

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2869

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2011

LOK ADALATS

Panda Shri Baijayant;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to set up more Lok : Adalats in the country to clear pending cases in High courts and ` . Lower courts;
- (b) if so,the details thereof alongwith the number of Lok Adalats at : present functioning in various States;
- (c) the number of cases cleared by these Lok Adalats during the last ; three years,State-wise;
- (d) the extent to which it has reduced the number of pending cases in High courts and Lower courts;
- (e) whether in view of the successful functioning of the Adalats, Government is considering to provide assistance to the States to set up more Fast Track Courts/ Lok Adalats; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) Yes Madam.

(b), (c) & (d) Lok Adalats are organized from time to time for the settlement of cases and pre-litigation disputes as per the provisions of sections 19 and 20 of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) through the State Legal Services Authorities, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, High Court Legal Services Committees, District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees has been organizing Lok Adalats in the courts all over the country since 1995. The main aim of organizing Lok Adalats is to provide an opportunity to settle disputes within a short period. The State Legal Services Authorities have been issued guidelines/ directions by the NALSA vide NALSA (Lok Adalat) Regulations, 2009 to organize more and more Lok Adalats for disposal of cases speedily. National Plan of Action for the year 2011-12 of NALSA has also been circulated to all State Legal Services Authorities directing them to widen the network of the Lok Adalats.

A statement showing the number of Lok Adalats organized and cases settled through these Lok Adalats in various States/Union Territories during the last three calendar years viz. 2008, 2009 and 2010, is annexed at Annexure `A`.

The statistics in annexure `A` will show the extent to which pendency of cases in the courts has come down by organizing Lok Adalats and thereby reducing the cases pending before various courts.

(e) & (f) The Government has accepted the recommendations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission to provide a grant of ? 5,000 crore to the States with the objective of improving the justice delivery system in the country. Out of Rs. 5,000 crore, Rs 100/- crore has been provided for enhancing support to Lok Adalats to reduce the pressure on regular courts. The grants would enable the States to hold about ten mega Lok Adalats per High Court per year and about five Lok Adalats for each of the court locations per year, during 2010-15. The Lok Adalats are expected to reduce pendency of cases in courts by 75 lakhs during 2010-15.

The Eleventh Finance Commission recommended a scheme for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) in the country for disposal of long pending sessions and other cases. FTCs are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Court. The Ministry of Finance sanctioned an amount of Rs 502.90 crores as `special problem and upgradation grant` for judicial administration. The scheme was for a period of 5 years. The Government accorded its approval for the continuation of 1562 FTCs that were operational as on 31-03-2005 for a further period of five years i.e. upto 31-03-2010 with a provision of ? 509 crores. The scheme of central assistance for FTCs was extended for a period of one year i.e. upto 31-03-2011. It has been decided that there will be no central funding for FTCs beyond 31-03-2011.