

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 126
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AID

***126 SHRI UJJWAL DEORAO NIKAM:**

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

- (a) the number of persons provided legal aid and legal advice through the Legal Services Authorities during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the number of Legal Aid Defence Counsel offices established and functioning in the districts of the country, as on date, State-wise;
- (c) the funds released to the National Legal Services Authority during the said period and the utilisation thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to strengthen legal services for victims of crime, including the compensation disbursed through the Legal Services Authorities during the said period?

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. 126 FOR REPLY ON 30.07.2026 REGARDING ‘ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AID’ ASKED BY SHRI UJJWAL DEORAO NIKAM

- (a): The number of persons provided free legal services under Legal Services Authorities Act during the last three financial years, State/UT-wise, are at **Annexure-A**.
- (b): The number of Legal Aid Defense Counsel Offices established and functional in the districts of the country as on 30.06.2026, State/UT-wise, are at **Annexure-B**.
- (c): The details of funds released by Government of India to NALSA with respect to National Legal Aid Fund and Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme and utilization thereof during the last three financial years are as under:

Financial Year	Under Legal Aid Fund (Rs. in Crore)		Under LADCS Scheme (Rs. in Crore)		Total (Rs. in Crore)	
	Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised
2023-24	400.00#	399.31	-	-	400.00	399.31
2024-25	200.00	197.10	147.92	114.66*	347.92	311.76
2025-26	220.00	219.67	295.83	245.82*	515.83	465.49

Rs. 200 crore out of Rs. 400 was allotted for newly introduced LADCS Scheme since separate budge head was not opened for LADCS Scheme by them.

* Due to some technical glitches under newly introduced TSA/TSA Hybrid module of PFMS, and non-operationalization of LADCS offices in some districts/states, SLSAs and DSLAs could not be utilised complete fund during F.Y. 2024-25 and 2025-26 under the LADCS Scheme.

- (d): Section 396 (1) for Victim compensation scheme of BNSS provides “*Every State Government in coordination with the Central Government shall prepare a scheme for providing funds for the purpose of compensation to the victim or his dependents who have suffered loss or injury as a result of the crime and who require rehabilitation*”. Further, Section 396 (2) of BNSS says “*Whenever a recommendation is made by the Court for compensation, the District Legal Service Authority or the State Legal Service Authority, as the case may be, shall decide the quantum of compensation to be awarded under the scheme referred to in sub-section (1)*”.

The Legal Services Authorities also award compensation to the victims of crime under Section 396 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 (Section 357-A of erstwhile Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.P.C.), 1973). The role of State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs)/District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) is limited to pass award for compensation for the victims of crime under the Victim Compensation Schemes of State Governments.

The details Victim Compensation awarded under Section 396 of BNSS (erstwhile Section 357-A of Cr.P.C) during the last three years from 2023-24 to 2025-26, as per information provided by NALSA, are as under:

Financial Years	Compensation awarded (in Rs.)
2023-24	4,02,90,06,736
2024-25	4,84,67,37,631
2025-26	4,56,17,73,258

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 126 for answer on 30.07.2026 regarding 'Access to justice and legal aid'.

Statement showing the number of persons benefited through Legal Services provided under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the financial years 2023-24 to 2025-26.				
S.No.	Name of State/UT Authority	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	220	341	444
2	Andhra Pradesh	8,265	11,266	13,359
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5,696	9,236	9,221
4	Assam	63,749	82,694	1,00,021
5	Bihar	1,51,413	84,505	76,361
6	Chandigarh	2,822	2,951	3,371
7	Chhattisgarh	62,164	80,874	93,882
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	55	45	83
	Daman & Diu	34	119	164
9	Delhi	1,21,882	76,526	72,554
10	Goa	1,558	1,889	4,283
11	Gujarat	40,569	50,467	1,14,652
12	Haryana	76,863	82,194	1,35,775
13	Himachal Pradesh	7,346	6,222	6,512
14	Jammu & Kashmir	11,396	18,602	26,330
15	Jharkhand	2,69,303	3,28,365	4,43,757
16	Karnataka	53,406	51,245	65,519
17	Kerala	36,498	26,571	36,168
18	Ladakh	505	324	255
19	Lakshadweep	0	1	14
20	Madhya Pradesh	2,25,510	2,33,009	2,31,101
21	Maharashtra	53,756	59,454	65,065
22	Manipur	62,635	99,062	75,148
23	Meghalaya	2,371	2,754	4,909
24	Mizoram	4,801	3,713	4,789
25	Nagaland	4,603	5,012	11,351
26	Odisha	19,289	22,134	17,749
27	Puducherry	621	616	536
28	Punjab	60,361	65,513	85,128
29	Rajasthan	20,290	22,216	29,181
30	Sikkim	1,074	901	1,143
31	Tamil Nadu	45,180	52,528	55,974
32	Telangana	13,193	16,021	21,104
33	Tripura	9,964	10,303	10,182
34	Uttar Pradesh	29,079	22,732	31,748
35	Uttarakhand	21,339	34,208	52,059
36	West Bengal	62,354	92,914	1,07,884
	Total	15,50,164	16,57,527	20,07,776

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 126 for answer on 30.07.2026 regarding ‘Access to justice and legal aid’.

Statement containing the details of number of Legal Aid Defense Counsel Offices established and functioning throughout the country as on 30.06.2026.		
S.No.	Name of State/UT Authority	No. of LADCS offices
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	13
3	Arunachal Pradesh	21
4	Assam	33
5	Bihar	37
6	Chandigarh	1
7	Chhattisgarh	23
8	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1
	Daman and Diu	1
9	Delhi	12
10	Goa	2
11	Gujarat	34
12	Haryana	22
13	Himachal Pradesh	11
14	Jammu and Kashmir	20
15	Jharkhand	24
16	Karnataka	30
17	Kerala	14
18	Ladakh	2
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	50
21	Maharashtra	33
22	Manipur	9
23	Meghalaya	11
24	Mizoram	8
25	Nagaland	11
26	Odisha	25
27	Puducherry	2
28	Punjab	22
29	Rajasthan	44
30	Sikkim	2
31	Tamil Nadu	32
32	Telangana	33
33	Tripura	8
34	Uttar Pradesh	74
35	Uttarakhand	13
36	West Bengal	14
	Total	692