

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2250  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01<sup>st</sup> AUGUST, 2025

**Court Infrastructure in Ladakh**

2250. Shri Mohmad Haneefa:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the lack of district court infrastructure in remote sub-divisions of Ladakh;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to upgrade legal Infrastructure in the UT of Ladakh;
- (c) whether it is a fact that more than 30 per cent of the sanctioned judicial posts are lying vacant, leading to an acute shortage of full-time judicial officers in remote areas of Ladakh;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies in a time-bound manner;
- (e) whether the Government is considering to set up mobile courts or regular Lok Adalats in far-flung areas of Ladakh to ensure timely access to justice; and
- (f) whether legal aid services, women helpline desks and child welfare courts have been adequately institutionalised under the NALSA framework in Ladakh?

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) & (b): The Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Judicial Infrastructure since 1993-94 to augment the resources of the States/UTs. The CSS covers construction of court halls, residential units, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms.

As per information provided by the Ladakh Administration, there are 10 sub-divisions in the UT of Ladakh. Court infrastructure is available in 05 sub-divisions namely Zaskar, Sankoo, Khalsi, Nubra and Drass. A sum of Rs.8.33 Crore has been released to UT of Ladakh under the CSS during last five years. In addition, for the financial year 2025-26, a sum of Rs. 2.00 crore has been earmarked under the CSS for UTs without legislature. The sanctioned and working/posted strengths of judicial officers in Ladakh are 17 and 10 respectively. Presently 11 court halls and 04

residential units are available in Ladakh. However, 04 court halls and 02 residential units are under construction.

(c) & (d): As per the Constitutional mandate, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government / UT Administration, in consultation with their respective High Courts, frame the rules and regulations regarding the appointment and recruitment of judicial officers. The Supreme Court, vide order passed in January, 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case has, inter-alia, stipulated certain timelines which are to be followed by the States/UTs and the respective High Courts for recruitment of judges in the district and subordinate courts.

(e) & (f): Lok Adalat is organised across the country as per the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 read with National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalats) Regulations, 2009 for the subject matters as prescribed under the said Act and Regulations in the Courts as defined under Section 2 (1) (aaa) of the said Act. Every year, NALSA issues calendar for organising National Lok Adalats. The State Lok Adalats are organised by State Legal Services Authorities as per the local conditions and needs. Four National Lok Adalats are held in one calendar year. The details of the number of cases settled by National Lok Adalat and State Lok Adalat in Ladakh during the last three years are as under:

(i) **National Lok Adalat:**

Year	Pre-litigative cases	Pending cases	Total cases
2022	416	1028	1444
2023	383	1398	1781
2024	523	1627	2150
Total	1322	4053	5375

(ii) **State Lok Adalat:**

Year	Pre-litigative cases	Pending cases	Total cases
2022-23	7	233	240
2023-24	0	0	0
2024-25	0	0	0
Total	7	233	240

The National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services Clinics) Regulations, 2011 provide for eligibility criteria for free legal services in the legal services clinic, selection of lawyers for manning the clinics, functions of para-legal volunteers in the clinic, etc. In September 2023, Legal Aid Clinic in Tangtse, a remote village in Leh district was established. This clinic is part of the Ladakh Legal Services Authority (LLSA) framework and staffed with Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) to provide legal support locally. The LLSA has established multiple Legal Aid Clinics across

Leh and Kargil districts. The Ladakh Administration has informed that they have established Special Mobile Magistrate Courts in both the districts of Leh and Kargil for timely access to justice. In addition, NALSA introduced the National toll free legal aid helpline number 15100 on IVRS technology in August 2024, which connects Indian Citizens (including Ladakh) with legal advice and referral services. The details of persons benefited in Ladakh through Legal aid and advice under various activities/programmes undertaken by LLSA during the last three years are as under:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Total</b>
2022-23	180	12	519	711
2023-24	105	3	397	505
2024-25	192	9	123	324
Total	477	24	1039	1540

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