

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1132

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 8TH DECEMBER ,2023

Free Legal Services

1132. SHRI DEVJI M.PATEL:

DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI:

SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:

SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

SHRI BASANATA KUMAR PANDA:

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:

SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:

SHRI RANJEETSINGH NAIK NIMBALKAR:

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

(a) the manner in which the Government envisages to fulfil its constitutional duty under Article 39A by providing free legal services to vulnerable and marginalised sections of society;

(b) the details of the impact and contribution of agencies like NALSA, DISHA, and Nyaya Bandhu in achieving this goal; and

(c) the details on the effectiveness of Tele-Law in delivering legal aid to disadvantaged groups, especially focussing on women, SCs, and STs, indication of the variations exist across different States?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 constituted under Article 39A of the Indian Constitution, provides free and competent

legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the Act to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunities.

For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. The activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities include Legal Aid and advice; Legal Awareness Programmes; Legal Services/Empowerment camps; Legal Services Clinics; Legal Literacy Clubs; Lok Adalats and implementation of Victim Compensation Scheme. Details of activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities is at Annexure-A.

In addition, Department of Justice initiated a scheme titled Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) to provide for easy, accessible and affordable delivery of legal services. Its key initiatives include Tele-Law: Reaching the Unreached that aims to strengthen pre-litigation advice and consultation to all citizens at the Gram Panchayat level and Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) that aims to enable a pan India Pro Bono dispensation framework for delivery of legal services. Tele-Law seeks to connect the beneficiary with the Lawyer via tele/ video conferencing facilities available at the Common Service Centres and through Tele-Law Citizens Mobile Application. As on 30th November 2023, Tele-Law services is available across 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in 766 districts across 36 States and UTs and has rendered legal advice to 60,23,222 beneficiaries. This includes (21.49 lakh) women, (19.23 lakh) Scheduled Caste, (9.33 lakh) Scheduled Tribe (18.64lakh) OBCs etc. The Nyaya Bandhu platform enables seamless connect on the Nyaya Bandhu Application (available on Android/ iOS) between the interested Pro Bono Advocates and registered beneficiaries entitled for free legal aid under section 12 of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. As on 30th November, 2023, there are 10629 Pro Bono advocates and 89 Law schools have constituted Pro Bono Clubs to facilitate the culture of Pro bono among law students.

Annexure-A

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1132 for answering on 08.12.2023 raised by Shri Devji M Patel & Seven Others,(MP)on details of free legal services

Legal aid and advice:				
Years	Persons provided Panel Advocates	Persons benefited through Advice/ Counselling	Persons benefited through other services	Total
2022-23	2,91,410	6,39,230	2,84,129	12,14,769
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	1,65,362	3,92,999	1,87,354	7,45,715

Legal Awareness Programmes:

Years	No of Legal Awareness programmes organised	No. of Persons attended
2022-23	4,90,055	6,75,17,665
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	1,93,605	1,76,93,492

Legal Services / Empowerment Camps:

Year	2022
No. of camps organised	38,541
No. of beneficiaries in all camps	1,15,10,207

Legal Services Clinics:

Year	2022-23		2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	
Categories	Legal Services Clinics	Number of persons provided legal assistance	Legal Services Clinics	Number of persons provided legal assistance
Law Colleges/ Universities	1,093	37,351	1,025	9,520
Villages	4,134	2,82,140	3,953	1,15,321
Community Centres	776	88,638	744	39,174
Courts	904	1,16,563	936	66,921
Jails	1,177	2,64,593	1,200	1,55,588
JJB/CWC/ Observation Homes	439	29,280	454	21,151
For the people of North-East	64	1,170	52	348
Others	3,124	1,94,729	2,771	88,674
Total	11,711	10,14,464	11,135	4,96,697

Lok Adalats:**National Lok Adalats**

	Pre-litigation Cases disposed of	Pending Cases disposed of	Total Cases disposed of
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023 (upto Sept, 23)	4,94,88,552	1,06,83,225	6,01,71,777

State Lok Adalats

	Pre-litigation Cases disposed of	Pending Cases disposed of	Total Cases disposed of
2022-23	94,939	7,56,370	8,51,309
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	42,352	6,10,724	6,53,076

Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services)

Years	Cases settled
2022-23	1,71,138
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	1,10,412

Implementation of Victim Compensation Schemes:

Years	Compensation Awarded in (Rs.)
2022-23	3,47,80,37,352/-
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	1,97,09,14,235/-