

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3182

ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Panda Shri Baijayant;Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab

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

- (a) the details of financial assistance provided by the Union Government under Article 12 of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 during the last three years till date, State-wise;
- (b) the number of persons received and number of persons who have not received free legal assistance during the said period, State-wise;
- (c) the norms fixed by the Union Government and the Legal Assistance Fund Authority to provide free legal assistance to the people;
- (d) the number of applications received to provide free legal assistance during the said period and the number of applications out of them accepted and rejected, State-wise; and
- (e) the reasons for rejecting the applications during the said period?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a): A statement showing details of funds provided by National Legal Services Authority to various States and Union Territories Legal Services Authorities and the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee during the last three financial years is given in ANNEXURE.

(b): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c): Under section 12 of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, every person who has to file or defend a case is eligible to get free legal aid provided he is:

i. a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;

ii. a victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar as referred to in article 23 of the Constitution;

iii. a woman or a child;

iv. a person with disability as defined in clause (i) of section 2 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (1 of 1996);

v. a person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster; or

vi. an industrial workman: or

vii. 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, or in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987; or

viii. in receipt of annual income as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Courts and as may be prescribed by the Central Government, if the case is before the Supreme Court.

(d)&(e): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.