

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-821
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 26/07/2024

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

821. SHRI SELVAM G:

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of authorities/institutions that are established to provide free legal aid to poor and weaker sections of the society viz. SC/ST;
- (b) whether Government has created awareness among poor and weaker sections of the society about the facility of free legal aid and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cases taken up/free legal aid provided by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) during last three years, State-wise including Tamil Nadu;
- (d) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized by NALSA during each of the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State/UT-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government has any mechanism to monitor the functioning/performance of these authorities/institutions including NALSA and if so, details thereof and the other corrective step taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

- (a) The following Authorities/Institutions are established to provide free legal aid to poor and weaker sections of the society including those belonging to SC/ST:-
 - i. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) at National level
 - ii. Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) at Supreme Court level
 - iii. 38 High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs) at High Court level
 - iv. 37 State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) at State level
 - v. 703 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) at District level
 - vi. 2390 Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) at Taluk level

- (b) In order to make people aware of their entitlements, legal awareness programmes are organised across the country by Legal Service Authorities on various laws and schemes relating to children, labourers, victims of disaster, SC and ST, persons with disabilities etc. In addition, Legal Services Authorities have also prepared booklets and pamphlets in easy language on various laws which are distributed amongst the people. More than 4.30 lakh legal awareness programmes were organised during the year 2023-24 which were attended by 4.49 crore persons.
- (c) State/UT-wise details of number of persons benefited through free Legal Services provided by the Legal Services Institutions during the last three financial years i.e. 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and the current financial year 2024-25 (upto May, 2024) is at Annexure - A.
- (d) Funds under Grant-in-Aid are allocated and released to NALSA by the Government on yearly basis. During the last 3 years i.e. 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, grants-in-aid of Rs. 145 crore, Rs. 190 crore and Rs. 400 crore respectively were allocated/ released by the Government to NALSA. For the current year i.e. 2024-25, grants-in-aid of Rs. 200 crore have been allocated to NALSA out of which Rs. 83 crore have been released so far by the Government. The details of funds allocated by NALSA to Legal Services Authorities for organizing legal aid programmes during last three years and the current year is at Annexure - B.
- (e) In order to monitor the performance of the legal services authorities, NALSA receives monthly activity reports from all the SLSAs highlighting all the activities carried out in a particular month. Thereafter, a final activity report on monthly basis is sent by NALSA to the Government which is reviewed and compiled. Apart from monthly activity reports, NALSA also receives Annual Reports from all the SLSAs and prepares its own Annual Report, which is laid before both Houses of the Parliament.

Periodical reviews on different issues are also carried out by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice to assess the working of Legal Aid under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Further, All India Meets and Regional Meets are frequently organized by NALSA to monitor the performance of Legal Services Authorities. In addition, regular meetings are also held between the representatives of NALSA and Department of Justice on various important matters.

Annexure-A

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 821 for answering on 26.07.2024 raised by Shri Selvam G, MP - National Legal Services Authority.

Statement showing the details of number of persons benefited through free Legal Services provided by the Legal Services Institutions under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the last three years and the current year.					
S. No.	SLSAs	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (upto May 2024)
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	79	134	220	17
2	Andhra Pradesh	6371	9473	8265	1214
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2657	5559	5696	1068
4	Assam	110254	38335	63749	11763
5	Bihar	1689158	209809	151413	14474
6	Chandigarh	1781	2653	2822	616
7	Chhattisgarh	42394	44106	62164	11537
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	27	28	55	7
9	Daman and Diu	17	24	34	12
10	Delhi	79055	96433	121882	14031
11	Goa	1101	2041	1558	292
12	Gujarat	21953	32422	40569	7144
13	Haryana	23260	43098	76863	11109
14	Himachal Pradesh	4806	5998	7346	1105
15	Jammu and Kashmir	8870	7992	11396	2141
16	Jharkhand	649481	145217	269303	31855
17	Karnataka	32794	45663	53406	8546
18	Kerala	16895	23418	36498	2915
19	Ladakh	2408	711	505	65
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	1
21	Madhya Pradesh	3343800	191921	225510	42159
22	Maharashtra	22595	36663	53756	8244
23	Manipur	22651	26929	62635	5932
24	Meghalaya	2346	2769	2371	300
25	Mizoram	3201	5038	4801	780
26	Nagaland	7750	7390	4603	708
27	Odisha	8849	11880	19289	3107
28	Puducherry	884	788	621	145
29	Punjab	36404	56448	60361	11356
30	Rajasthan	13833	13472	20290	3376
31	Sikkim	986	1127	1074	136
32	Tamil Nadu	38181	49570	45180	7196
33	Telangana	6712	12615	13193	1006
34	Tripura	2671	5055	9964	1758
35	Uttar Pradesh	132629	24890	29079	2010
36	Uttarakhand	3775	5386	21339	4300
37	West Bengal	29015	49714	62354	12600
	Total	6369643	1214769	1550164	225025

Annexure-B

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 821 for answering on 26.07.2024 raised by Shri Selvam G, MP - National Legal Services Authority.

Statement showing the amount of funds allocated (in Rupees) to Legal Services Authorities for organising legal aid programmes during the last three years and current year.					
S.No.	Name of Legal Services Authorities	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (upto 18.07.2024)
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	15,00,000	8,43,500	24,00,000
2	Andhra Pradesh	5,00,00,000	4,65,00,000	9,16,00,000	86,00,000
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,40,00,000	5,00,00,000	9,75,00,000	1,25,00,000
4	Assam	6,40,00,000	7,40,00,000	20,00,00,000	2,40,00,000
5	Bihar	7,60,00,000	9,25,00,000	12,50,00,000	3,06,00,000
6	Chandigarh	55,00,000	60,00,000	1,42,26,000	-
7	Chhattisgarh	5,25,00,000	6,65,00,000	17,00,00,000	2,20,00,000
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	10,00,000	2,50,000	-
9	Daman and Diu	-	-	17,50,000	3,50,000
10	Delhi	9,30,00,000	12,25,00,000	15,00,00,000	6,00,00,000
11	Goa	15,00,000	45,00,000	1,42,00,000	43,00,000
12	Gujarat	5,75,00,000	8,80,00,000	18,50,00,000	3,10,00,000
13	Haryana	6,50,00,000	7,60,00,000	13,25,00,000	1,43,00,000
14	Himachal Pradesh	2,45,00,000	3,90,00,000	8,50,00,000	4,50,00,000
15	Jammu and Kashmir	4,65,00,000	6,60,00,000	9,50,00,000	2,35,00,000
16	Jharkhand	7,35,00,000	7,00,00,000	16,50,00,000	2,65,00,000
17	Karnataka	7,50,00,000	9,20,00,000	17,50,00,000	2,90,00,000
18	Kerala	9,90,00,000	8,00,00,000	19,75,00,000	2,00,00,000
19	Ladakh	65,00,000	45,00,000	1,18,65,000	50,00,000
20	Lakshadweep	-	5,00,000	2,75,000	-
21	Madhya Pradesh	5,00,00,000	7,40,00,000	26,50,00,000	4,00,00,000
22	Maharashtra	8,25,00,000	9,60,00,000	26,50,00,000	5,40,00,000
23	Manipur	1,05,00,000	1,90,00,000	6,23,30,730	1,12,00,000
24	Meghalaya	50,00,000	2,60,00,000	2,46,35,500	16,00,000
25	Mizoram	1,15,00,000	2,15,00,000	4,28,00,000	1,38,00,000
26	Nagaland	1,15,00,000	2,75,00,000	2,20,00,000	42,00,000
27	Odisha	4,25,00,000	7,60,00,000	9,32,00,000	2,60,00,000
28	Puducherry	20,00,000	92,00,000	70,10,000	23,00,000
29	Punjab	6,40,00,000	6,16,00,000	18,25,00,000	2,75,00,000
30	Rajasthan	7,00,00,000	8,40,00,000	15,25,00,000	1,80,00,000
31	Sikkim	65,00,000	1,65,00,000	1,55,00,000	34,00,000
32	Tamil Nadu	6,00,00,000	8,10,00,000	18,00,00,000	4,15,00,000
33	Telangana	4,10,00,000	5,05,00,000	14,00,00,000	2,20,00,000
34	Tripura	2,65,00,000	3,40,00,000	6,50,00,000	55,00,000
35	Uttar Pradesh	6,00,00,000	11,80,00,000	29,50,00,000	5,50,00,000
36	Uttarakhand	2,55,00,000	3,55,00,000	4,25,00,000	1,26,00,000
37	West Bengal	7,00,00,000	8,80,00,000	16,25,00,000	3,35,00,000

38	Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	1,00,00,000	90,00,000	1,00,00,000	1,00,00,000
39	Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC)	-	1,25,00,000	50,00,000	50,00,000
	TOTAL	1,45,30,00,000	1,92,08,00,000	3,94,49,85,730	74,61,50,000