

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1065
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 25/07/2025

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AID IN DHUBRI

1065. MD. RAKIBUL HUSSAIN:

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

- (a) the steps that are being taken to establish more District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA) or mobile legal aid centres in Dhubri to ensure that marginalised and economically disadvantaged communities have access to legal aid and counselling;
- (b) the manner in which the Government is ensuring that the people of Dhubri, especially in rural and flood-prone areas, are made aware of their legal rights and provided with information about free legal services under the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) schemes; and
- (c) whether there are any initiatives being implemented to recruit more legal professionals and establish legal literacy programs in Dhubri to promote legal awareness and reduce the gap in access to justice?

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 National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, inter-alia lays down the policies, guidelines and formulates schemes for the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) to implement these throughout the country towards making legal aid available to the weaker sections of society. The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Dhubri, operating under the supervision of the Assam SLISA, has taken several initiatives, including the following to strengthen access to justice, particularly for the marginalised, economically disadvantaged, and geographically vulnerable populations such as those residing in flood-prone and remote areas:

- (i) To bridge the accessibility gap and enhance the outreach of legal services, DLSA, Dhubri has deployed Mobile Legal Aid Clinics equipped with Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs). These mobile units serve as critical delivery vehicles for providing on-the-spot legal counselling and services in char areas and other remote habitations. In the past year, the mobile legal aid van was deployed on seven occasions across the district.
 - (ii) Legal aid clinics have been set up in underserved areas in consultation with Gram Panchayats and local authorities to ensure availability of legal services at the grassroots level.
- (b): DLSA, Dhubri has undertaken number of legal literacy and outreach initiatives. During the past three years, 69 Legal Awareness Camps were organised in collaboration with the educational institutions, panchayats, police stations, and civil society organisations to disseminate information about the rights and entitlements under various NALSA schemes. Approximately 9,295 beneficiaries as entitled under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, have been reached through these programmes in the same period.

Further, Special Flood Relief Legal Aid Camps were also conducted during disaster seasons at relief centres, coordinated through a district-level Core Group according to the Schemes for Legal Services to Disaster Victims through Legal Services Authorities. In addition, door-to-door awareness campaigns by Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), use of IEC materials in local languages, and announcements through the District Information and Public Relations Office (DIPRO) further contributed to awareness-building efforts.

- (c): To strengthen institutional capacity and promote early awareness of legal rights, DLSA, Dhubri has undertaken the following:
- (i) Presently, 26 Para Legal Volunteers, 6 Mediators, and 12 Panel Lawyers are engaged under DLSA, Dhubri.
 - (ii) Legal Literacy Clubs have been established in 5 educational institutions which conducted 16 legal literacy programmes during the last three years.
 - (iii) 30 training and refresher workshops have been conducted, covering 279 PLVs and panel lawyers during the last three years.

- (iv) Legal Aid Clinics have been established at 12 locations, including police stations, panchayats, the law college, District Jail, Dhubri Medical College, the CWC/JJB and the Sakhi One Stop Centre, providing sustained and community-anchored access to legal aid.
