

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 427

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 25TH FEBRUARY, 2016

Out-of-Court Settlement

427. SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to encourage pre-litigation and out-of-court settlements in order to reduce the number of court cases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the number of court cases likely to unburden the judiciary as a result thereof;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)**

- (a) & (b) Yes, Madam. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) organizes Lok Adalats through the State Legal Services Authorities, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, High Court Legal Services Committees, District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees for settlement of a large number of cases, both at pre-litigation and post-litigation stages. In order to reduce the pendency of cases in courts, the Legal Services Institutions under the Legal services Authorities Act, 1987, organize Lok Adalats all over the country regularly either on a daily, weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis in addition to the National and Mega Lok Adalats. A statement showing the details of cases settled in pre-litigation stage in Lok Adalats organized on various subject matters during the year 2015 is at Annexure-A.
- (c) & (d) No, Madam. However, as indicated at Annexure A, National Lok Adalats disposed of 1.62 lakh cases at pre litigation stage, many of which may have otherwise gone to regular courts and further burdened the judiciary.

(e) The National Lok Adalats on various subject matters, such as, bank matters/Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, revenue/ MNREGA/Land acquisition cases, Labour and family matters, MACT and insurance claims/electricity/ water/telephone/public utility disputes, criminal compoundable matters, traffic/petty matters, municipal matters are being organized as per the Calendar approved by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and patron-in-Chief, NALSA and Hon'ble Executive Chairman, NALSA. The State Legal Services Authorities have been issued guidelines/ directions by the NALSA vide National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalats) Regulations, 2009 to organise Lok Adalats more effectively and for speedy disposal of cases.

Annexure-A

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 427 FOR 25.02.2016 REGARDING OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT.			
A Statement showing the details of cases settled at pre-litigation stage in National Lok Adalats organized on various subject matters during the year 2015			
S.No.	Date	Subject	Disposal at Pre-litigation stage
1	14.02.2015	Banking Matters & U/s 138 Negotiable Instruments Act	2,59,760
2	14.03.2015	Revenue, MNREGA, Land Acquisition etc.	34,59,406
3	11.04.2015	Labour & Family	3,70,532
4	09.05.2015 & 13.06.2015	MACT and Insurance Claims	1,60,601
5	11.07.2015	Electricity/Water/Telephone/Public Utility dispute	7,16,026
6	08.08.2015	Banking Matters & U/s 138 Negotiable Instruments Act	2,45,619
7	12.09.2015	Criminal Compoundable Matters	2,99,023
8	10.10.2015	Traffic/Petty matters, Municipal matters	11,18,983
9	12.12.2015	All types of cases	95,89,784
	Grand Total		1,62,19,734