

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2684

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2003

FREE LEGAL AID

CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

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

- (a) the financial assistance provided by the Government under section 12 of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 during the year 2000, 2001 and 2002, State-wise;
- (b) the number of persons given free legal aid/assistance from legal aid fund during the said period;
- (c) the criteria laid down for providing legal aid by the Government and the legal aid fund authority; and
- (d) the number of applications received for free aid during the said period, State-wise and the number of applications approved and rejected out of them alongwith the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) No financial assistance is provided directly to the State Governments under any provision of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. However, grants-in-aid is released by the National Legal Services Authority to the State Legal Services Authorities for providing legal assistance to the entitled applicants. A statement indicating the details of the said disbursement of funds is annexed.

(b) Number of persons given free legal aid/assistance during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	Number of Legal Aid Beneficiaries
2000	5,81,872
2001	6,08,975
2002	6,43,889

(up to 30.9.2002)

(c) According to Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (39 of 1987), every person who has to file or defend a case shall be entitled to legal services if that person is -

- (a) a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;
- (b) a victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution;
- (c) a woman or a child;
- (d) a mentally ill or otherwise disabled person;
- (e) a person under circumstances of underserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster; or
- (f) an industrial workman; or
- (g) in custody, including custody in a protective home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, or in a juvenile home within the meaning of clause (j) of section 2 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987; or

(h) in receipt of annual income less than rupees nine thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court, and less than rupees twelve thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government, if the case is before the Supreme Court.

(d) Requisite information with respect to beneficiaries of legal aid during the last three years has been given in reply to part (b) above. Separate data about number of persons not given legal aid is not maintained. However, subject to entitlement to legal services under the Act, no person was denied legal aid/assistance.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2684 TO BE ANSWERED ON 7.3.2003.

Statement showing the details of the amount allocated by National Legal Services Authority during the three financial years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (upto 28.2.2003), State-wise (including Supreme Court Legal Services Committee)

S. No. Name of the State/UT 2000-01 2001-02 2002-03

1. Andhra Pradesh Rs. Rs.18,00,000 Rs.20,00,000

2. Arunachal Pradesh

3. Assam 10,00,000 15,00,000

4. Bihar 15,00,000 10,25,000

5. Goa

6. Gujarat 59,50,000 25,00,000

7 Haryana 35,00,000 7,00,000

8. Himachal Pradesh 5,00,000 5,00,000

9. Jammu & Kashmir 9,50,000

10. Karnataka 5,00,000

11. Kerala 35,50,000 15,00,000

12. Madhya Pradesh 20,00,000

13. Maharashtra 1,98,000 2,98,000

14. Manipur

15. Meghalaya 5,00,000

16. Mizoram 8,00,000 11,55,000 10,00,000

17. Nagaland 5,00,000

18. Orissa 17,30,000 15,00,000 41,00,000

19. Punjab 50,00,000 5,00,000

20. Rajasthan 40,55,000 15,00,000 10,00,000

21. Sikkim

22. Tamil Nadu 10,00,000 5,00,000

23. Tripura 13,00,000 6,00,000

24. Uttar Pradesh 15,10,000 50,500 5,30,000

25. West Bengal 5,10,000 16,00,000 25,00,000

26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

27. Chandigarh

28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli

29. Daman and Diu

30. Delhi.

31. Lakshadweep

32. Pondicherry 10,00,000

33. Supreme Court Legal

Services Committee 17,00,000 30,00,000 35,00,000

34. Jharkhand 10,00,000

35. Uttaranchal 10,00,000

Total 3,32,55,000 1,66,03,500 2,62,53,000