

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 3472
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 21/03/2025

JUSTICE FOR WEAKER SECTIONS OF SOCIETY

3472. SHRI GURMEET SINGH MEET HAYER:

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

- (a) the details of Government schemes aimed to make justice accessible for economically weaker sections;
- (b) the details and numbers of individuals who have availed legal aid services under these schemes during last 10 years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the success rate of cases filed under these schemes and the manner in which it compares to cases where private legal representation is used;
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to ensure the quality and effectiveness of legal representation provided under these initiatives;
- (e) the amount of funds allocated and utilized for these schemes in the last five years and the mechanism to monitor their impact; and
- (f) whether the Government has any proposal to expand or reform these schemes to enhance their reach and effectiveness, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) to (f): National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the Act. This Act ensures that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable

settlement of disputes. In addition, NALSA has also formulated various schemes for the implementation of preventive and strategic legal service programmes, which are implemented by the Legal Services Authorities at various levels i.e. State, District and Taluka level.

Government is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme named “Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India” (DISHA) for a period of five years (2021-2026), at an outlay of Rs. 250 crores. The DISHA scheme aims to provide easy, accessible, affordable and citizen-centric delivery of legal services through the Tele-Law, Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) and Legal Literacy and Legal awareness programme. Under the DISHA scheme, Tele- Law connects citizens with the lawyers through mobile app “Tele- Law” and Toll Free number for rendering pre-litigation advice; Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono services) facilitates registered beneficiaries to avail pro bono legal representation in courts and under the Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme, citizens are empowered to know, understand and avail their legal rights, duties and entitlements. Till 28th February 2025, DISHA scheme through its various programmes has covered approximately 2.10 crore beneficiaries in the country.

The Government of India is implementing another Central Sector Scheme namely; Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme through NALSA. LADCS Scheme aims to provide legal aid with regard to criminal cases only to the beneficiaries eligible for legal aid under Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987. The approved financial outlay of LADCS scheme is Rs. 998.43 crore for 3 years (F.Y. 2023-24 to F.Y. 2025-26). As on 30th December 2024, LADC offices are functional in 654 districts across the country and has engaged 5251 staff including 3448 Defense Counsels. During the year 2024-25 (upto December, 2024), LADCS offices dealt more than 3.95 lakh criminal cases.

The State/UT-wise details of number of persons benefited through legal aid services provided by the Legal Services Institutions during the last ten financial years i.e. 2015-16 to 2024-25 (upto December, 2024) are at **Annexure – A**. The data related to private legal representation is not maintained centrally.

NALSA has framed ‘The National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010’, which provides for establishment of the Monitoring and Mentoring Committee (MMCs) at all tiers i.e. Supreme Court of India, High Courts, State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs)/District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and

Taluka Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) for close monitoring of the court based legal services rendered and the progress of the cases in the legal aid matters and to guide and advise the panel lawyers in providing quality legal services.

Funds under Grants-in-aid head are allocated and released to NALSA by the Government on yearly basis. The details of Grants-in-aid allocated to and utilized by NALSA during the last five years are as follows:

Financial year	Fund Allotted (Rs. In Crore)	Fund Utilized (Rs. In Crore)
2020-21	100	100
2021-22	145	145
2022-23	190	190
2023-24	200	200
2024-25	200	200

For implementation of LADCS Scheme, Rs 200 crore and Rs. 150 crore were released to NALSA during the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively. In addition, for DISHA Scheme, Rs. 171.15 crore have been allocated of which Rs. 156.13 crore has been utilised as on date.

In order to monitor the performance of the legal services authorities, NALSA receives monthly activity reports from all the SLSAs highlighting all the activities carried out in a particular month. Thereafter, a final activity report on monthly basis is sent by NALSA to the Government which is reviewed and compiled. Apart from monthly activity reports, NALSA also receives Annual Reports from all the SLSAs and prepares its own Annual Report, which is laid before both Houses of the Parliament. Further, All India and Regional Meets are also organized by NALSA to monitor the performance of Legal Services Authorities. Expansion and bringing reforms in an existing schemes is a continuous process which is carried out simultaneously during their implementation.

Annexure-A

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3472 for answering on 21.03.2025 regarding Justice for Weaker Sections of Society

The State/UT-wise details of number of persons benefited through legal aid services provided by the Legal Services Institutions during the last ten years i.e 2015-16 to 2024-25 (upto December, 2024)

S. No.	Name of the State / UT Authority	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	57	39	119	51	43	65	79	134	220	205
2	Andhra Pradesh	3526	5722	7896	4545	4396	4474	6371	9473	8265	7185
3	Arunachal Pradesh	228	1172	3760	3752	3932	1984	2657	5559	5696	6371
4	Assam	1083	4215	7033	8850	8002	10027	110254	38335	63749	60121
5	Bihar	4257	9411	36567	78273	60139	38653	1689158	209809	151413	64390
6	Chandigarh	1226	2131	2521	3768	2261	1242	1781	2653	2822	2207
7	Chhattisgarh	39829	38785	43165	67318	81713	26814	42394	44106	62164	59670
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1004	131	15	28	28	10	27	28	55	32
	Daman & Diu	16	9	16	0	0	0	17	24	34	70
9	Delhi	31535	35286	42683	53015	79458	82131	79055	96433	121882	56471
10	Goa	1055	1214	1426	1612	3006	875	1101	2041	1558	1281
11	Gujarat	12817	12030	19885	21541	26887	8302	21953	32422	40569	36540
12	Haryana	9641	15811	18415	20326	19019	11059	23260	43098	76863	54796
13	Himachal Pradesh	1611	2340	3634	4842	4368	2083	4806	5998	7346	4845
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1605	3294	1402	4022	4961	7675	8870	7992	11396	12611
15	Jharkhand	4335	16007	79604	80640	30530	131691	649481	145217	269303	201453
16	Karnataka	3246	39878	53535	72621	145015	23211	32794	45663	53406	35209

17	Kerala	14242	78021	97249	533259	71058	11242	16895	23418	36498	19579
18	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	93	2408	711	505	261
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	48711	68227	140081	199129	268351	87843	3343800	191921	225510	189493
21	Maharashtra	7225	7692	14219	21265	24060	12278	22595	36663	53756	42480
22	Manipur	107	10292	10208	19620	18257	56635	22651	26929	62635	66914
23	Meghalaya	2342	2410	3802	3238	2914	2131	2346	2769	2371	1811
24	Mizoram	4237	4741	8536	12716	9473	1670	3201	5038	4801	3228
25	Nagaland	3981	8107	10749	38358	3691	4231	7750	7390	4603	3701
26	Odisha	3270	3768	7011	9695	8025	6029	8849	11880	19289	16243
27	Puducherry	993	729	1176	1299	1295	309	884	788	621	469
28	Punjab	12090	21153	31991	36131	127829	27096	36404	56448	60361	48984
29	Rajasthan	6112	15310	22002	14232	32413	12274	13833	13472	20290	16179
30	Sikkim	1091	1073	982	960	928	702	986	1127	1074	693
31	Tamil Nadu	59633	44522	59668	40835	35552	26491	38181	49570	45180	39403
32	Telangana	1772	2620	9051	18396	15145	3488	6712	12615	13193	11287
33	Tripura	2180	4972	9315	15089	13595	2156	2671	5055	9964	8339
34	Uttar Pradesh	8774	68367	46371	76852	60819	3545	132629	24890	29079	19026
35	Uttarakhand	1112	1905	2756	2703	3018	2343	3775	5386	21339	22798
36	West Bengal	16727	25305	25901	36235	41956	20906	29015	49714	62354	65454
	Total	311670	556689	822856	1505216	1212137	631758	6369643	1214769	1550164	1179800