

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2669
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2003
LOK ADALATS
SURESH KURUP

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to strengthen Lok Adalats in the country as a forum for alternate dispute resolution; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (SRRIP.C. THOMAS)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to strengthen Lok Adalats as a forum for Alternate Dispute Resolution, the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 has been amended through Legal Services Authorities Amendment Act, 2002 on 11.6.2002 for 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. Under the Amended Act, a party to a dispute, relating to public utility services has been given an option to make an application to the Permanent Lok Adalat to be established under the Act. Such Permanent Lok Adalats have 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.