

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:633
ANSWERED ON:11.11.2010
LOK ADALATS
Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued any directions/ guidelines to the Legal Services Authorities of the States to organise more Lok Adalats to dispose of the pending court cases speedily;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the response of the State Legal Services Authorities thereon; and
- (c) the number of Lok Adalats organised by the various State Legal Services Authorities during the last six months, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The State Legal Services Authorities have been issued guidelines/ directions by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to organise more Lok Adalats to dispose of pending court cases speedily. They have been circulated National Plan of Action 2010-11 of NALSA to widen the network of the Lok Adalat. The State Legal Services Authorities have been provided funds to purchase a van to be suitably designed as 'Mobile Lok Adalat Van'. A van of this type is intended to reach into the deeper pockets of villages, the people of which are ordinarily prevented from access to justice. A large number of under-trial prisoners charged with compoundable offences can avail of the benefits of Lok Adalats in the jails itself leading to their early release. The State Legal Services Authorities have been instructed to organise Mega Lok Adalats in all courts and Tribunals including DRTs, Labour Courts, Industrial Tribunals and Family Courts on the basis of a pre-scheduled calendar. The response of the State Legal Services Authority's is good.

The Department of Expenditure (Finance Commission Division, Ministry of Finance), has issued guidelines with regard to organizing more and more Lok Adalats for disposal of pending court cases speedily. With the objective of improving justice delivery including for Lok Adalat, the Thirteenth Finance Commission has recommended a grant of T 5,000 crore over its award period 2010-15, through the following initiatives amongst others:

- i) Enhancing support to Lok Adalats to reduce the pressure on regular courts,
- ii) Promoting the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism to resolve part of the disputes outside the court system.

As regards Lok Adalats, the 13th Finance Commission has proposed to allot funds with the guideline that a component of the justice delivery grant is to be used to enable States to hold about ten mega Lok Adalats per High Court per year and about five Lok Adalats for each of the 1500 court locations per year, during 2010-15. The Lok Adalats are expected to reduce pendency of cases in court so as to dispose 15 lakh cases each year, and 75 lakh cases during 2010-15

(c): A Statement showing number of Lok Adalats organised by all the State Legal Services Authorities in the country during the last six months (January, 2010 to June, 2010) is annexed as Annexure.