

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

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**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1431  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023**

**PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE**

1431. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH :

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

- (a) whether the Pro Bono legal service is assisting the litigants from marginalized communities by offering free legal aid and advice;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of lawyers registered on Pro Bono portal for providing Pro Bono Services;
- (d) whether the Government has any mechanism to assess the functioning of Pro Bono legal services and the outcome of the cases filed by the litigants under the Pro Bono legal services; and
- (e) if so, the number of cases filed, resolved and pending?

**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 (c) The Government launched Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-Bono Legal Services) in the year 2017 with the overarching vision to advance the culture of pro bono. The Nyaya Bandhu service aims to connect the persons entitled for free legal aid under Section 12

of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 with the lawyers interested in providing Pro Bono Legal Services. So far, 1870 applicants (including marginalized category) have registered on the Nyaya Bandhu mobile application for availing the service of a Pro Bono lawyer. (Detail is at Annexure-‘A’). As on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023, 10,231 Pro Bono advocates have registered for the scheme across the country through 27 States/UT Bar Councils. Data related to pro bono advocates are maintained State Bar Council wise. (Detail is at Annexure- ‘B’).

(d) & (e) In order to avail the services of a Pro Bono lawyer, both the applicants and lawyers are required to register on the Nyaya Bandhu Mobile Application (available on Android, iOS and UMANG platform),for availing the service. Once the case is registeredby an applicant, the advocate is automatically assigned by matching the fields of case category (civil/ criminal) and the court where the case is pending, duly filled by the applicant. Once the advocate accepts the request, the applicant and advocate may conduct regular in-person meetings to discuss any case related details, as required by both the parties. Department of Justice however, does not maintain the records of final outcome of cases undertaken by the Pro Bono lawyers as this activity is performed purely on a voluntary basis.

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**Annexure-‘A’**

**Statement as referred to in reply to part (a) Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1431 for answering on 28.07.2023 raised by SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH, MP on Pro Bono Legal Service**

**Statement containing number of applicants from marginalised communities under Pro Bono Legal Service (2017-2023)**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Applicant Eligibility Category</b>	<b>No. of Applicants Registered</b>
1.	Member of a Scheduled Caste	406
2.	Member of a Scheduled Tribe	75
3.	Victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar as referred in Article 23 of the Constitution	1
4.	Woman	511
5.	Child	16
6.	Person with disability	244
7.	Person in custody	9
8.	An industrial workman	43
9.	Victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster	6
10.	Person with annual income less than as prescribed under law.	167
11.	Other (such as Senior Citizens)	232
12.	Other	160
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1870</b>

**Annexure-‘B’**

**Statement as referred to in reply to part (c) Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1431 for answering on 28.07.2023 raised by SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH, MP on Pro Bono Legal Service**

**A State Bar Council-wise Statement containing number of advocates registered on Pro Bono portal for providing Pro Bono Services (2017-2023)**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>State Bar Councils</b>	<b>No. of advocates state Bar Council Wise</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	648
2	Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim	264
3	Bihar	591
4	Chhattisgarh	341
5	Delhi	815
6	Gujarat	186
7	Himachal Pradesh	382
8	Jammu & Kashmir	144
9	Jharkhand	327
10	Karnataka	261
11	Kerala	147
12	Madhya Pradesh	602
13	Maharashtra & Goa	532
14	Manipur	55
15	Meghalaya	48
16	Odisha	280
17	Punjab & Haryana	1958
18	Rajasthan	1114
19	Tamil Nadu	369
20	Telangana	183
21	Tripura	6
22	Uttar Pradesh	649
23	Uttarakhand	154
24	West Bengal	154
25	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	15
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	01
27	Daman & Diu	05
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10231</b>