

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

**LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1895

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018

**Legal Aid Services**

**1895. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:  
SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI:**

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

- (a) the details of the types of legal aid services being provided to people of poorer and the weaker sections of the society;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up Legal Aid Clinics in various villages in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the time by which such clinics are likely to be set up in each village;
- (d) the funds allocated and spent for legal aid services in the last three years; and
- (e) the number of beneficiaries who received such help from the Government.

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW & JUSTICE  
AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS  
(SHRI P.P.CHAUDHARY)**

- (a) The Government and the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) provide legal aid services to poor and weaker sections of society under various schemes. The Government in partnership with UNDP has implemented Access to Justice Project in eight States namely, UP, Bihar, M.P, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Odisha and Maharashtra from 2009 to 2017. Under the project legal aid clinics were set up in Odisha and Maharashtra where panel lawyers provided free legal advice and drafted applications on behalf of marginalized.

The Government has also been implementing one Access to Justice Project since 2012 in 8 States of the North East and the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Under the project 46 legal aid clinics were set up in 2016-17 in Tuensang and Mon districts of Nagaland where panel lawyers similarly provided free legal advice and drafted applications on behalf of marginalized.

In April, 2017, the Government has launched new legal aid schemes for the poor namely, Tele Law and Pro Bono Legal Services. Tele Law scheme has been launched in 1800 gram panchayats in 10 States of the country. Till 05.03.2018, legal advice has been provided in 10,807 cases. Under the Pro Bono legal service scheme, 220 advocates have volunteered their services for the marginalized.

The NALSA and legal services authorities (LSAs) from Supreme Court to taluka level courts provide free panel lawyers to people of poorer and weaker sections of society for legal advice, drafting of applications and filling up of various forms, making personal appearance in the court and providing certified copies of judgements. The LSAs also pay court fee on behalf of marginalized litigants who cannot afford to make payment. In special cases where court appoints commissions for marginalized persons, the LSAs make payment to the commissioners and incur expenditure for summoning of witnesses.

(b) to (e) The NALSA Legal Aid Clinics Regulations, 2011 provide for establishment of legal services clinics at all villages, or for a cluster of villages, depending on the size of such villages. Details of legal aid clinics established in villages/rural areas all over the country and persons provided legal assistance during the period from April, 2017 to December, 2017 are at Annexure-A.

Funds are allocated to NALSA for implementation of various schemes/programmes framed under the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. There is no separate allocation of funds for any specific legal aid scheme or programme. The details of the grants in aid released and funds utilized during the last three years are given in Annexure B.

**Annexure-A****Annexure as referred to in reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1895 for 07.03.2018 raised by S/Shri Prahlad Joshi and Sharad Tripathi regarding legal aid services**

State-wise number of Legal Services Clinics established in villages/ rural areas in the country and persons provided legal assistance during the current financial year 2017-18 on the basis of information furnished by State Legal Services Authorities.

| <b>S.No.</b> | <b>Name of the SLSAs</b> | <b>Number of Village Legal Services Clinics established as on 31.12.2017</b> | <b>Number of persons provided Legal Assistance</b> |
|--------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| 1            | Andhra Pradesh           | 457  | 8012   |
| 2            | Arunachal Pradesh        | 0  | 0  |
| 3            | Assam                    | 146  | 1377   |
| 4            | Bihar                    | 112  | 614  |
| 5            | Chhattisgarh             | 279  | 26511  |
| 6            | Goa                      | 61   | 1318   |
| 7            | Gujarat                  | 487  | 4284   |
| 8            | Haryana                  | 321  | 112365   |
| 9            | Himachal Pradesh         | 893  | 11924  |
| 10           | Jammu & Kashmir          | 131  | 7252   |
| 11           | Jharkhand                | 382  | 20950  |
| 12           | Karnataka                | 147  | 6019   |
| 13           | Kerala                   | 173  | 6907   |
| 14           | Madhya Pradesh           | 555  | 7754   |
| 15           | Maharashtra              | 387  | 2706   |
| 16           | Manipur                  | 54   | 2676   |
| 17           | Meghalaya                | 104  | 1805   |
| 18           | Mizoram                  | 57   | 2763   |
| 19           | Nagaland                 | 89   | 1398   |
| 20           | Odisha                   | 262  | 3427   |
| 21           | Punjab                   | 274  | 12028  |
| 22           | Rajasthan                | 6243   | 91943  |
| 23           | Sikkim                   | 12   | 109  |
| 24           | Tamil Nadu               | 551  | 1019   |
| 25           | Telangana                | 260  | 2499   |
| 26           | Tripura                  | 317  | 14161  |
| 27           | Uttar Pradesh            | 44   | 651  |
| 28           | Uttarakhand              | 120  | 1383   |
| 29           | West Bengal              | 593  | 24820  |
| 30           | A & N Islands            | 0  | 0  |
| 31           | U.T. Chandigarh          | 9  | 4401   |
| 32           | D&N Haveli               | 12   | 0  |
| 33           | Daman & Diu              | 6  | 0  |
| 34           | Delhi                    | 0  | 0  |
| 35           | Lakshadweep *            | 0  | 0  |
| 36           | Puducherry               | 55   | 7  |
|              | <b>Total</b>             | <b>13593</b>   | <b>383083</b>                                      |

**Note:** \* Being a small Island all are directly contacting the State Legal Services Authority for the legal assistance, so the legal aid clinics is not functioning properly.

Annexure-B  
(Rs. in crore)

| <b>Annexure as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1895 for 07.03.2018 raised by S/Shri Prahlad Joshi and Sharad Tripathi regarding legal aid services</b> |                |                         |
|---|----------------|-------------------------|
| Details of grant-in-aid released and funds utilized by NALSA during the last three years i.e. 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17.   |                |                         |
| Year  | Grant released | Grant utilized by NALSA |
| 2014-15   | 82.65          | 56.02                   |
| 2015-16   | 67.97          | 60.66                   |
| 2016-17   | 63.67          | 43.07                   |