

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-847
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 26/07/2024

PARALEGAL VOLUNTEERS

847. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
DR. RANI SRIKUMAR:

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking any steps towards training of paralegal volunteers to represent the needy and to give legal aid and assistance to their respective jurisdiction, State wise including Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government along with the Legal services authorities are working towards strengthening paralegal volunteers since they play crucial role to literate unprivileged and marginalised peoples of society; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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) to (d): The Para-legal Volunteers Scheme was introduced by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in the year 2009, with an aim to impart legal training to the volunteers, who are selected from different walks of life so as to ensure legal aid reaching all sections of people ensuring access to justice. The said scheme was revised in 2017 and re-named as 'Scheme for Para-legal Volunteers (Revised)'. The Para-legal Volunteers (PLVs) are expected to act as intermediaries between the common citizens and the Legal Services Institutions to bridge the gap in ensuring access to justice.

To enhance the capacities of PLVs, especially their skills and representation, NALSA has prepared an extensive training module namely “Module for Training of Para-legal Volunteers”, which covers all aspects necessary for training to the PLVs. This Module is intended to inform and sensitize the PLVs on the Constitutional vision of justice, basics of criminal law, labour laws, law for juveniles and laws for protection of women and senior citizens. It lays emphasis on knowledge of procedure as well as social sensitivity, soft skills of behavior and communication skills which are essential for dealing with a diverse population.

Under the supervision of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), PLVs undergo training programmes at a common place. The number of PLVs to be trained at any given point of time in a training programme does not exceed 50. In addition to orientation and induction trainings, periodical refresher training is also provided to the PLVs in order to enhance their skill from time to time. The Legal Services Authorities periodically assess the work of PLVs and assist them in identifying the deficits and to tackle the problems in the field. The DLSAs resolve their doubts and facilitate the acquisition of knowledge and upgradation of their skills as per the module. The exemplary services of PLVs are given recognition and are rewarded for providing the best services to the beneficiaries.

A statement containing the details of training programmes conducted for PLVs by the Legal Services Authorities including Rajasthan during the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25 (upto May 2024) is at **Annexure-A**.

Annexure-A

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 847 for answering on 26.07.2024 raised by Shri Dushyant Singh and Dr. Rani Srikumar, MPs - Paralegal Volunteers.

S. No	Name of the SLSAs	No of Training Programmes conducted for PLVs	
		2023-24	2024-25 (upto May 2024)
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	7	0
4	Assam	38	3
5	Bihar	95	6
6	Chandigarh	7	1
7	Chhattisgarh	253	38
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0
9	Daman and Diu	0	0
10	Delhi	39	6
11	Goa	2	1
12	Gujarat	22	9
13	Haryana	268	45
14	Himachal Pradesh	74	16
15	Jammu and Kashmir	19	0
16	Jharkhand	182	33
17	Karnataka	58	3
18	Kerala	9	3
19	Ladakh	2	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	145	0
22	Maharashtra	126	38
23	Manipur	18	1
24	Meghalaya	4	6
25	Mizoram	9	0
26	Nagaland	1	0
27	Odisha	53	23
28	Puducherry	3	1
29	Punjab	226	37
30	Rajasthan	47	14
31	Sikkim	18	2
32	Tamil Nadu	63	14
33	Telangana	19	3
34	Tripura	10	1
35	Uttar Pradesh	8	6
36	Uttarakhand	42	3
37	West Bengal	79	19
	Total	1983	332

