

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 427
ANSWERED ON - 06/02/2025

LEGAL AID TO THE DOWNTRODDEN IN ODISHA

427. SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any training programmes for lawyers and legal aid personnel in Odisha to equip them with the necessary skills for handling cases;
- (b) the remuneration the lawyers get from Government in dealing with cases of the people belonging to the SC,ST,OBC and other vulnerable groups in Odisha referred to them by legal aid; and
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure the effective implementation of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) schemes and other legal aid programmes in Odisha?

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 enhance the capacities of panel lawyers, especially their skills, client counselling and representation, NALSA has conducted Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes, wherein about 100 Judicial Officers and Lawyers were trained as Master Trainers so that they could impart further training at the local level. Accordingly, training programmes for the panel lawyers including in the State of Odisha are being undertaken across the country. The details of training programmes conducted for Panel Lawyers in Odisha during last three years and current year are as follows:

Year	Training programmes conducted	No. of participants in the training programmes
2021-22	42	731
2022-23	64	827
2023-24	29	732
2024-25 (upto Nov.,24)	30	836

(b): Regulation 14 of the National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010 framed by NALSA has the following provision for payment of fee to the panel lawyers:

“(1) Panel lawyers shall be paid fee in accordance with the Schedule of fee, as approved under the State regulations.

(2) The State Legal Services Authority and other Legal Services Institution shall effect periodic revision of the honorarium to be paid to panel lawyers for the different types of services rendered by them in legal aid cases.

(3) As soon as the report of completion of the proceedings is received from the panel lawyer, the Legal Services Institution shall, without any delay, pay the fees and expenses payable to panel lawyer.”

In this regard, vide The Odisha Gazette No. 670 dated 31.03.2017 (S.R.O. No. 155/2017 dated 23.08.2016), the Odisha State Legal Services Authority (OSLSA) has notified amendments in the existing schedule of fee structure of legal services Panel Lawyers, which is available on their website (<https://oslsa.odisha.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Fee-Structure-of-Legal-Services-Panel-Lawyers..pdf>) under ‘Panel Lawyers’ tab.

(c): The implementation of NALSA schemes and other legal aid programmes is done by the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs), including OSLSA which is monitored by NALSA. In this regard, NALSA receives monthly activity reports from all SLSAs including OSLSA, highlighting the activities carried out in a particular month. Apart from monthly activity reports, NALSA also prepares its own Annual Report including activities of SLSAs, which is laid before both Houses of the Parliament. Further, All India Meets and Regional Meets are frequently organized by NALSA to monitor the performance of Legal Services Authorities.
