

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:258
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2005
NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
Chaure Shri Bapu Hari

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring about improvement in the National Legal Services Authority ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the objectives of the said authority; and
- (d) the success achieved by the authority so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ)

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (-a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 258 TO BE ANSWERED ON 9.12.2005.

(a)&(b)The working of Legal Aid System in the country was one of the agenda items considered in the Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries, which was held in Shimla during 10-11 June, 2005.The Law Ministers have made a number of recommendations for the improvement of the Legal Aid System in the country. Copies of Resolution have already been forwarded to all the State Governments and to NALSA for taking necessary follow up action. Upon receipt of views of the National Legal Services Authority and the State Governments in respect of various recommendations made in the said Conference, the Government will examine as to what further improvement is needed in the National Legal Services Authority and the State Legal Services Authorities.

(c) The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act,1987aims at establishing a nation-wide network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society so that opportunities for securing justice may not be denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.The major objectives of the Authority amongst others are as under:

- (i) to organize legal aid camps, especially in rural areas, for women, children, labour class ;
- (ii) to encourage the settlement of disputes by way of arbitration and conciliation;
- (iii) to take appropriate measures for spreading legal literacy and legal awareness
- (iv) to organize Lok Adalats for speedy disposal of cases

(d) 1. Upto 30.09.2005 about 82.51 lacs persons have benefited through legal aid and advice programmes throughout the country in which about 12.75 lacs persons belonging to Scheduled Caste and 3.94 lacs persons of Scheduled Tribe communities were beneficiaries. More than 8.52 lacs persons were women and about 1.27 lacs persons in custody were also benefited.

2.Upto 30.09.2005, about 4.86 lacs Lok Adalats have been held in different parts of the country where more than 1.83 crores cases have been settled.In about 8.90 lacs Motor Vehicles Accident Claims cases,compensation amounting to over Rs. 5501.52 crores has been awarded.

3. NALSA has undertaken a series of programmes as under:

- (i) Launched a National Legal Literacy Mission (2005-2010) to make the citizens aware of their legal rights etc.
- (ii) Observed a National Legal Aid Week for Women in Delhi and through State Legal Services Authorities in the whole country during 8th - 15th March 2005.
- (iii) Launched Jal Adhikar Abhiyan on 27th April 2005 in Vigyan Bhawan.

- (iv) A National Dialogue on Protection of Legal Rights of Workers was organised on 1st May 2005 at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi.
- (v) Organised a Regional Initiative of Legal Literacy to Combat Lynching & Witch Hunting of Tribal Women & Protection of Legal Rights of Tribal Communities in the States of Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Chhattisgarh on 20th August 2005 at Ranchi.
- (vi) A Mobile Legal Aid Helpline Service on Boat was launched on 3rd September 2005 in Sunderbans (West Bengal).
- (vii) A Regional Initiative has been taken up in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra at Tirupati on 10th September 2005 to generate awareness on the Protection of Rights of Devdasis to save them from degeneration of their mental health, socio-economic crises leading the threat to their basic survival.
- (viii) Legal Rights Protection and Awareness Programmes have been organised for the People suffering from physical and mental disabilities.
- (ix) Women's Legal Aid Summit was organised for Elimination of violence against Women on 25 November 2005 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. All these activities have proved useful for the poor and disadvantaged people of the country.