

H.P. State Legal Services Authority, Shimla-171009.

Section 4 (1)(b) of Right to Information Act (17-Point information)

<u>Sr. No.</u>	<u>Particular</u>	<u>Detail</u>
(i)	The particulars of its organization functions and duties.	<p>Organization:-</p> <p>With considerable advancement in the fields of Industrialisation, Information Technology, Education, Transportation and Communication, people have become aware of their legal rights and the regular Courts have been flooded with cases which take years to dispose off. It has become very difficult to cope up with the present system of dispensation of justice with utmost promptitude. The litigation is costly and sometimes beyond the reach of common people, who are below poverty-line. The Preamble of our Constitution provides to secure to all its citizens JUSTICE, social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity. Article 21 further provides that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. Article 22 protects the rights of a person arrested and detained in custody. Article 39-A casts a duty on the State to secure that operation of the legal system promotes justice, on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or Scheme or in any other way to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities. Thus, there exists constitutional obligation to provide free legal services to needy and poor persons at State expenses.</p> <p>In the year 1987, the Legal Services Authorities Act was enacted with a view to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities and to organize Lok Adalats so as to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunity. Pursuant to the Legal Services Authorities Act, many States have framed rules and regulations for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society. The State Authority has constituted Legal Services Committees throughout the State at Sub Divisional Head Quarters, headed by the senior most Judicial Officer in the Sub Division. The District Legal Services Authorities have been constituted under the Chairmanship of respective District & Sessions Judges. At the High Court level, a Legal Services</p>

Committee is functioning under the Chairmanship of a sitting Judge of the Hon'ble High Court. All these Committees/Authorities have been provided with adequate funds to meet their requirements, so that Free Legal Aid is provided to the needy persons at their door-steps. As per the Rules framed under the Legal Services Authorities Act,1987 a person is entitled to free legal aid if his annual income does not exceed Rs.1,00,000/- per annum. In deserving cases Legal Services Committee/ Authority is competent to give relaxation in the aforesaid monetary limit of Rs.1,00,000/- per annum. The following are entitled for legal services:

1. a member of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe;
2. a victim of trafficking in human beings or 'beggar' as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution of India;
3. a woman or a child;
4. a person with disability
5. a person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake, or industrial disaster; or
6. an industrial workman; or
7. a persons in custody, including that of a protective home, juvenile home, psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home; or
8. Any citizen of India whose annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lac) shall be entitled to legal services under clause (h) of section 12 of the Act.
9. Transgender people; and
10. Senior citizen who attain the age of 60 years and above and whose annual income is less than two lakh Rupees.

Legal Aid Means and includes;

1. Appointment of Advocates for eligible persons;
2. Court Fee on behalf of eligible persons;
3. Expenses regarding typing and preparation of petitions and documents;
4. Expenses for summoning of witnesses on behalf of eligible persons; and
5. Other expenses incidental to litigation.

		<p><u>Eligible person may contact the following persons to seek help:-</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At High Court level, Secretary of the High Court Legal Services Committee. 2. At District level, District and Sessions Judge who is Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority or Secretary, District Legal Services Authority. 3. At Sub Division level, senior most Judicial Officer who is Chairman of Sub Divisional Legal Services Committee. 4. Retainer Lawyers/Para Legal Volunteers in Front offices and village Legal Care and Support Centres/Legal Aid Clinics. <p style="text-align: center;">Adequate funds are provided to these Authorities/Committees by the H.P. State Legal Services Authority for giving legal aid to eligible persons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. In addition, the persons eligible for Free Legal Aid may also make application on simple paper to the Member Secretary, H.P. State Legal Services Authority, Block No. 22, S.D.A. Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-171009 or contact on telephone No. 0177-2623862, 2626962 & 2624862. <p><u>Functions of the State Authority:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It shall be the duty of the State Authority to give effect to the policy and directions of the Central Authority; 2. To give legal service to persons who satisfy the criteria laid down under this Act; 3. To conduct Lok Adalats, including Lok Adalats for High Court cases; 4. To undertake preventive and strategic legal aid programmes, and 5. To perform such other functions as the State Authority may, in consultation with the Central Authority, fix by regulations.
(ii)	The powers and duties of its officers and employees.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Member Secretary</u> Member Secretary is overall administrative in charge of the Department who deals with all matters (except policy matters of the NALSA and State Government) which are ordered by the Hon'ble Executive Chairman. 2. <u>Administrative Officer</u> All establishment and Legal matters are moved through him.

3. Assistant Controller (F&A)

Assistant Controller (F&A) is the supervisory Incharge and looking after the work of Audit and Accounts, sanctions cases and service matters i.e. pay fixation cases, completion of services books, matters relating to Grant-in-Aid received from NALSA and State Government and all financial matters are also processed through him/her.

4. Law Officer

The Law Officer of this Authority examine the cases and records his opinion on the files of the Authority and further submit the same to the higher officers for final approval.

5. Senior Assistants

They are allotted work of specific seats by the Member Secretary and are responsible to dispose of the allotted work. After dealing with such matters, the same are submitted to the Member Secretary/ Administrative Officer for necessary action and appropriate orders.

6. Legal Literacy Co-ordinator

Legal Literacy Co-ordinator coordinate in organising Legal Literacy Camps and Legal Aid Schemes/programmes.

7. Senior Scale Stenographer

Attached with Ld. Member Secretary.

8. Junior Scale Stenographer

Attached with Administrative Officer.

9. Steno-Typist

For H.P. High Court Legal Services Committee.

10. Junior Assistant/Clerks

Legal Aid Beneficiaries, work relating to Authorities/ Committees, Diary and Dispatch of the dak and any other work assigned by the higher Authorities.

11. Drivers

To Drive Swift Dzire Car, Maruti Gypsy, Bolero, Mobile Court Bus, Scorpio and Innova Vehicles.

12. Peons

Attached with Member Secretary and Administrative Officer and Distribution of Dak/files of their respective sections for Distribution of local dak.

		<p>13. <u>Safai KaramChari</u> To clean the office premises.</p> <p>14. <u>Chowkidar</u> To watch the office at night time.</p>
(iii)	The procedure followed in the decision making process including channels of supervision and accountability.	All the cases in the Authority are submitted on file by the concerned Dealing Assistant/Legal Literacy Co-ordinator supervised by the Administrative Officer/Accounts Officer/Law Officer as the case may be and submitted to the Member Secretary. Member Secretary submits it further to the Hon'ble Executive Chairman, H.P. State Legal Services Authority as and when required. Routine matters and inforatory references are disposed of by the Member Secretary. Financial matters/expenditure sanctions and decision taking power regarding financial matter vests with the Member Secretary.
(iv)	The norms set by it for the discharge of its functions.	As stated at point (ii) & (iii).
(v)	The rules, Regulations instructions, Manuals and records held by it or under its control.	<p>The various Rules, Regulations and Schemes being followed while discharging the functions in different works which are as under:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The H.P. State Legal Services Authority, Rules, 1995. 2. The H.P. State Legal Services Authority, Regulations, 1996. 3. The H.P. Legal Aid Counsel Scheme, 2003. 4. The H.P. Lok Adalat Scheme, 2005. 5. The H.P. Legal Literacy Camp Scheme, 2005. 6. The scheme for Legal Services Clinics in Universities, law colleges and other institutions. 7. National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalat) Regulations, 2009. 8. National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010. 9. National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services Clinics) Regulations, 2011. 10. National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services Clinics in Universities, Law Colleges and other Institutions) Scheme, 2013. 11. Scheme for Legal Services to Disaster Victims through Legal Servicers Authorities. 12. Scheme for Para Legal Volunteers (Revised) & Module for Orientation- Induction-Refresher Courses for PLV training, various guidelines issue by NALSA from time to time. 13. Calendar for Activities prepared by the State Legal Services Authority.

		<p>14. NALSA (Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation) Scheme, 2015.</p> <p>15. NALSA (Legal Services to the Workers in the Unorganized Sector) Scheme, 2015.</p> <p>16. NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services to Children and their Protection) Scheme, 2015.</p> <p>17. NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally III and Mentally Disabled Persons) Scheme, 2015.</p> <p>18. NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes) Scheme, 2015.</p> <p>19. NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015.</p> <p>20. NALSA (Legal Services to the Victims of Drug Abuse and Eradication of Drug Menace) Scheme, 2015.</p> <p>21. Any other direction given by NALSA/ State of H.P.</p> <p>All other Acts/Rules/Regulations which are required for the examining case files legally/ administratively so that the effective opinion is given.</p>	
(vi)	A statement of the categories of the documents that are held by it or under its control.	Files relating to the subjects as mentioned above.	
(vii)	The particulars of any arrangement that exists for consultation with, or representation by the members of public in relation to the formulation of its policy or administration thereof.	Not applicable	
(viii)	A statement of the board, councils, committees and other bodies consisting of two	Constitution of the State Legal Services Authority	
		1. The Chief Justice of H.P. High Court.	Patron-in-Chief
		2. The Judge of the High Court to be nominated by the Governor, in consultation	Executive Chairman

or more persons constituted as its part or for the purpose of its advice, and as to whether meeting of those boards, councils, committees and other bodies and open to the public or the minutes of such meeting are accessible for public.	with the Chief Justice of High Court	
	3. The Advocate General of the State	Ex-Officio Member
	4. The Principal Secretary (Finance) to the Govt. of H.P.	-do-
	5. The L.R.-cum-Principal Secretary (Law) to the Govt. of H.P.	-do-
	6. The Chairman of the Bar Council of H.P.	-do-
	7. The Director General of Police of the State.	-do-
	8. The Principal Secretary (SJ&E) to the Govt. of H.P.	-do-
	9. The Chairman (District Judge), District Legal Services Authority, Shimla & the Chairman (Districts Judge) District Legal Services Authority, Kangra at Dharamshala.	-do-
	10. Four other members nominated by the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court are as under:- 1) Shri Mrigainder Singh, District & Sessions Judge (Retd.) 2) Dr. J.N. Barowalia, Pr. Secretary (Law) (Retd.) 3) Shri Bhagwan Singh Nainta, IAS (Retd.) 4) Smt. Shilpa Sood, Advocate	Non-Official Member
	11. Member Secretary, State Legal Services Authority	Member Secretary
	The functions of the Authority are as under:-	
1. The Authority shall monitor the activities carried out by the High Court Legal Services Committees, District Legal Services Authority and Sub Divisional Legal Services Committee.		
2. The Authority may make and consider suggestions for changes in Rules, Regulations and Schemes.		
3. The Authority may make such suggestions as it may consider necessary for carrying out the work of Authority and Authority in the State effectively and efficiently.		
4. The Minutes of its meeting are not accessible for public except as provided under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.		

(ix)	A directory of its officers and employees.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Member Secretary 2. Administrative Officer 3. Secretaries (7 posts for DLSAs) 4. Assistant Controller (F&A) 5. Law Officer 6. Senior Assistant (2 posts) 7. Senior Assistant (3 posts for DLSAs) 8. Legal Literacy Co-Ordinator 9. Senior Scale Stenographer 10. Junior Scale Stenographer 11. Steno-Typist 12. Steno Typist 7 posts for DLSAs 13. Clerk (2) 1 post of Clerk is lying vacant 14. Clerks 11 posts for DLSAs 15. Driver (4) (2 on daily wages) 16. Peon (5) 17. Peon (7) surplus pool for DLSAs 18. Chowkidar 19. Safai-Karamchari 	Phone No. 0177-2623862 (Off.) 0177-2624862 (Off.) Helpline No. 94180-33385 National Toll Free No.15100																																												
(x)	The monthly remuneration received by each of its officers and employees including the system of compensation as provided in its regulations.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">S/Shri Yashwant Singh Chogal, Member Secretary</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">1,33,238.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Naresh Kumar, Administrative Officer</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,08,452.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smt. Sharda Sood, Asstt. Controller (F&A)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">60,823.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Puneet Goel, Law Officer</td> <td style="text-align: right;">53,085.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bhupender Vaidya, Legal Literacy Co-ordinator</td> <td style="text-align: right;">59,283.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Onkar Singh, Senior Scale Stenographer</td> <td style="text-align: right;">52,085.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smt. Geeta Sharma Senior Assistant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">45,378.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leela Dutt, Senior Assistant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">37,816.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gopal Dutt Sharma, Junior Scale Stenographer</td> <td style="text-align: right;">40,075.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ghanshyam Singh Thakur, Steno-Typist</td> <td style="text-align: right;">31,090.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sanjeev Kalyan, Clerk</td> <td style="text-align: right;">32,849.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jasvir Singh, Driver</td> <td style="text-align: right;">36,433.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rajeev Kumar, Driver</td> <td style="text-align: right;">21,579.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ram Rattan Thakur, Driver</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6,975.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ram Chander Sharma, Driver</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6,975.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kundan Lal, Peon</td> <td style="text-align: right;">29,826.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deep Raj, Peon</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20,174.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Krishan Gopal, Peon</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20,174.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sanjay Kumar, Peon</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20,174.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smt. Bimla Devi, Peon</td> <td style="text-align: right;">21,313.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shri Manoj Kumar Maurya, Chowkidar</td> <td style="text-align: right;">17,477.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Safai Karamchari</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20,821.00</td> </tr> </table>	S/Shri Yashwant Singh Chogal, Member Secretary	1,33,238.00	Naresh Kumar, Administrative Officer	1,08,452.00	Smt. Sharda Sood, Asstt. Controller (F&A)	60,823.00	Puneet Goel, Law Officer	53,085.00	Bhupender Vaidya, Legal Literacy Co-ordinator	59,283.00	Onkar Singh, Senior Scale Stenographer	52,085.00	Smt. Geeta Sharma Senior Assistant	45,378.00	Leela Dutt, Senior Assistant	37,816.00	Gopal Dutt Sharma, Junior Scale Stenographer	40,075.00	Ghanshyam Singh Thakur, Steno-Typist	31,090.00	Sanjeev Kalyan, Clerk	32,849.00	Jasvir Singh, Driver	36,433.00	Rajeev Kumar, Driver	21,579.00	Ram Rattan Thakur, Driver	6,975.00	Ram Chander Sharma, Driver	6,975.00	Kundan Lal, Peon	29,826.00	Deep Raj, Peon	20,174.00	Krishan Gopal, Peon	20,174.00	Sanjay Kumar, Peon	20,174.00	Smt. Bimla Devi, Peon	21,313.00	Shri Manoj Kumar Maurya, Chowkidar	17,477.00	Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Safai Karamchari	20,821.00	
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(xi)	The budget allocated to each of its agency, indicating the particulars of all plans, proposed expenditure and reports on disbursements made.	Demand No.3 Non plan 2014-800-02	Sanctioned budget for the financial year 2015-16 upto 31.03.16 under Non plan head 2014-800-02	Expenditure upto 31.3.2016	Sanction Budget under plan head Grant-in-Aid Govt. Grant Rs.10,00,000/ NALSA Grant 8,00,00,000/- Total = 8,10,00,000/-	Total Expenditure 4,63,33,391/-
		Salary	1,07,31,000/-	1,32,83,499/-		
		Wages	1,72,000/-	1,53,580/-		
		T.A	1,46,000/-	1,16,656/-		
		Office Expenses	3,32,000/-	3,32,000/-		
		M.R.	1,35,000/-	1,34,969/-		
		RRT	36,000/-	35,910/-		
		Motor Vehicle (P)	1000/-	1000/-		
		Motor Vehicle	5,60,000/-	5,60,000/-		
		Publication	4,000/-	Nil		
		Prashikshan	1,000/-	Nil		
		Transfer T.A	1,000/-	-		
		Other Charges (Conference)	50,00,000/-	48,21,263/-		
		Total	1,71,19,000/-	1,94,37,877/-		
(xii)	The manner of execution of subsidy programmes, including the amounts allocated and the details of beneficiaries of such programmes.	Not applicable				
(xiii)	Particulars of recipients of concessions, permits or authorizations granted by it.	Not applicable				

(xiv)	Details in respect of the information available to or held by it, reduced in an electronic form.	Not applicable
(xv)	The particulars of facilities available to citizens for obtaining information including the working hours of a library or reading room, if maintained for public use.	The public can have the information from this Authority from 10 AM to 5 PM only as per provisions of the RTI 2005. No library is maintained by this Authority.

xvi)	<u>The names designation and other particular of the PIO</u>	<u>The appellate Authority & PIO in respect of this Authority are as under:-</u>			
Sr. No.	Name of the Appellate Authority	Designation and official address	Jurisdiction (area/subject)	E-mail address	Office Telephone/ Fax No. (office)
1.	Shri Yashwant Singh Chogal Appellate Authority	Member Secretary Block No. 22, SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-171009	To carry out function/duties as assigned to it under Section 19 of the Act <i>ibid.</i>	mslegal-hp@nic.in	0177-2623862 Fax: 2626962

PIO

Sr. No.	Name of the PIO/APIO	Designation and official address	Jurisdiction (area/subject)	E-mail address	Office Telephone/Fax No. (office)
1.	Shri Puneet Goel Public Information Officer	Law Officer, Block No. 22, SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-171009	As per provisions contained in Section 5 (1) of the Act <i>ibid.</i>	-	0177-2623862 Fax: 2626962

xvii)	Such other information as may be prescribed obtaining information including the working hours of a library or reading room, if maintained for public use.	<p><u>Major Programme:</u></p> <p><u>Legal Services Day</u></p> <p>In order to give the desired momentum to legal services movement, 'Legal Services Day' is celebrated on 9th November, 2015. On this day, Lok Adalats and Legal Literacy Camps are organized besides undertaking publicity campaign. This year Legal Services Week was celebrated throughout the State by organizing Legal Literacy Camps and Lok Adalats. During the camps, people were enlightened about their legal rights and informed that free legal aid is provided to poor, those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other eligible people for their protection and they can obtain the help of free legal aid from Legal Services Authority/Committee at Sub Divisional, District and High Court level. Eligible persons can also avail free legal services in Supreme Court.</p> <p><u>International Women Day</u></p> <p>Under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), HP State Legal Services Authority in-collaboration with the Director of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of H.P. Shimla, celebrated "International Women Day" on 8.3.2016 at Peterhoff where publicity material was distributed to the women participants. Similar programmes were organized on this day in all Districts and Sub Divisions by District Legal Services Authorities and Sub Divisional Legal Services Committees by organising awareness camps for the protection of rights of women.</p> <p><u>Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms:</u></p> <p>Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure provides that if it appears to a court that there is possibility of any settlement which may be acceptable to the parties, Court should formulate the terms of settlement and give them to the parties for their observation and after receiving the observation, the court may formulate the terms of possible settlement and refer the same to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) arbitration (b) conciliation (c) judicial settlement including settlement through Lok Adalat and (d) mediation <p>Order XXXIII Rules 1 and 18 of the Civil Procedure Code provide for exemption of payment of court fee under Court Fees Act and grant of free legal services in case of poor persons. Section 303 of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides that any person against whom proceedings are instituted have a right to be protected by a pleader of his choice. Section 304 of Criminal</p>
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Procedure Code provides for legal aid to accused at State expenses in certain cases.

Lok Adalat means '**People's Court**'. The concept of this system can be found in the Ancient Classics of Kautilya, Gautma, Brishaspati and Yagnayalkya. Lok Adalats over the past some years have been gaining momentum and importance. There is easy accessibility, quicker and cheaper justice through compromise. The settlement through conciliation is admittedly better than ultimate decision after bitter struggle. In Lok Adalats, the disposal is quick and affordable to the litigants. There is emphasis on conciliation, mediation and resolution of disputes by settlement in the Lok Adalats.

Chapter VI and VI-A of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 deal with Lok Adalats, Permanent Lok Adalats, pre-litigation conciliation and settlement. All disputes which are sub-judice or which have not yet reached the Court can be settled in Lok Adalats. Lok Adalats act as a supplement to the judicial system with an object of providing less expensive, more efficient and speedy disposal of disputes through conciliation. Thus, the procedural and technical requirements like summoning the witnesses, discovery of documents, recording of evidence etc. (which are time consuming processes) are not required to be adopted, and the Lok Adalats can specify its own procedure. The settlement reached in Lok Adalats is like a decree of a court and no appeal shall lie against the award of Lok Adalats. Thus, a lot of time is saved and the decision becomes final.

With the increase in litigation in the courts, Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats are the most suited Alternative Disputes Redressal Fora. The system ensures speedy disposal of cases by way of amicable settlement of disputes with a view to help litigants awaiting justice especially victims of accidents, women facing family disputes, children and old persons unable to maintain themselves, poor persons, members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. Apart from it, land disputes, other disputes, property disputes and family disputes, other civil disputes and criminal compoundable disputes are also settled in Lok Adalats.

Lok Adalats
(Under Section 19 of the Legal Services Authorities Act)

In the State of Himachal Pradesh, regular Lok Adalats in all the District and Sub Divisional Courts in the State of H.P. are being organised by the Secretaries and Chairmen of the Authorities and Committees, as the case may be. Uptill now, most of the cases in Lok Adalat were being resolved were post litigation cases. With the passage

of time "Lok Adalat" has become a time tested, effective and a very successful "**Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism.**" Therefore, we have also encouraged resolution of disputes in Lok Adalat at pre-litigation stages and have taken steps that it must be a continuous process and for this, we have to hold the Lok Adalats continuously depending upon the numbers of cases at District and Sub Divisional level. In addition it, we are also organizing Mobile Lok Adalats in different parts of the State.

At present, we are holding Lok Adalats once in three months in every court at District and Sub Divisional level. We are also organizing Mega Lok Adalats and National Lok Adalats as per the guidelines of NALSA. Lok Adalats for pre-litigation cases are also organized periodically. In the financial year **2015-2016, 1290** Lok Adalats were organized in which **107513** cases were disposed of.

Permanent Lok Adalat

(Under Section 22 B of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987)

The Lok Adalat constituted under Section 22-B of the Legal Services Authorities Act is called Permanent Lok Adalat for the purpose of pre-litigation conciliation and settlement of cases related to public utility services like:-

Transport services;
Postal;
Telegraph or telephone services;
Supply of water;
Power of light;
Hospitals;
Insurance services or;
Public conservancy or sanitation;
Banking etc.

The H.P. State Legal Services Authority has constituted Permanent Lok Adalats in four Districts, and they are established in the campus of District Consumer Fora at Shimla, Mandi, Kangra at Dharamshala and Una. The Presidents of the aforesaid Fora have been appointed as Chairpersons of these Permanent Lok Adalats. Each Consumer Forum has two members apart from the President. The Members of the aforesaid Consumer Fora have one Steno, one Ahlmad and one Peon being the supporting staff, who are the members and staff of Permanent Lok Adalats. During the Financial year **2015-16, 41** Permanent Lok Adalats were organised in which **172** cases were settled.

Mediation Centers

Twelve Mediation Centres are functioning in the State of Himachal Pradesh i.e, one in the Hon'ble High Court of H.P. and 11 at

District Headquarters i.e. Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra at Dharamshala, Kinnaur at Rampur Bushehar, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur at Nahan, Solan, & Una. We have 211 Advocates as trained Mediators and 117 Judicial Officers as trained Judicial Officers Mediators. Refresher Courses are being organized for them time to time. During the period from **1.4.2015 to 31.3.2016**, **1501** cases were referred for Mediation out of which **390** cases were settled.

We are organizing sensitization and awareness programmes for litigant public, general masses, Advocates, Mediators and Judicial Officers so that more and more people opt mediation as an alternative to dispute resolution. This would definitely yield better results.

Village Legal Care and Support Centre

2956 Para Legal Volunteers have been selected out of trained PLVs for various Legal Services activities. Training programmes have been conducted for them by the District Legal Services Authorities and Sub Divisional Legal Services Committees. Apart from it, the Para Legal Volunteers have been given material to render legal or other help to the common man. 2628 Village Legal Care and Support Centres which are manned by Para Legal Volunteers and Retainer Lawyers have been set up in the panchayats in the districts of Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahaul & Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur, Solan, & Una for providing legal services and other help to the residents of these Panchayats. Training to trained PLVs is being imparted from time to time.

Prisoners Legal Literacy Mission:-

It is our endeavour that the prisoners are enlightened about their rights under the various Acts and also to ensure that vocational training in its varied form is provided to the prisoners, so that they can properly utilize their time and energy while in jail. We have prepared a booklet/leaflet for the prisoners about their rights and duties in Hindi and we also visit the jails and distributed the booklet/leaflet in order to make them aware about their rights and duties. The Legal Aid Counsel visits Jail every Saturday from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM to give legal assistance to the prisoners and the Member Secretary, H.P. State Legal Services Authority, Shimla also visit Jails to apprise the prisoners about their rights. We are holding regular Legal Literacy Camp in all Jails through Judicial Officers. We have also opened Legal Aid Clinics in Jails which are being manned by Para Legal Volunteers and Retainer Lawyers.

Visit of Observation, Children Homes and Bal Ashrams

As per the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in case titled Sampurna Behrua Vs. U.O.I. and Ors. W.P.(C) No.473/ 2005, all the Chairmen District Legal Services Authorities are visiting

Observation Homes and other Bal Ashrams/Homes in their districts every month.

National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010

In order to provide Free Legal Services to the persons entitled under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987, 42 Front Offices have been established one in High Court and rest in all the District Legal Services Authorities and Sub Divisional Legal Services Committees. The Front offices are manned by the Retainer Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers. The Retainer Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers are providing legal services to the litigants and general public.

As per clause 10 of NALSA (Free & Competent Legal Services), Regulations, 2010, Monitoring Committees have been constituted in High Court Legal Services Committee and all the District Legal Services Authorities and Sub Divisional Legal Services Committees so that competent legal aid is given to the eligible persons. From **1.4.2015 to 31.3.2016, 1815** persons were provided with free legal services through Front Offices.

Mobile Lok Adalat

12 Mobile Lok dalats by deputing Mobile Van to different parts of State have been organised in the State w.e.f. **1.4.2015 to 31.3.2016**, in which **253** cases were taken up out of which **167** cases were settled.

National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services to the Workers in the Un-organised Sector) Scheme, 2015

The Legal awareness camps are being organized periodically for workers in the unorganized sector. The Mobile Court Van is deputed at regular intervals to the places where workers in unorganized sector are engaged for work to make them aware of their legal rights and about the different welfare schemes of the Govt. meant for them. In total **83** camps have been organized by Judicial Officers exclusively for workers of unorganized sector w.e.f. 1.4.2015 to 31.3.2016.

Scheme for Legal Services to Disaster Victims through Legal Services Authorities:

All the DLSAs have been requested to execute the scheme and do the needful in the event of disaster. District Legal Services Authority, Kullu has rendered assistance to the victims when fire broke out in Village Kotla, District Kullu on 14.11.2015. Para Legal Volunteers in the Districts have assisted forest officials in extinguishing forest fires.

Seven New Schemes of NALSA

NALSA has launched seven new Schemes in the year 2015 which are being implemented in the State of H.P. by all District Legal Services Authority and Sub Divisional Legal Services Committees

Legal Literacy through Afforestation Drive

The H.P. State Legal Services Authority has adopted the Project of Sensitization of the school children about the importance of Forests and Environmental issues especially Afforestation, Plastic and Garbage issues, as the State Project for the year 2014-2015 in the 12th All India Meet of the State Legal Services Authority held at Lucknow on 8th-9th March, 2014. It is the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures and thus same project as State Project for 2015-2016 was adopted with a view to sensitize and make the students aware about the Forests and Environmental issues by involving the students in plantation to inculcate a sense of belongingness in them.

In order to conduct social audit for the aforesaid project, the advocates of the High Court were requested to voluntarily come forward to inspect the sites and on such request, about 150 advocates of the High Court volunteered to conduct such audit by inspecting the sites during winter vacations. After inspection, they submitted detailed reports that the success rate was very-2 high. The reports were presented to Hon'ble the Chief Justice in the presence of Senior Officers of Forest & Education Departments.

In order to achieve the goal, H.P. State Legal Services Authority decided to involve children above primary schools in the Afforestation drive on the sites identified by the Forest Department, thereafter the children were associated and 1,27,434 students of 3501 schools planted 170536 plants. The Forest Officers/officials were instructed to preserve and protect the sites. The children were taught about the importance of environment and ill effects of plastic garbage at the time of plantation by Judicial and Forest Officers.

Teaching of Fundamental Duties in the Schools

As per resolution in the 12th All India Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities held at Lucknow on 8-9th March, 2014 that Fundamental Duties shall be the focus in all Legal Literacy Camps and efforts will be made by the State Legal Services Authorities to get 'Lessons in Law' incorporating Fundamental Duties included in the School curriculum, **11242** teachers were trained as a Resource Persons who are teaching Fundamental Duties to the students in their respective

schools. This apart, the Judicial Officers and Advocates are also teaching Fundamental Duties to the students in schools and from 1st April, 2015 to 31st March, 2016, 550 camps have been organized by the Judicial Officers in the schools as follows:-

1.	April, 2015	1
2.	May, 2015	46
3.	June, 2015	75
4.	July, 2015	15
5.	August, 2015	72
6.	September, 2015	71
7.	October, 2015	59
8.	November, 2015	54
9.	December, 2015	55
10.	January, 2016	31
11.	February, 2016	26
12.	March, 2016	45

Legal Aid Counsel for bail and remand (The H.P. Legal Aid Counsel Scheme) 2003

Scheme of Legal Aid Counsel has been framed for the purpose of providing legal assistance to the prisoners exclusively. In the State of Himachal Pradesh, Legal Aid Counsel have been appointed at 136 places at District & Sub Divisional level who are available to the prisoners at the time of remand or bail and being paid Rs.1500/- per month.

NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally Ill and Mentally (disabled Persons) Scheme, 2015

Mentally ill persons and persons with mental disabilities are one of the legal beneficiaries as per provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The Member Secretary, H.P. State Legal Services Authority periodically inspects Mental Hospital. Apart from it, District Legal Services Authority, Shimla inspect the hospital every month and issue instructions to the officer to maintain cleanness and promptly address the problems faced by Mentally Ill Patient.

Training of Panel Lawyers by Master Trainers

A calendar of training of Panel Lawyers has been prepared and training is being provided to them by Master Trainers trained by NALSA. The training programme for panel lawyers have been conducted at the following places:-

1.	Mandi	26 th - 27 th December, 2015
2.	Kangra at Dharamshala	15 th -16 th January, 2016
3.	Shimla	15 th – 16 th February, 2016
4.	Hamirpur	19 th - 20 th February, 2016

5.

Solan

20th – 21st March, 2016

The objective of the training is to apprise Legal Services Panel Lawyers about the legal services and to equip them with latest tools and techniques so that they render competent legal services to poor and needy. More such training programme will be organized.

State Level Meet on Para Legal Volunteers and Mediators:

The H.P. State Legal Services Authority organised one day State Level Meet for Para Legal Volunteers and trained Mediators at New Auditorium High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 19th September, 2015. The Judicial Officers, trained Mediators and best five Para Legal Volunteers identified by each DLSA attended the said meet. Valuable inputs were provided to the participants in the meet by Hon'ble the Patron-in-Chief, Hon'ble Executive Chairman and other speakers to render appropriate legal services. The services rendered by them was appreciated and they were encouraged to render more and more help to the needy and poor.

Conference on Drug Menace

In 13th All India Meet of State Legal Services Authorities held at Ranchi on 21-22 March, 2015, Hon'ble the Executive Chairman, NALSA opined that drug addiction and drug abuse amongst the children is a major area of concern for all the State Legal Services Authorities and it need to be examined in detail. It was also discussed that a conference may be organized in the State of Himachal Pradesh to formulate a policy to curb the drug menace. Accordingly, a three days conference on Drug Menace in India was organized at Manali, District Kullu w.e.f. 11.6.2015 to 13.6.2015 for the various stake holders which was attended by Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority (as His Lordship then was), Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Misra, Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Sikri, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.A. Bobde, Judges Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mansoor Ahmad Mir, Chief Justice, High Court of Himachal Pradesh and Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh, Hon'ble Executive Chairpersons and Judges of the participating State/State Legal Services Authorities, Member Secretary and Officers of National Legal Services Authority, Law Secretaries and Member Secretaries of participating State Legal Services Authorities, Chairmen, District Legal Services Authorities of Himachal Pradesh, Senior Government Officers, NGOs, Judicial Officers and Resource Persons. On the basis of the deliberations and inputs gathered, detailed report was prepared and sent to NALSA, on the basis of which NALSA (Legal Services to the Victims of Drug Abuse and Eradication of Drug Menace) Scheme, 2015 has been framed which is being implemented throughout the country.

Radio Talk on “Kanoon Ki Baat”

52 Radio talks titled as ‘Kanoon Ki Baat’ were aired from All India Radio Station, Shimla from 1.4.2015 to 31.3.2016. Judicial Officers and Senior Advocates apprised masses about their legal rights through these talk shows.

ADR Centres

Construction work of ADR Centres in Himachal Pradesh is in progress at seven places, out of which 2 ADR Centres at Una and Kangra at Dharamshala are almost ready. Only installation of left work is pending in these centres.

Clean Shimla Drive

This Authority, in association with Department of Environment, Science and Technology, organized ‘Clean Shimla Drive’ on 10.10.2015 by involving various stake holders including about 1000 students of almost all the Govt. & Private Schools/Colleges of Shimla town with a view to sensitize the school children and spread awareness amongst the stake holders. Hon’ble Chief Justice, High Court of HP and other Hon’ble Judges of High Court, Advocates, Officers of Administration took part in drive. The children were taken to Jakhoo Hill and came downward lifting plastic garbage. The Children were sensitized about environmental issues and consequences of plastic garbage.

State Level Painting, Slogan Writing and Essay Competition and Colloquia on Afforestation and Environmental Issues

This Authority organized State Level Painting, Slogan Writing and Essay Competition on 10.10.2015 & 11.10.2015 at New Auditorium, High Court of Himachal Pradesh for school children. On 11.10.2015, prize distribution function for the toppers of the State Level painting, Slogan Writing and Essay Competition and Colloquia on Afforestation and Environmental Issues was organised in New Auditorium, High Court of Himachal Pradesh. His Excellency, the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Hon’ble the Chief Justice, High Court of Himachal Pradesh and Patron-in-Chief, HPSLSA and Hon’ble Executive Chairman, HPSLSA distributed the prizes to the toppers of each category. Children were told to work hard and improve their future and bring laurels to State of Himachal Pradesh and Country.

Legal Literacy Camps

To make people aware about their legal rights and welfare schemes of Govt., Legal Literacy material in the shape of booklets, pamphlets and posters have been published by the Authority.

Legal literacy camps are organised wherein people are educated about their rights and also the facility of free legal aid to them. During the year **2015-2016, 1055** Legal Literacy Camps were organised in every nook and corner of State and the participants were educated about their legal rights and various laws, welfare schemes and various other topics. In such legal literacy camps, Pradhans, members of Gram Panchayats/ Mahila Mandals and social workers were apprised and acquainted with welfare legislations of the State and also of the decisions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Hon'ble High Court rendered for the benefits of the general public. In such legal literacy camps, participants were also apprised of the provisions of Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, Maintenance of wife, Children and Parents, Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, Drug Abuse and its Consequences, Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Consumer Protection Act, 1986, Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, Mental Health Act and Right to Information Act, 2005 etc. The participants were also apprised of their legal rights, as enunciated in different provisions of the Law. Likewise, Legal Literacy Camps were arranged at Tehsil/ Sub Divisional Head Quarters and also in tribal areas of District Lahual & Spiti, Kinnaur and Chamba and also in many far-flung areas of the State. This Authority has also published a book namely "Nagrikon Ke Vidhik Avem Savendhanik Adhikar" which are distributed to the participants by concerned District Legal Services Authorities and Sub Divisional Legal Services Committees. The participants attending the Legal Literacy Camps are provided sumptuary allowance of Rs.100/- per head in addition to refreshment @ Rs.100/- each and also actual to and fro bus fare for attending the camps.

Legal Awareness campaign through Melas/Fairs

The H.P. State Legal Services Authority has also started legal awareness through dramas and skits followed by panel discussion by the legal experts and also Retainer Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers during the fairs. Such programmes were organized at Nalwari Fair, Bilaspur, Kullu Dussehra, Minjar fair, Chamba and Shivrati fair Mandi. The panel discussion was highly appreciated by the people. People also asked question about their problems which were answered by the legal experts.

The exhibition stalls are installed at the State Level Fairs at Rohru, and Nahan and other places for awareness about Legal Services and other Schemes and Regulations of the NALSA to the general masses by deputing Panel Lawyers, Retainer Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers.

		<p><u>Observation of Important Days</u></p> <p>All the District Legal Services Authorities and Sub Divisional Legal Services Committees celebrated Anti Tobacco Day, World Environment Day, World Day against Child Labour, Senior Citizen Day, World Mental Health Day, Children Day, Law Day, World HIV/AIDS Day, Disability Day and Human Rights Day by organizing awareness Camps on these days the participants were enlightened about then legal rights and Welfare Scheme of Government.</p>
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The Hon'ble Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh is the Patron-in-Chief and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Karol, Judge High Court of Himachal Pradesh is the Executive Chairman of the H.P. State Legal Services Authority.

Member Secretary
H.P. State Legal Services Authority,
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