

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2597**  
**ANSWERED ON 04.08.2023**

**FREE LEGAL AID TO POOR**

2597. DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:  
DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.:  
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:  
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:

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

- (a) the details of authorities/institutions involved in providing free legal aid to the poor in the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to strengthen these authorities/institutions including the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised by these authorities/institutions including NALSA during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has any mechanism to monitor the functioning/performance of these authorities/institutions including NALSA and if so, details thereof and the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has also launched Nyaya Bandhu (Pro bono Legal Services) programme and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the number of pro bono advocates and beneficiaries registered thereunder?

**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) The following Authorities/Institutions are established to provide free legal aid to poor and weaker sections of the society :-

- i. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) at National level
- ii. Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) at Supreme Court level
- iii. 39 High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs) at High Court level
- iv. 37 State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) at State level
- v. 703 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) at District level
- vi. 2341 Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) at Taluk level

(b) and (c) The Government extends all support to strengthen the legal services authorities/institutions in the form of Grants-in-Aid. Funds under Grant-in-Aid are allocated and released to NALSA by the Government on yearly basis. During the last 3 years i.e. 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, grants-in-aid of Rs. 100 crore, Rs. 145 crore and Rs. 190 crore respectively have been allocated/released by the Government to NALSA for various legal aid activities like free legal assistance, Lok Adalats, legal awareness programmes across the country etc. For the current year i.e. 2023-24, grants-in-aid of Rs. 200 crore have been allocated to NALSA out of which Rs. 50 crore have been released so far by the Government. The details of funds allocated by NALSA to Legal Services Authorities for organizing legal aid programmes during last three years and the current year are at Annexure – A.

(d) In order to monitor the performance of the legal services authorities, NALSA receives monthly activity reports from all the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) highlighting all the activities carried out in a particular month. Thereafter, a final activity report on monthly basis is sent by NALSA to the Government which is reviewed and compiled. Apart from monthly activity reports, NALSA also receives Annual Reports from all the SLSAs and prepares its own Annual Report, which is laid before both Houses of the Parliament.

Periodical reviews on different issues are also carried out by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice to assess the working of Legal Aid under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Further, All India Meets and Regional Meets are frequently organized by NALSA to monitor the performance of Legal Services Authorities. In addition, regular meetings are also held between the representatives of NALSA and Department of Justice on various important matters.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. The Government launched Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-bono Legal Services) with the primary aim of advancing the culture of pro bono and creating a framework for dispensation of offering pro bono legal services across the country. It links the persons eligible to avail free legal aid under Section 12 of Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 with the pro-bono lawyers. Under the programme, practicing advocates, interested in undertaking legal pro bono work, are connected, via mobile application, with eligible marginalised beneficiaries, for delivery of pro bono (free of charge) legal services. As on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 there are total 10231 advocates registered and 1870 beneficiaries registered on the Nyaya Bandhu mobile application for availing the service of a Pro Bono lawyer.

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Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2597 for answering on 04.08.2023 raised by Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe and others, MPs - Free Legal Aid to Poor

<b>Statement showing details of funds allocated (in Rupees) to Legal Services Authorities for organizing legal aid programmes during the last three years and the current year</b>					
<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name of State/UT Authority</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24 (upto 12.07.2023)</b>
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	15,00,000	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	3,40,00,000	5,00,00,000	4,65,00,000	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,00,00,000	1,40,00,000	5,00,00,000	1,50,00,000
4	Assam	3,70,00,000	6,40,00,000	7,40,00,000	2,00,00,000
5	Bihar	3,70,00,000	7,60,00,000	9,25,00,000	1,75,00,000
6	Chandigarh	80,00,000	55,00,000	60,00,000	25,00,000
7	Chhattisgarh	3,95,00,000	5,25,00,000	6,65,00,000	2,00,00,000
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2,50,000	0	10,00,000	0
9	Daman and Diu	2,50,000	0	0	5,00,000
10	Delhi	5,00,00,000	9,30,00,000	12,25,00,000	0
11	Goa	50,00,000	15,00,000	45,00,000	25,00,000
12	Gujarat	3,45,00,000	5,75,00,000	8,80,00,000	2,00,00,000
13	Haryana	4,50,00,000	6,50,00,000	7,60,00,000	1,50,00,000
14	Himachal Pradesh	1,85,00,000	2,45,00,000	3,90,00,000	1,25,00,000
15	Jammu and Kashmir	3,50,00,000	4,65,00,000	6,60,00,000	2,00,00,000
16	Jharkhand	4,00,00,000	7,35,00,000	7,00,00,000	2,00,00,000
17	Karnataka	6,25,00,000	7,50,00,000	9,20,00,000	2,00,00,000
18	Kerala	5,25,00,000	9,90,00,000	8,00,00,000	0

19	Ladakh	0	65,00,000	45,00,000	10,00,000
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	5,00,000	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	3,00,00,000	5,00,00,000	7,40,00,000	2,50,00,000
22	Maharashtra	6,25,00,000	8,25,00,000	9,60,00,000	0
23	Manipur	1,00,00,000	1,05,00,000	1,90,00,000	50,00,000
24	Meghalaya	50,00,000	50,00,000	2,60,00,000	0
25	Mizoram	50,00,000	1,15,00,000	2,15,00,000	35,00,000
26	Nagaland	50,00,000	1,15,00,000	2,75,00,000	0
27	Odisha	3,25,00,000	4,25,00,000	7,60,00,000	1,50,00,000
28	Puducherry	10,00,000	20,00,000	92,00,000	0
29	Punjab	3,25,00,000	6,40,00,000	6,16,00,000	1,75,00,000
30	Rajasthan	4,55,00,000	7,00,00,000	8,40,00,000	1,75,00,000
31	Sikkim	50,00,000	65,00,000	1,65,00,000	30,00,000
32	Tamil Nadu	4,20,00,000	6,00,00,000	8,10,00,000	2,00,00,000
33	Telangana	3,50,00,000	4,10,00,000	5,05,00,000	2,00,00,000
34	Tripura	2,80,00,000	2,65,00,000	3,40,00,000	75,00,000
35	Uttar Pradesh	6,50,00,000	6,00,00,000	11,80,00,000	2,50,00,000
36	Uttarakhand	2,50,00,000	2,55,00,000	3,55,00,000	75,00,000
37	West Bengal	5,20,00,000	7,00,00,000	8,80,00,000	1,75,00,000
38	Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	1,00,00,000	1,00,00,000	90,00,000	0
39	Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee	0	0	1,25,00,000	0
	Total	1,00,00,00,000	1,45,30,00,000	1,92,08,00,000	37,05,00,000

