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

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#### LOK SABHA

## **STARRED QUESTION NO-\*131**

### TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY,2023

### LEGAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH DIGITAL PLATFORM

†\*131. SHRI GYANESHWAR PATIL:

SHRI NAYAB SINGH:

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

(a) whether any measures have been taken to integrate legal expertise with digital technology for better functioning of courts in Madhya Pradesh and Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any digital platform has been launched to provide legal assistance to the common people and the rural entrepreneurs in rural areas of Khandwa and Kurukshetra Parliamentary Constituencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the said digital platform is effective and the plan of the Government to increase its accessibility in future?

#### ANSWER

## MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

### (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

# STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*131 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING 'LEGAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH DIGITAL PLATFORM'.

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, Various measures have been taken to integrate legal expertise with digital technology for better functioning of courts in the State of Madhya Pradesh and State of Haryana.

High Court of Madhya Pradesh has developed Court Management InformationSystem (CMIS) Software. The CMIS software provides real time data regarding nature and disposal of cases, court wise and judge wise. This real time data is maintained in coordination with District courts. Stratified information of cases helps in clearingbacklog of civil/ criminal cases pending for 5 years or more in District courts which were held up due to stay orders passed by the High Court in appeal/ revisions or writ petitions etc. New listing policy was introducedunder which concerned listing officials and the Registry officials make the records for listing with proper updation and also ensure timely movement of the case files to the concerned courts. The usage of software has reduced the work load of legal functionaries and optimized their working efficiency.

Proper utilization of time of all the duty holders has facilitated the office of the Advocate General to ensure production of case-diaries in the courts, giving specific direction regarding matters arising from the same crime number in bail applications and timely communication of orders in the matters arising from the same judgment filed by the different accused persons/appellants/applicants. In addition,the Judicial Section of the High Court is using E-Memo System under which memo are digitally signed and sent to parties on their email -id.

In addition to above the High Court of Madhya Pradesh has also developed a bi-lingual (Hindi- English) Mobile app on android and iOS having features like E-Display board, Judgment / orders, Case status, Cause list, Copying, Caveat, Defects / defaults, My Diary, Free text search, Feedback facility, Online payments, Video Conferencing Facility, ILR facility & Push Notification etc. The version 2.0 of the Mobile app also has case related information of District Courts and Tehsil Courts of Madhya Pradesh. The technological intervention has minimized the manual intervention while ensuring better administration of justice.

In the State of Haryana Legal Service Management System (LSMS) is fully operational. Legal aid/ assistance applications received through the said portal are registered and thereafter forwarded to the concerned High Court Legal Services Committee/DLSAs, as the case may be, for taking necessary action. The action taken on the application is updated on the portal and applications are disposed of. Similarly, to ensure faster resolution and curb unnecessary delays e-Mediation through Video Conferencing and e-Lok Adalat has already been initiated in State of Haryana.

(c) to (e) Harnessing technology under the Digital India, theGovernment of India launched its Tele-Law initiative in 2017 with the aim to strengthen pre-litigation advice mechanism at the grassroots with support from Common Service Centres (CSCs). The CSCsare run by Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) who are local persons from the Panchayat who helps and assist the villagers in availing various online services of the Government. These CSCs, situated at the gram panchayat level also provides for an e-interface platform that connects the citizens and the Panel Lawyers, through tele/video conferencing facilities and via Tele-Law Citizens Mobile application (available on Android, iOS and UMANG platform). Tele-Law service is currently operational across 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in 36 States/UTs in the country.

Presently, in the district of Khandwa, (Madhya Pradesh) 349 CSCs are providing Tele-Law service and 11,999 beneficiaries have been servedunder Tele-Law. In the district of Kurukshetra (Haryana),218 CSCshave enabled Tele-Law service to 4,799 beneficiaries.

In addition, NALSA has taken various digital initiatives for providing legal services throughout the country. Web Portal and Mobile App has been created to file online legal assistance applications. The Web Portal can be accessed on <u>www.nalsa.gov.in</u> and is available in Ten (10) languages i.e., English, Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Gujarati, Bengali, Odia and

Kannada. Since 2016, out of 3.77 lakh, approx. 3.55 lakh applications have been disposed offthrough NALSA's Web Portal and Mobile App.Apart from the above, Legal Services Authorities have initiated e-Lok Adalat to enable the parties to join pre-Lok Adalat and Lok Adalat proceedings and ensure their monitoring.

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