

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3164
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 14th MARCH, 2018**

Tele-Law Scheme

3164. SHRI KUNWAR BHARATENDRA:

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

- (a) the data regarding the progress of the Tele-Law scheme, including the number of legal practitioners participating in the scheme and the number of Para Legal Volunteers appointed;
- (b) the detail of the cost incurred on the scheme till date; and
- (c) whether any measures have been undertaken to increase access to justice and legal literacy in rural India and if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) Tele law programme seeks to provide free legal advice through Common Service Centres (CSC) in 1,800 gram panchayats in 11 States of the country. The state-wise breakup of CSCS where Tele-Law programme is implemented is at Annexure-A. As on date, 19 panel lawyers have been appointed for providing legal advice. A total of 2,977 Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) and Panel Lawyers have been trained under the Tele-Law Programme. As on 09.03.2018, 14, 184 persons have registered for seeking advice in the Tele Law portal, and out of these legal advice has been provided in 11,339 cases.

(b) A total of Rs.86.60 lakh has been incurred on various activities including payment of honorarium to Panel Lawyers, PLVs, expenditure incurred for their training, development of

software and hosting the application software, design and distribution of promotion and publicity materials.

(c) The Government and the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) have undertaken a number of measures to increase access to justice and legal literacy in rural areas.

(i) 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. 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 the beneficiaries thereof (during the period from April, 2017 to December, 2017) are at Annexure-B.

(ii) 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 awareness campaigns were undertaken in partnership with State Governments, State Legal Services Authorities and civil society organizations.

(iii) 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 similar legal awareness campaigns and legal aid activities were undertaken in partnership with the State Governments, State Legal Services Authorities and civil society organizations. As part of creating legal awareness amongst the various stakeholders, Information Education Communication (IEC) materials have been published and distributed in English, Hindi as well as various local languages including Assamese, Bengali, Nepali, Bodo, Karbi, Limboo, Bhutia, Kokborok, Lepcha, Rabha, Garo, Manipur. This material is available on the website of the Department of Justice at <http://www.tele-law.in/static/iec-materials.php>.

(iv) In April, 2017, the Government has launched new legal aid schemes for the poor namely, Tele Law and Pro Bono Legal Services. Under the Pro Bono legal service scheme, 220 advocates have volunteered their services for marginalized.

(v) Legal aid clinics were set up in rural areas where panel lawyers provide free legal advice and draft applications on behalf of the marginalized.

ANNEXURE- A

Annexure as referred to in reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3164 for 14.03.2018 raised by S/Shri Kunwar Bharatendra regarding Tele-law Scheme

Statement showing State-wise break-up of CSCs where Tele-law programme is implemented.

Sr No.	Name of State	Number of CSCs where Tele Law service is provided
1	Uttar Pradesh	500
2	Bihar	500
3	Assam	450
4	Arunachal Pradesh	29
5	Nagaland	43
6	Mizoram	12
7	Manipur	21
8	Tripura	40
9	Meghalaya	45
10	Sikkim	10
11	Jammu & Kashmir	150
	Total	1800

ANNEXURE-B**Annexure as referred to in reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.3164 for 14.03.2018 raised by S/Shri Kunwar Bharatendra regarding Tele-law Scheme**

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.

S.No.	Name of the SLSAs	Number of Village Legal Services Clinics established as on 31.12.2017	Number of persons provided Legal Assistance
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
	Total	13593	383083
