

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.559
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY 2022

Free Legal Aid

559. SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is successfully implementing Nyaya Mitra Scheme in Uttar Pradesh, if so, the details thereof along with its aims and objectives;
- (b) the number of cases disposed-off during the last two years under the said scheme;
- (c) whether the scheme has achieved the objective for which it was set up and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the further steps taken by the Government to provide free legal aid to the marginalized people?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

- (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Nyaya Mitra aims to facilitate expeditious disposal of decade old pending cases in High Courts and Subordinate Courts. Since April 2017, a total number of 27 Nyaya Mitras were engaged in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Odisha and Maharashtra who assisted the courts concerned in disposal of 2019 cases including 111 cases in Uttar Pradesh. The State-wise details of case disposal by Nyaya Mitra is at Annexure-A. No fresh Nyaya Mitra could be engaged during the year 2020-2021 due to closure of courts and social distancing protocols caused by Covid pandemic. Nyaya Mitras who were engaged have helped in disposal of 2019 old cases, which include civil cases such as matrimonial cases, accident claim cases and also criminal cases.
- (d) The Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 provides free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the

Act to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunities.

For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. During the period from April, 2021 to November, 2021, 60.17 lakhs persons have been provided with free legal services and 132.37 lakhs cases (pending in courts and disputes at pre-litigation stage) have been settled through Lok Adalats.

In addition, the Government has launched Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-bono Legal Services) programme to link the persons eligible to avail free legal aid under Section 12 of LSA Act, 1987 with the pro-bono lawyers. 3710 pro bono advocates have been registered under the programme and 1485 cases have been registered by the beneficiaries till 31st December 2021. Tele-law programme, being run by the Government across 669 districts in 36 States/UTs provides legal advice to public including persons entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of LSA Act, 1987, at pre-litigation stage by the Panel Lawyers through 75,000 Common Service Centre (CSC) at the Panchayats. Tele-law has enabled advice to more than 12.81 lakh beneficiaries till 31st December 2021.

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 559 for answering on 04.02.2022 raised by Shri Anurag Sharma on Free Legal Aid		
A State-wise Statement containing number of cases disposed off by Nyaya Mitra		
S.No	State	No. of cases disposed off
1	Bihar	44
2	Maharashtra	313
3	Odisha	169
4	Rajasthan	1360
5	Uttar Pradesh	111
6	West Bengal	22
	Grand Total	2019