemes for women, SCs/STs, minorities and persons with disabilities;
- (c) the improvement that has occurred in access to justice through mobile legal aid clinics, legal aid camps and Panchayati Raj Institutions in rural areas; and
- (d) the number of people benefited in remote areas from tele-law, online consultations and digital platforms?

**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) to (d):** A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF  
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 69 FOR REPLY ON 05.02.2026  
REGARDING 'FREE LEGAL AID AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE' ASKED BY SHRI  
PRADIP KUMAR VARMA**

(a) The details of persons benefitted from free legal aid provided by legal services authorities under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) during the financial year 2025-26 (upto November 2025) are as follows:-

<b>Persons provided with Panel Advocates</b>	<b>Persons benefitted through Advice/Counselling</b>	<b>Persons benefitted through other services</b>	<b>Total</b>
2,61,526	9,20,537	1,40,167	13,22,230

Details of Legal Awareness Programmes/Camps organised by Legal Services Authorities and number of persons benefitted during the financial year 2025-26 (upto November 2025) are as follows:

<b>No of Programmes / Camps Organised</b>	<b>Number of Persons attended</b>
3,67,292	2,69,23,685

(b) & (c) Legal Services Clinics have been established across the country in many places like Colleges/Universities, Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB), Child Welfare Committees (CWC), Observation Homes, Villages, Community Centres, Jails etc. with an aim to facilitate access to the legal services for people who face geographical, social, and other barriers. These clinics are manned by Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers. The details of Legal Services Clinics functional across the country and number of persons provided legal assistance during the financial year 2025-26 (upto November, 2025) are as follows:-

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Legal Services Clinics</b>	<b>Number of persons provided legal assistance</b>
Law Colleges / Universities	872	18,654
Villages	5,479	3,45,604
Community Centres	833	94,377
Courts	1,109	1,28,347
Jails	1,145	3,66,292

JJBs/CWCs/ Observation Homes	538	46,758
For the people of North-East	45	421
Others	3,567	2,19,269
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,588</b>	<b>12,19,722</b>

Legal Services Authorities award compensation to the victims under Section 357A of Cr. P.C (now Section 396 of BNSS), as per the Victim Compensation Schemes prepared by the State Governments. These Schemes implement the concept of payment of compensation by the State to the victims of the crime including women, SCs/STs, minorities and persons with disabilities. During the financial year 2024-25 and 2025-26 (upto July, 2025), Rs. 4,84,67,37,631 and Rs. 1,54,02,87,605/- respectively has been awarded as compensation to the victims.

The 14th Finance Commission had recommended the setting up of Fast-Track Courts (FTCs) for expeditious trial of specific categories of cases including heinous crimes, civil cases involving women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, individuals afflicted with terminal illnesses, and property-related cases pending for more than five years. As per information received from the High Courts, 879 FTCs are functional across 22 States/UTs as on 31.12.2025. In addition, pursuant to the enactment of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 and in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Suo Motu Writ (Criminal) No. 1/2019, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Court, since October, 2019. These courts are dedicated to the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. As per data provided by the High Courts, 774 FTSCs, including 398 exclusive POCSO Courts, are functional across 29 States/UTs as on 31.12.2025.

'Panchayat' being 'Local Government' is a State subject and part of State List of Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Panchayats are set up and operate through the respective State Panchayati Raj Acts which vary from State to State, subject to the provisions of the Constitution. Article 243G of the Constitution empowers the Legislature of a State to make provisions, by law, for the devolution of power and responsibilities upon Panchayat at an appropriate level, subject to such conditions as may be specified, with

respect to the preparation of plans and implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice.

- (d) As on 31 December, 2025, 1,06,07,764 people across 776 districts (including 112 Aspirational districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks) have benefitted from the Tele-law online consultations and digital platforms in rural/remote areas.

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