

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1707

ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

TELE- LAW SCHEME

1707. Shri Sujeet Kumar:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry assessed the impact of the Tele-Law scheme on marginalized rural women, and if so, the details of the key findings;
- (b) the criteria used to select panel lawyers for the scheme and the manner in which Government ensures their continuous professional development; and
- (c) whether there are plans to expand the Tele-Law scheme to cover more beneficiaries, particularly in underserved regions, if so, the timeline fixed for this expansion?

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): Regular assessment of various parameters of Tele-Law scheme including women beneficiaries are carried out through Monthly Progress Report. Till date, the Tele- Law scheme has been able to reach out to 42,92,045 women (39.4 % of total beneficiaries) through approximately 33,866 women Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs), who run the Common Service Centres at panchayat level. Further, out of 734 panel lawyers giving services under Tele-Law, 300 lawyers are women.

(b) & (c): The selection of Panel Lawyers under the Tele-Law program is done through the implementing agency CSC-SPV and is based upon the criteria which, inter alia, include- enrolment with Bar Council of India (BCI), minimum 3 years of experience in litigation, knowledge of local/regional language and proficiency in local laws, welfare laws and schemes. Regular training are organised for these lawyers for their orientation at central level. The training among other

issues primarily focuses on the use of Tele-Law digital platform and applications and also on the nature of legal counselling and advisory services. They are also made aware about the latest legislative enactments and the details of entitlement of the citizens under various central and state schemes.

The Tele-Law service was initially planned under the DISHA Scheme for an incremental upscale by adding 50,000 Gram Panchayats every financial year and has expanded to 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in the fourth year of the scheme. However, Tele-Law programme has already been operationalised across 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats covering 785 districts (including 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational blocks) in 36 States / UTs of the country. In order to cover more beneficiaries, the Tele- Law has been made free for all citizens. In addition, the Tele Law web portal and Tele- Law application is translated in 22 scheduled languages. Special endeavours have also been made to increase its outreach through both print and digital media. Tele-Law has also been integrated with Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) platform for pre-litigation advice and legal representation in courts. Toll-Free number for citizens through 14454 has been operationalized for instant legal advice and counseling.
