

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1385**  
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

**STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO LEGAL AID**

**1385 # SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA:**  
**SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:**  
**SHRI MANAN KUMAR MISHRA:**

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

- (a) the steps taken to strengthen access to legal aid through Tele-Law, Nyaya Bandhu and other initiatives;
- (b) the extent of implementation of Legal Aid Defense Council Systems including its operational coverage across the country and the legal representations provided thereunder;
- (c) the legal services and outreach programmes implemented through the Legal Services Authorities established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, including the legal aid, awareness and victim compensation initiatives; and
- (d) the details of component-wise beneficiary coverage achieved under the Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) initiative?

**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):** The Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) Scheme has been continued as DISHA 2.0 as a Central Sector Scheme for pan India implementation with an approved financial outlay of Rs. 255 Crore for the period of 2026-31. DISHA 2.0 provides an easy, accessible, affordable, technology enabled and people-centric legal services through its components viz. Tele- Law (Reaching the Unreached), Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) Programme and Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme (LLLAP). A new

vertical namely VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonized Legal Initiatives)-Sanjeevani has been introduced under the DISHA 2.0.

The Tele-Law connects people with panel lawyers through mobile-app and Toll-Free No. 14454 for rendering free pre-litigation legal advice through use of video/tele conferencing facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs)/Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) at the panchayat level. Nyaya Sahayaks, who are active community based legal facilitators, have been engaged in the Aspirational Blocks to strengthen service delivery.

The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-Bono Legal Services) Programme promotes a pro bono culture among advocates and law students by facilitating free legal assistance to eligible beneficiaries under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, through the Nyaya Bandhu Portal and Mobile Application. Pro-Bono Panels have been constituted in 23 High Courts, with 1,625 advocates enrolled for State-specific legal support.

Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme (LLAP) focuses on facilitating capacity building of existing grassroots/frontline legal workers/volunteers and spreading legal literacy and legal awareness in the country. Additionally, thematic webinars are also conducted on socio-legal issues such as cybercrime, access to justice, child protection, constitutional challenges, and domestic violence.

VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonized Legal Initiatives) - Sanjeevani is envisaged as a key component under DISHA 2.0 to enhance the monitoring mechanism of the scheme through development and operationalization of a centralized Integrated Dashboard. It envisages integration with the Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot to facilitate technology-enabled service support and improve user interaction through AI-driven assistance mechanisms.

**(b) and (c):** As on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026, under the Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme, LADC offices are functional in 692 districts at the district level across the country. During the last three financial years (2023-2026), 13,87,460 cases were assigned to LADCs and more than 9.64 lakh cases were disposed-off by LADCs. During the same period, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has organized 14,81,308 Legal Awareness programmes which were attended by more than 12.95 crore persons.

The Legal Services Authorities awards compensation to the victims u/s 396 BNSS (erstwhile 357A Cr.P.C) as per the Victim Compensation Schemes run by State Governments. During financial year 2025-26, 17,814 applications were received and approx. Rs. 456.18 crore

compensation was awarded under Victim Compensation Scheme u/s 357 A Cr. P.C (now Section 396 of BNSS).

**(d):** The details of component-wise beneficiary coverage under the DISHA Scheme are as under:-

| <b>Sr. No.</b> | <b>Programme under DISHA</b>                    |                                          | <b>Number of Beneficiaries<br/>(as on 31.03.2026)</b> |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.             | Tele-Law                                        | Pre-Litigation Legal Advice given        | 1,12,74,583                                           |
| 2.             | Nyaya Bandhu<br>(Pro-Bono<br>Legal<br>Services) | Advocates registered on the portal       | 10,375                                                |
|                |                                                 | Cases registered for pro-bono assistance | 5,101                                                 |
| 3.             | LLLAP                                           | Beneficiary Outreach                     | 1,21,58,459                                           |

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