

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:327

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2016

Free Legal Aid

Chautala Shri Dushyant;George Shri (Adv.) Joice;Mohammed Shri Faizal P.P.;Parthipan Shri R.

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

- (a) the details of authorities/institutions involved in providing free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society in the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to strengthen these authorities/institutions including the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised by these authorities/institutions including NALSA during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has any mechanism to monitor the functioning/performance of these authorities/institutions including NALSA and to ensure proper utilisation of funds so allocated and for better and effective implementation of various programmes so as to help the end users specially the undertrial prisoners, victims of sexual harassment/natural calamities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 has set up legal services institutions at all levels from the level of Taluk Courts to the Supreme Court to provide free legal services to the persons eligible under Section 12 of the Act. These include the National Legal Services Authority, the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, the High Court Legal Services Committees, the State Legal Services Authorities, the District Legal Services Authorities and

the Taluka Legal Services Committees. Free legal services include payment of court fees, providing advocate and preparation of paper work, etc.

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has notified National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010 which provide free legal aid to the aforesaid poor and weaker section of the society such as members of SC/ST, women, children etc. Advocates, panel lawyers for legal aid cases are appointed at all levels including in the High Courts and Supreme Court by the Legal Services Institutions for prosecuting or defending the Court cases on behalf of all persons who are eligible for Legal Services.

(c) National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) receives its funds from the Government of India (Ministry of Law & Justice) for undertaking various legal services activities under Section 4 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Funds allocated to NALSA during the last three years i.e. 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and the current financial year 2015-16 are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No. Year Funds allocated Funds utilized

1 2012-13 3900.00 3692.61

2 2013-14 8044.46 6041.69

3 2014-15 8265.42 5601.70

4 2015-16 6797.00 6065.61

A statement showing State-wise details of funds provided by NALSA to State Legal Services Authorities is at Annexure-A.

(d) & (e) Yes, Madam. The implementation of Legal Services Schemes and also proper utilization of fund are being discussed and evaluated in the All India Meet/Conference being organized with State Authorities from time to time. The State Authorities have been requested to take steps to ensure that the funds are utilized properly and timely submission of audited statement of accounts and Utilization Certificates submitted in respect of funds utilized.

Further, the NALSA (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010, the NALSA (Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation)Scheme, 2015 and the Scheme for Legal Services to Disaster Victims through Legal Services Authorities framed by NALSA provide for free legal assistance to the poor and also undertrial prisoners, victims of sexual harassment/natural calamities, etc.

Annexure-A
Rs. In Lakhs

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QN. NO.327 FOR 25.02.2016
REGARDING FREE LEGAL AID .

(A statement containing the details of the funds allocated/released by National Legal Services Authority to State Legal Services
Authorities during the last three financial years i.e. 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and the current financial year 2015-16)

S.No. Name of the State Authority 2012-13 2013-14 2014-15 Current Financial Year 2015-16

Amount of Funds Allocated Amount of Funds Allocated Amount of Funds Allocated Amount of Funds Allocated

1 Andhra Pradesh	150	300	215	300
2 Arunachal Pradesh	25	122	97	83.89
3 Assam	138	122	97	200
4 Bihar	125	300	215	50
5 Chhattisgarh	50	222	163	200
6 Goa	25	147	113	50
7 Gujrat	150	257	187	250
8 Haryana	175	277	855.68	50
9 Himachal Pradesh	75	172	130	800
10 J & K	125	172	130	200
11 Jharkhand	75	142	110	200
12 Karnataka	100	247	180	250
13 Kerala	175	272	347	150
14 Madhya Pradesh	225	182	137	100
15 Maharashtra	150	172	130	200
16 Manipur	75	172	130	50
17 Meghalaya	75	122	97	50
18 Mizoram	75	147	113	75
19 Nagaland	75	172	130	100
20 Orissa	150	222	163	200
21 Punjab	150	172	130	300
22 Rajasthan	150	182	137	200
23 Sikkim	75	122	97	75
24 Tamil Nadu	175	182	137	240
25 Telangana - -	215	150		
26 Tripura	75	122	97	100
27 Uttar Pradesh	100	152	115	100
28 Uttarakhand	75	147	113	100
29 West Bengal	175	147	113	250
30 And. & Nico. Islands	5	30	35	50
31 U.T. Chandigarh	30	122	97	50
32 Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5	30	35	50
33 Daman & Diu	5	30	35	50
34 Delhi	125	172	130	331
35 Lakshadweep	5	30	35	50
36 U.T.Puducherry	75	97	80	50
37 Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	100	200	135	250

Grand Total 3538 5878 5475.68 5954.89