

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:990  
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013  
ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR MARGINALISED PEOPLE  
Biswal Shri Hemanand

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

- (a) the initiatives taken under the Project 'Access to Justice for Marginalised People' in various States during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the action taken with regard to improving the institutional capacities of justice services providers, State wise; and
- (c) the outcomes of the scheme, State-wise, including the State of Odisha?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b) Under Project on Access to Justice for Marginalised People, various initiatives were undertaken in seven States namely Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh in the last three years. These include rights against domestic violence, other women's rights, rights of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), land rights, forest dwellers rights, right to information (RTI) and rights under the existing criminal laws. Most of the Project activities were conducted in two year partnerships with Civil Society Organisations. In the current phase of the Project (2013-17) new set of activities are being launched. These initiatives were undertaken in all the Project working States.

Actions taken in collaboration with justice delivery institutions such as National Legal Service Authority (NALSA), State Legal Service Authorities (SLSAs) and State Judicial Academies (SJAs). The programs include activities like capacity development events, State and national consultations, supporting NALSA/SLSAs to strengthen the Paralegal Volunteers Scheme, preparing two training modules for sensitizing judges. These actions have been taken in the entire Project working States.

(c) The scheme has resulted in improving access to justice for marginalised people in seven Project working States including Odisha. Project reached out to over 2 million people through innovative legal aid and legal empowerment activities, over 7000 paralegal workers were created and over 300 legal aid lawyers have been trained and sensitized. Project also developed two separate modules for sensitization of judges on laws and issues relating to marginalized communities.