

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-786
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 29/11/2024

LOK ADALATS

786. SHRI SHASHANK MANI:

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

- (a) the number of functioning court facilities and Lok Adalats organised in the rural areas of the country as well as the average time taken to dispose of cases in rural versus urban courts; and
- (b) whether there are sufficient free legal aid resources and lawyers available under the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to improve access to justice in rural areas and 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 data relating to number of district / subordinates courts across the country is not maintained by the Government. However, as per website of e-Committee, Supreme Court of India (<https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/service/district-courts-portal/>), there are 688 District Courts across the country. Further, the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 which was enacted to establish Gram Nyayalayas at the grass-root level aims to provide access to justice in rural areas ensuring opportunities to secure justice to citizens. As on October, 2024, 313 Gram Nyayalayas are functioning across the country which have disposed of more than 2.99 lakh cases during December, 2020 to October, 2024.

Further, Lok Adalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions at such intervals as deemed fit in order to reduce the pendency of cases in the courts and to settle the disputes at pre-litigation stage. Lok Adalats handle pending court cases as referred to it by the respective courts. Since Lok Adalats are not permanent in nature, all unsettled cases, are reverted to the respective courts and hence do not remain pending with Lok Adalats. During the year 2024-25 (upto September, 2024), 5944 benches of State Lok Adalats

were constituted which disposed of 10,11,912 cases. In addition, 98,776 cases were settled through 17,309 sittings of Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services) during the same period. Separate data is however, not maintained for rural and urban areas of the country.

- (b) The Government has released Rs. 200 crore to National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) during 2024-25 (upto October, 2024) for implementing legal aid programmes through State Legal Services Authorities. The legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk level to the Supreme Court level for providing free legal aid to poor and weaker sections of the society. As on September, 2024, 41,775 panel lawyers and 43,050 para legal volunteers are available with legal services institutions to improve access to justice across the country including rural areas.
