

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3605
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2002
LOK ADALATS
ANANTA NAYAK;GORDHANBHAI JAVIA

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

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up more Lok Adalats in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise; and
- (c) the steps taken in this regard and number of Lok Adalats proposed to be set up in each State ?

Answer

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

(a)to(c) Organizing Lok Adalats is a continuing process and, by the very nature of the purposes of holding Lok Adalats, the same are need based and as such, no specified number of Lok Adalats can be indicated.

The Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 has been amended with a view to providing mechanism for pre-litigation, conciliation and settlement. The amended Act stipulates the establishment of Permanent Lok Adalats for exercising jurisdiction in respect of disputes relating to public utility services, such as transport service, postal, communication, etc. A party to a dispute with such public utility service has been given the option to make an application to the Permanent Lok Adalat to be established under the amending Act, which has been vested with the powers of jurisdiction to decide the matter and pass a binding award which shall be deemed to be a decree of the Civil Court and shall be final.

Upto 30.06.2002, about 1,39,172 Lok Adalats have been held in different parts of the country where about 1.42 crores cases have been settled. In about 7.3 lacs Motors Vehicles Accident Claims cases, compensation amounting to over Rs.3615.93 crores has been awarded.