GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1915

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 06th DECEMBER, 2024

LEGAL REFORMS

1915. DR. KADIYAM KAVYA:

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

(a) the legal reforms and initiatives implemented by the Government to improve access to justice during the last three years;

(b) the measures taken to streamline the judicial system and foster legal awareness among citizens;

(c) the manner in which Government envisages fulfilling its constitutional duty under Article 39A by providing free legal services to vulnerable and marginalized sections of society; and

(d) the details on the effectiveness of Tele-Law in delivering legal aid to disadvantaged groups, especially focusing on women, SCs and STs and variations that exist across different States?

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) to (c) : Yes Sir. Department of Justice (DoJ), Ministry of Law and Justice has undertaken various initiatives/projects and developed scheme to increase free legal aid and ensure access to justice to the citizens with the aim to fulfil the obligation as enunciated under Article 39A of the Indian Constitution.

In 2021, a comprehensive, pan- India scheme titled" Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India" (DISHA) was launched for a period of five years (2021- 2026) with a total outlay of Rs. 250 crores. The DISHA scheme aims to provide easy, accessible, affordable and citizen- centric delivery of legal services through the scheme of Tele-Law, Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) and Legal Literacy and Legal awareness programme. Till 30th November 2024, Tele- Law service has been made available across 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in 785 districts across 36 States and UTs and has rendered pre - litigation advice to 1,03,06,149 beneficiaries. The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal services) enables seamless connect through the Nyaya Bandhu Application (available on Android/iOS) between the interested Pro Bono Advocates and registered beneficiaries who are entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. As on 30th November 2024, there are 8614 Pro Bono advocates registered under the Nyaya Bandhu program. Through the Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness programme approximately 86 lakh beneficiaries at the State and district and local level have been made aware and sensitized on various rights, duties and entitlements.

Further, the eCourts Mission Mode Project, a national eGovernance project for ICT enablement of district/subordinate courts of the country was launched with a view to facilitate faster disposal of cases by speeding up court processes and providing transparent on-line flow of information on case status, orders/judgments etc. to the judiciary as well as litigants, lawyers, and other stakeholders. In Phase II of the project which started in 2015, 99.5 % of total Court Complexes across India inter-linked through WAN connectivity and in addition, various citizen centric services have been initiated. Accessibility to more than 27.64 crore orders/judgments is available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). In addition, through Video conferencing, 3.38 crore cases have been heard by the District and Subordinate Courts and High Courts and 7.54 lakh cases by the Supreme Court. Live streaming started in 9 High Courts and constitutional bench of Supreme Court of India. Virtual Courts have been established in 21 States/UTs to try traffic offences. The additional features include CIS, NJDG, JustIS app for judges, eFiling, epayments, Judgements & Order Search portal, NSTEP, Justice Clock etc.

Presently, eCourts Phase- III has been approved, at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. This phase aims to create a unified technology platform for the judiciary and provide a seamless and paperless interface between the courts, the litigants and other stakeholders. The important features of the eCourts Phase- III includes Digitisation of the court records, both legacy records and pending cases; state of the art and latest Cloud bases data repository for easy retrieval; saturating all court complexes across India with e-Sewa Kendras to provide easy access to

citizens not having the necessary know-how or computer equipment; Paperless Courts aiming to bring court proceedings under a digital format leading to transparency and accountability in the Indian Judiciary and speedy disposal of cases; Online Courts aimed at eliminating the presence of litigants or lawyers in the court, thus saving time and money; Use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and its subsets like optical Character Recognition (OCR) etc for case pendency , forecasting future litigation, etc.; expansion of scope of Virtual Courts beyond adjudication of traffic challans etc.

In addition, the Government has set up National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act,1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society as covered under Section 12 of the Act, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizens by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunities. For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. The activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities include Legal Aid and advice; Legal Awareness Programmes; Legal Services/Empowerment camps; Legal Service Clinics; Legal Literacy Clubs; Lok Adalats and implementation of Victim Compensation Scheme. The details of activities /programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities is at Annexure - A.

(d): The State/UT- wise details of women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and ScheduledTribes (STs) who received pre-litigation advice under Tele –Law is at Annexure - B.

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Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1915 for answering on 06.12.2024 by Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, MP on Legal Reforms

Legal aid and advice:

Years	Persons provided Panel Advocates	Persons benefited through Advice/ Counselling	Persons benefited through other services	Total
2022-23	2,91,410	6,39,230	2,84,129	12,14,769
2023-24	3,24,914	9,47,087	2,78,163	15,50,164
2024-25 (upto Sept,24)	1,68,380	5,05,386	86,012	7,59,778

Legal Awareness Programmes:

Years	No of Legal Awareness programmes organised	No. of Persons attended
2022-23	4,90,055	6,75,17,665
2023-24	4,30,306	4,49,22,092
2024-25 (upto Sept. 24)	1,90,231	1,61,35,058

Legal Services / Empowerment Camps:

Year	2021	2022	2023
No. of camps organised	3502	38,541	30043
No. of beneficiaries in all camps	1,40,94,600	1,15,10,207	1,14,64,230

Legal Services Clinics:

Years	2021-22		2022-23	
Categories	**Legal Services Clinics**	**Number of persons provided legal assistance**	**Legal Services Clinics**	**Number of persons provided legal assistance**
Law Colleges/ Universities	1014	5989	1093	37351
Villages	4723	727955	4134	282140
Community Centres	1019	141404	776	88638
Courts	762	54871	904	116563
Jails	1181	218501	1177	264593
JJB/CWC/ Observation Homes	447	15742	439	29280
For the people of North-East	75	373	64	1170
Others	3755	139529	3124	194729
Total	**12976**	**1304364**	**11711**	**1014464**

Years	2023-24		2024-25 (upto Sept.24)	
Categories	**Legal Services Clinics**	**Number of persons provided legal assistance**	**Legal Services Clinics**	**Number of persons provided legal assistance**
Law Colleges/ Universities	1034	27545	944	9689
Villages	3659	234515	3771	137556
Community Centres	971	75114	831	44351
Courts	1018	141539	1081	85278
Jails	1215	324867	1227	194229

JJB/CWC/ Observation Homes	479	48565	520	38072
For the people of North-East	47	615	49	1131
Others	2961	183280	3568	117173
Total	**11384**	**1036040**	**11991**	**627479**

Lok Adalats:

National Lok Adalats

Years	Pre-litigation Cases disposed of	Pending Cases disposed of	Total Cases disposed of
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024 (upto 0911.24)	6,46,35,285	1,26,34,580	7,72,69,865

State Lok Adalats

Years	No. of benches constituted	Pre-litigation Cases disposed of	Pending Cases disposed of	Total Cases disposed of
2021-22	74,480	114278	418251	532529
2022-23	62,194	94939	756370	851309
2023-24	9,865	219230	987873	1207103
2024-25 (upto Sept.24)	5,944	681938	329974	1011912

Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services)

Years	Cases settled
2021-22	1,18,136
2022-23	1,71,138
2023-24	2,32,763
2024-25 (upto Sept. ,24)	98,776

Implementation of Victim Compensation Schemes:

Years	Compensation Awarded in (Rs.)
2021-22	2,21,87,47,426
2022-23	3,47,80,37,352/-
2023-24	4,02,90,06,736/-
2024-25 (upto Sept.,24)	2,27,12,83,081/-

Statement as referred to in reply to part (d) Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1915 for answering on 06.12.2024 raised by DR. KADIYAM KAVYA , MP on Legal Reforms.

State/UT-wise Details of Advice Enabled to Women, Scheduled Caste - Scheduled Tribes under Tele-Law Programme from 2017 to Nov-2024.

Sr. No.	States/UT's	Female	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
1	Andaman And Nicobar	1,759	2,232	136
2	Andhra Pradesh	1,57,161	70,679	22,041
3	Arunachal Pradesh	11,633	8,459	3,686
4	Assam	86,974	26,975	12,391
5	Bihar	2,86,713	2,30,607	40,117
6	Chandigarh	3,858	3,694	528
7	Chhattisgarh	2,15,299	1,23,428	1,21,218
8	Dadra And Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	2,712	882	709
9	Delhi	4,665	3,309	237
10	Goa	4,522	4,392	568
11	Gujarat	1,31,135	77,952	1,89,284
12	Haryana	62,319	65,574	10,393
13	Himachal Pradesh	38,603	40,890	12,663
14	Jammu And Kashmir	2,00,198	1,25,923	67,805
15	Jharkhand	1,98,250	95,093	82,159
16	Karnataka	1,81,377	83,696	23,508
17	Kerala	18,618	13,857	1,306
18	Ladakh	1,171	419	1,452
19	Lakshadweep	1,224	1,634	5
20	Madhya Pradesh	3,58,011	3,86,046	1,79,067
21	Maharashtra	2,76,008	3,21,237	1,51,815
22	Manipur	585	171	495
23	Meghalaya	13,768	1,146	25,865
24	Mizoram	15,713	1,672	24,136
25	Nagaland	12,508	910	25,038
26	Odisha	1,34,779	1,30,919	88,619
27	Puducherry	1,186	1,082	49
28	Punjab	1,01,954	1,74,512	16,011
29	Rajasthan	2,56,893	2,20,151	94,473
30	Sikkim	1,152	991	482
31	Tamil Nadu	1,38,036	67,365	17,489
32	Telangana	95,869	61,107	31,329
33	Tripura	42,083	29,423	20,100
34	Uttar Pradesh	8,01,086	7,07,453	1,02,535
35	Uttarakhand	71,875	94,642	10,809
36	West Bengal	1,02,269	79,785	10,201
	Total	40,31,966	32,58,307	13,88,719