

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:596
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2015
LEGAL AID CENTRE
Patil Shri Kapil Moreshwar

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

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to set up more legal aid clinics across the country;
- (b) if so, the details and present status thereof, State-wise including Maharashtra;
- (c) the details of legal services being rendered by these clinics along with the objectives thereof;
- (d) the criteria adopted for appointment of advocates in these clinics; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to appoint women advocates also in these clinics and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

- (a) Yes, Madam. The National Legal Services Authority (Legal Aid Clinics) Regulations, 2011 provide establishment of legal aid clinics in all villages, or for a cluster of villages depending on the size of such villages, especially where the people face geographical, and other barriers for access to the legal services institutions.
- (b) The requisite information is being collected from the State Legal Services Authorities.
- (c) The objective of this Scheme is to provide an inexpensive local machinery/legal services institutions established Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 for rendering legal services of basic nature like legal advice, drafting of petitions, notices, replies, applications and other documents of legal importance and also for resolution of disputes by making the parties to see the reason and thereby preventing disputes reaching courts.
- (d) & (e) The Legal aid Clinics are primarily manned by the trained para-legal volunteers (PLVs). However, subject to the local requirements and availability of financial resources, the legal services institutions having territorial jurisdiction may decide and depute panel lawyers including women lawyers to visit the legal aid clinics. Panel lawyers/retainer lawyer with skills for amicable settlement of the disputes, shall alone be considered for being deputed in the legal aid clinic provided that preference shall be given to women lawyers having the practice of at least 3 years.