

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-4327**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 20/12/2024

**NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

4327. SHRI SELVAM G:  
SHRI NAVASKANI K:  
SHRI C N ANNADURAI:

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

- (a) the details of authorities and institutions currently established to provide free legal aid to economically disadvantaged citizens across the country;
- (b) the role of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in coordinating and supervising the implementation of free legal aid services at the national and State levels;
- (c) the eligibility criteria for accessing free legal aid services for marginalized groups such as women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and differently-abled persons;
- (d) the number of cases taken up/free legal aid provided by National Legal Services Authority during last three years, State-wise including Tamil Nadu;
- (e) the amount of funds allocated, released and utilized by NALSA during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (f) whether the Government has any mechanism to monitor the functioning/performance of these authorities/institutions including NALSA, if so, the details thereof?

**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 :-

- 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. 709 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) at District level
- vi. 2376 Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) at Taluk level

(b) and (c): NALSA has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the Act, i.e. a member of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, woman, person with disability, etc. This Act ensures that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes.

NALSA has formulated various schemes for the implementation of preventive and strategic legal service programmes, undertaken and implemented by the Legal Services Authorities at various levels. In carrying out all these responsibilities, NALSA works in close coordination with various State Legal Services Authorities, District Legal Services Authorities and other agencies for regular exchange of relevant information, monitoring and updating on the implementation and progress of the various schemes in vogue and fostering a strategic and coordinated approach to ensure smooth and streamlined functioning of various agencies and stakeholders.

(d): The 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 are at Annexure – A.

(e): 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, of which Rs. 150 crore have been released so far. In addition, Rs 200 crore have been earmarked in Budget Estimate 2024-25 for implementation of the Central Sector Scheme namely; “Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme”, of which Rs. 50 crore have been released so far to NALSA.

(f): 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 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.

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**Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4327 for answering on 20.12.2024 reg. 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.**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of State/UT Authority</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	79	134	220
2	Andhra Pradesh	6371	9473	8265
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2657	5559	5696
4	Assam	110254	38335	63749
5	Bihar	1689158	209809	151413
6	Chandigarh	1781	2653	2822
7	Chhattisgarh	42394	44106	62164
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	27	28	55
9	Daman and Diu	17	24	34
10	Delhi	79055	96433	121882
11	Goa	1101	2041	1558
12	Gujarat	21953	32422	40569
13	Haryana	23260	43098	76863
14	Himachal Pradesh	4806	5998	7346
15	Jammu and Kashmir	8870	7992	11396
16	Jharkhand	649481	145217	269303
17	Karnataka	32794	45663	53406
18	Kerala	16895	23418	36498
19	Ladakh	2408	711	505
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	3343800	191921	225510
22	Maharashtra	22595	36663	53756
23	Manipur	22651	26929	62635
24	Meghalaya	2346	2769	2371
25	Mizoram	3201	5038	4801
26	Nagaland	7750	7390	4603
27	Odisha	8849	11880	19289
28	Puducherry	884	788	621
29	Punjab	36404	56448	60361
30	Rajasthan	13833	13472	20290
31	Sikkim	986	1127	1074
<b>32</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	<b>38181</b>	<b>49570</b>	<b>45180</b>
33	Telangana	6712	12615	13193
34	Tripura	2671	5055	9964
35	Uttar Pradesh	132629	24890	29079
36	Uttarakhand	3775	5386	21339
37	West Bengal	29015	49714	62354
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6369643</b>	<b>1214769</b>	<b>1550164</b>

