

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2631**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 4th AUGUST, 2023

Nyaya Bandhu Scheme

2631.DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

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

- (a) the number of Pro Bono Clubs operational under the Nyaya Bandhu scheme in the country;
- (b) whether the officials from Department of Justice regularly visit the law schools to assess the functioning of Pro Bono Clubs and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of funds allocated to the law colleges to develop the standard operating procedure for Pro Bono Clubs from 2021?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Department of Justice (DoJ), Government of India had launched the Pro Bono Club Scheme in the year 2020 with the aim to instill in young legal minds the culture of pro bono legal services. 89 Law schools have been onboarded, since 2020. To assess the functioning of these Pro Bono Clubs, visits to the Law schools have been undertaken by officials from DoJ on periodical basis and on a regular basis interactions with the Pro Bono Club members at the orientation programmes and at the monthly meetings (offline and online) have been held. There is a standard operating procedure (SOP) for conducting various activities under Pro Bono Clubs being run by these Law Schools. It broadly covers providing pro bono litigation assistance to lawyers, dedicating certain number of hours for the pro bono services throughout the year, conducting community legal awareness camps

in the nearby villages, undertaking research and documentation work and promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanism etc. Each Pro Bono Club is given an annual grant of Rs 1 lakh for a period of two years only. Pro Bono Clubs are required to submit report, annually. Till 15th July, 2023, Rs1.18 crore has been disbursed to these Law colleges.
