

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3739

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 9TH AUGUST, 2017

Accessibility of Legal Service

3739. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN:
SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state?

- (a) whether the Government is concerned about the hurdles to common citizen for accessibility of legal services;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has already initiated free legal services scheme in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the total number of legal services centres established by the Government, State-wise and the financial assistance provided to the States during the last three years in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any efforts to ensure that legal aid reach the poor of the country and people in rural areas and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has launched or planning to launch digital and mobile courts and if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE &
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI P.P.CHAUDHARY)

- (a) to (d) The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 envisages setting up of legal services institutions at all levels from the level of taluk courts to the Supreme Court.

Free legal services are provided to all eligible categories of persons under Section 12 of the Act. The free legal services include payment of court fees, charges for drafting, preparing and filing of any legal proceedings and representation by a legal practitioner in legal proceedings etc. During the financial year 2016-17, more than 5.47 lakh persons have benefited through legal aid services in the country. A total number of 21, 405 legal services clinics have been established in the country as on 31.01.2017. Statement showing details of legal services clinics set up state wise is given at Annexure.

The Government has also launched three new legal aid and empowerment schemes, namely, Tele-Law, Nyaya Mitra and Pro-Bono legal services recently for poor and marginalized persons.

Annual Grants allocated to the State Legal Services Authorities during the last three years are Rs. 53.41 crores, Rs. 57.04 crores and Rs. 110.09 crores respectively.

(e) There is no proposal to launch digital and mobile courts. However, under eCourts Mission Mode Project, nearly 16, 000 courts in the country have been computerized.

Annexure

Statement as referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3739 for 09.08.2017 regarding Accessibility of Legal Services.

State-wise details of f Legal Services Clinics established in the country as on 31.01.2017.

S.No.	Name of the SLSAs	Number of Legal Services Clinics established as on 31.01.2017
1	Andhra Pradesh	709
2	Arunachal Pradesh	15
3	Assam	199
4	Bihar	398
5	Chhattisgarh	458
6	Goa	116
7	Gujarat	653
8	Haryana	519
9	Himachal Pradesh	1051
10	Jammu & Kashmir	212
11	Jharkhand	410
12	Karnataka	625
13	Kerala	898
14	Madhya Pradesh	845
15	Maharashtra	750
16	Manipur	37
17	Meghalaya	128
18	Mizoram	79
19	Nagaland	117
20	Odisha	524
21	Punjab	326
22	Rajasthan	5869
23	Sikkim	34
24	Tamil Nadu	797
25	Telangana	368
26	Tripura	178
27	Uttar Pradesh	3630
28	Uttarakhand	255
29	West Bengal	1013
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	30
31	U.T. Chandigarh	20
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	14
33	Daman & Diu	11
34	Delhi	51
35	Lakshadweep	1
36	Puducherry	65
	Total	21405