

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4398

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2012

SPEEDY JUSTICE

Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide free and speedy justice to the poor and middle class people so that they can have full faith in judicial system of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering any proposal for determining a specific time-frame for the disposal of cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b) : Article 39A of the Constitution of India provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society and ensures justice for all. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 was enacted by the Parliament, to establish a nationwide uniform network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society on the basis of equal opportunity. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under this Act, to monitor and evaluate implementation of legal aid programmes and to lay down policies and principles in this regard. The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee has been constituted to administer and implement legal services programme relating to the Supreme Court of India. State Legal Services Authorities have been constituted in every State and High Court Legal Services Committee has been constituted in every High Court.

District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees have been constituted in 596 districts and 2037 taluks, respectively. For the financial year 2012-13, grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 44.5 crores was allocated to NALSA by the Central Government for implementation of legal services programmes throughout the country. Alternate dispute resolution mechanisms like Lok Adalats, Gram Nyayalayas etc. have been created. Lok Adalats are conducted at various levels to provide speedy justice. Up to 31.08.2012, about 1.25 crore persons have benefited through free legal aid and advice. As on 30.11.2012, 168 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified, out of which 151 have been operationalised in different States.

In terms of the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, every person who has to file or defend a case is eligible to get free legal services, provided he is :-

(i) a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;

(ii) a victim of trafficking in human beings or begar 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 the 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 underserved 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 Court, and as may be prescribed by the Central Government, if the case is before the Supreme Court.

(c) : No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(d) : Does not arise.