

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:99  
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2009  
FREE LEGAL AID  
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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

- (a) the total funds allocated for providing free legal aid to the poor and under trial prisoners during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether all the States have utilised the funds properly;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to revise the norms in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for providing adequate free legal aid to the poor and under trial prisoners?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.99 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 9.7.2009.

Part (a): National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) allocates funds to State Legal Services Authorities etc. for implementation of legal aid schemes/programmes framed under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. There is no specific allotment of funds made for the poor and under trial prisoners. The allocation of funds is meant for the purpose of providing free legal aid to all categories of persons as specified under the provisions of Section 12 of the said Act, which includes amongst others under trial prisoners also. As regards other categories of persons, every person whose annual income does not exceed Rs.50,000/- is eligible for getting free legal services in cases before the Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate Courts thereto.

The details of the funds allocated by NALSA to State Legal Services Authorities etc. during each of the last three financial years viz, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and also during the current financial year 2009-10 (upto June 2009) are as under:-

S.No. Years Amount

- |    |         |                                 |
|----|---------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | 2006-07 | Rs. 74643600/-                  |
| 2. | 2007-08 | Rs. 147011650/-                 |
| 3. | 2008-09 | Rs. 136124000/-                 |
| 4. | 2009-10 | Rs. 5120000/- (till June, 2009) |

Part (b): Yes, Madam,

Part (c): Does not arise.

Parts (d) & (e): The Department of Legal Affairs proposes the beneficiaries by including categories (a) senior citizens (b) dependent of family Members of Armed Forces personnel and personnel of the Para-Military forces, who died in action (c) Victims of terrorists/extremist violence and riots, in Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The matter is under process.

Part(f): As stated in the reply to part (a) above.