

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:497
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014
LEGAL AID CLINICS
Dubey Shri Nishikant

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

- (a) whether the Government proposed to set up free legal aid clinics in all the villages in the country to help the poor strata of the society;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether women lawyers`are proposed to be given preference in appointment In such clinics;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the firm steps taken by the Government to provide easily accessible legal services to the large rural population?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE & COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

- (a): The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has notified the National Legal Services (Legal Aid Clinics) Regulations, 2011. These Regulations provide for establishment of legal aid clinics in all villages, or for a cluster of villages, depending upon the size of such village, especially where the people face geographical, social and other barriers for access to the legal services institutions.
- (b): The number of Legal Aid Clinics set up in villages, State-wise for the period upto 30.04.2014 is given in the ANNEXURE.
- (c) & (d): Yes Madam, subject to the availability of women lawyers, the Legal Services institutions having territorial jurisdiction are deputing Women Panel Lawyers to such clinics.
- (e): The aim of this Scheme is to provide an inexpensive local machinery for rendering legal services of basic nature like legal advice, drafting of petitions, notices, replies, applications and other documents of legal importance. In cases where legal services of a higher degree are required, the matter can be referred to the legal services institutions established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 for further legal assistance from panel lawyers.

The para-legal volunteers or the lawyers engaged in the legal aid clinics are expected to attempt amicable resolution of the pre-litigation disputes. If the para-legal volunteers or the lawyers feel that such disputes can be resolved through any of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, they refer such disputes to the legal services institutions having territorial jurisdiction or the District ADR Centre.