

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2100
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 01/08/2025

LEGAL AID TO WEAKER SECTIONS

2100. SHRI C N ANNADURAI:

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

- (a) the details of the authorities and institutions established by the Government to provide free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of society, particularly members of SC, ST, women, and other marginalized communities, including the current status in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) whether the Government has undertaken awareness initiatives to inform the poor and weaker sections, especially SCs and STs, about their entitlement to free legal aid, and if so, the details thereof including outreach activities conducted in Tamil Nadu;
- (c) the number of cases taken up and legal aid provided by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) during last three years; and
- (d) whether Government has put in place a mechanism to monitor and assess the performance and functioning of Legal Services Authorities including NALSA, and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to strengthen the delivery of free legal aid across the Country, particularly in Tamil Nadu?

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 the poor and weaker sections of the society including those belonging to SC/ST and women:-
- 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. 708 (including 32 in Tamil Nadu) District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) at District level
- vi. 2440 (including 193 in Tamil Nadu) Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) at Taluk level

(b): The legal awareness programmes are held across the country by Legal Service Authorities in regard to entitlement to free legal aid and various laws and schemes relating to children, labourers, victims of disaster, SC and ST, persons suffering from disability, etc. The Legal Services Authorities also prepare booklets and pamphlets in simple language on various laws, for distribution amongst the people. The details of legal awareness camps/programs organized by Legal Service Authorities across the country (including Tamil Nadu) during the last three years are as under:

Year	Tamil Nadu		Across the country (including Tamil Nadu)	
	Legal Awareness programs	Persons attended	Legal Awareness programs	Persons attended
2022-23	10,814	13,27,379	4,90,055	6,75,17,665
2023-24	4,408	7,12,534	4,30,306	4,49,22,092
2024-25	6,284	10,10,195	4,62,988	3,72,32,850
Total	21,506	30,50,108	13,83,349	14,96,72,607

(c): The details of persons benefited through Legal aid and advice under various activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities during the last three years are as under:

Year	Persons benefited through Legal aid and advice
2022-23	12,14,769
2023-24	15,50,164
2024-25	16,57,527
Total	44,22,460

(d): 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 by the Government.

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.
