

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3734  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2002  
FREE LEGAL AID TO SCS/STS  
JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAYYA;SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

**Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to provide free legal aid to all the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes throughout the country;
- (b) if so, whether his Ministry has sought guidelines from the legal experts in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to provide adequate free legal aid to the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY)

(a) to (d) The Government has already enacted Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society. Under section 12(a) of the aforesaid Act, a member of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe who has to file or defend a case is entitled to Legal Services irrespective of his/her income.