

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.495

ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9TH DECEMBER, 2022

SETTLEMENT OF CASES IN LOK ADALAT

495. SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH:

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

- (a) whether over seventy five lakh pending and pre-litigation cases were settled across the country in the third National Lok Adalat organized this year;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the legal services authorities have used technological platforms to conduct digital Lok Adalat in many States and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether Lok Adalats have become an efficient substitute to seek Judicial redressal, and helped a lot in reducing pendency of cases in courts; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a)& (b): Yes Sir, the 3rd National Lok Adalat which was organized across the country on 13.08.2022, disposed off following number of cases:-

Pre-litigation Cases Disposed off	Pending Cases Disposed off	Total Cases Disposed off
82,46,801	26,04,752	1,08,51,553

(c): During the COVID pandemic, the Legal Services Authorities (LSAs) innovatively leveraged technology and introduced E-Lok Adalat, wherein affected parties could get their matter resolved without physically visiting the venue of the Adalat. E-Lok Adalat is a process to settle disputes, combining technology and alternative dispute resolution (“ADR”) mechanisms which offers a faster, transparent and accessible option. E-Lok Adalats have significantly improved access to justice for people who would otherwise be unable to participate in the Lok Adalats. With Lok Adalats being held virtually, it has become accessible to a large section of the population. E-Lok Adalats are also cost effective as it eliminates the need for organizational expenses. As people can effectively participate from their homes with the help of internet technology, it has reduced the cost of travel to access the forum. Besides, it also saves time as people do not have to take time off work. The following steps have been taken by most of the Legal Services Authorities to promote E-Lok Adalats:-

- (i) Standard Operating Procedures have been formulated
- (ii) Technical training through System Officers has been provided to the Court Staff.
- (iii) Whatsapp Groups are formed for litigants, advocates and respondents for conveying them relevant information and the link for attending e-lokadalat
- (iv) Video Conferencing Link and Cause list are displayed on the website of the District Courts

As per data shared with NALSA, the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) of 28 States and UTs so far organized E-Lok Adalats since June, 2020. The details of the

cases taken up and disposed in both pre-litigation and pending cases in E-Lok Adalats during the period from June, 2020 to September, 2022 is as under:-

Pre-Litigation Cases		Pending Cases in Courts	
Taken Up	Disposal	Taken Up	Disposal
1,63,78,857	38,39,258	96,13,800	14,99,042

(d) & (e): Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. In order to reduce the pendency of cases in courts and also to settle the disputes at pre-litigation stage, Lok Adalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions at such intervals as it deems fit. Lok Adalat is not a permanent establishment. However, as per Section 19 of the LSA Act, 1987, Lok Adalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions as per requirement. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

The details of the case disposed off in Lok Adalats during the last two years are as under:-

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
Total	3,82,21,509	1,64,92,538	5,47,14,047
