

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

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**LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2874

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2019

Under Trials

2874. SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government provides proper legal aid to under trials in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

Parts (a) to (b): Any person who is in custody is eligible to get free legal aid under Sub-Section (g) of Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

The Legal Services Authorities have been providing free and competent legal services to under trial prisoners and convicts. There are about 1133 legal services clinics in jails. Empanelled Legal Services Advocates and trained Para-Legal Volunteers are manning

these clinics. Remand Advocates are also providing legal assistance to arrestees in the criminal courts at the remand stage. Further, to strengthen the mechanism of legal aid in the jails NALSA, has taken following steps:-

- (1) Digitization of the process of legal aid in prisons so that no prisoner remains, unrepresented and Legal Aid and advice is provided to the prisoners.
- (2) Organizing Awareness Camps to make prisoners aware about the availability of free Legal Aid, Plea- bargaining and Lok Adalats. Awareness programmes are also carried out at regular intervals to inform the inmates about their legal rights including right to bail.
- (3) Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) headed by District Judge have been setup in all the districts. The committee meets once in a quarter to review the cases of all under trials who have completed half of the maximum sentence provided for the offences they are charged with. The District Judge of the concerned district who is also the Chairperson of concerned District Legal Services Authority is the Chairman of the UTRC and the Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority is one of the members of the Committee.

In addition, all the State Legal Services Authorities conducted a campaign for enhancing Legal Services to women inmates and their accompanying children in prisons from 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 to 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. In the 10 days campaign, the teams interacted with 14,788 women prisoners & 2088 camps were held inside the jails across the nation wherein 2,942 women prisoners were provided legal aid.

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