

**Annual Report of U.P. State Legal Services Authority**  
**for the Financial Year 2010-2011,**  
**Programmes and its Achievements.**

U.P. State Legal Services Authority is a statutory body constituted under section 6 (1) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court is the Patron-in-Chief and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amitava Lala, Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court is the Executive Chairman of the U.P. State Legal Services Authority. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pradeep Kant is the Chairman of the High Court Legal Services Sub-Committee, Lucknow Bench, Lucknow. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sunil Ambwani is the Chairman of the High Court Legal Services Committee, Allahabad High Court.

National Legal Services Authority in order to make the Legal Services available to all the weaker sections of the society, spread legal literacy and to evaluate and monitor the implementation of legal aid programmes through out the country, lays down the policies and principles to frame economical and effective schemes. These policies and schemes framed by NALSA are being implemented through the State Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authorities and Tehsil Legal Services Committees of the State.

U.P. State Legal Services Authority in order to ensure equal opportunity of justice to all the weaker and marginalized people of the society, to spread legal literacy amongst illiterate people, women, other weaker sections of the society and to provide legal services to all the eligible persons as envisaged in the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 so also to fulfill the directions issued by NALSA from time to time is committed to make all round efforts to secure justice and to achieve the objective of the scheme.

The activities of the High Court Legal Services Committee, Sub Committee, District Legal Services Authorities and Tehsil Legal Services Committees towards the objectives and the schemes formulated by NALSA are being regularly monitored by the State Legal Services Authority in order to ascertain their performance

and wherever necessary suitable directions are being issued to give further impetus to the movement of legal aid, legal literacy and other legal services.

The functions of the State Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authorities and Tehsil Legal Services Committees are to provide free legal services to the eligible persons, to organize awareness camps about the legal rights of the citizens and to organize regular, Mega and Special Lok Adalats in the courts as well as in the Government Departments in order to reduce burden of Courts by resolving the disputes through amicable settlement in these Lok Adalats. An award, passed in the Lok Adalat is deemed to be the decree of a Civil Court, which is final and binding on the parties those who resolved their disputes in the Lok Adalats by amicable settlement. The said award is executable like any decree of Civil Court and is not appealable.

State Legal Services Authority is also monitoring the process of other A.D. R. Mechanism i.e. mediation. Brief statement of the performance of the State Legal Services Authority during the financial year 2010-2011 is furnished here under:-

### **Lok Adalats**

The number of cases disposed off through Lok Adalats is continuously increasing every year. Lok Adalats are being one of the most pivotal and effective tool for the Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism, one traditional Lok Aalat per month in each district is being organized regularly throughout the State either on 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

Apart from this in each district at least 2 Lok Adalats are being organized on alternative Saturdays during the afternoon session.

Simultaneously 3 other Continuous & Permanent Lok Adalats (other than the Permanent Lok Adalats established u/s 22-B of the Act) are being organized u/s 19 of the Act wherein the pre-litigative matters are being taken up with a view to resolve these pre-litigation disputes by conciliation and compromise as per the provisions of section 89 part-V, of the Code of Civil Procedures.

Lok Adalats in the Jails to resolve the disputes pertaining to petty offences and compoundable offences are also being organized

regularly in each month by the District Legal Services Authorities. Folders on Plea-bargaining were distributed in all the jails in order to facilitate the disposal of cases through Plea-bargaining. Legal Aid is also being provided to accused persons at remand stage so also through the advocates who are visiting jails.

Lok Adalats at Tehsil level are also being organized regularly through out the State. During the period from April,2010 to March,2011 4312 Lok Adalats have been organized, through which total number of 671483 cases have been resolved. It shows the addition of 61,184 numbers of cases disposed off this year, compared to the last year.

### **Mega Lok Adalats**

U.P. State Legal Services Authority is the first State where the concept of organizing Mega Lok Adalats for disposal of different types of cases throughout the State on a single day was initiated since the year 2008.

During the last financial year 2010-2011, 10 Mega Lok Adalats were organized wherein total numbers of 7490 cases were disposed off. Out of these 7490 cases, 2047 number of cases under section 138 of the Negotiable Instrument Act were disposed off covering the amount to the tune of Rs. 72219394. 2744 number of cases under the Indian Succession Act,1925 were disposed off wherein Succession certificates to the tune of Rs. 44,46,67,313 were issued.

1707 number of cases pertaining to Family disputes were disposed off involving the amount of Rs. 2,30,53,080.

992 number of Motor Accident Claim Cases were disposed off through the Mega Lok Adalats wherein the compensation amounting to Rs. 14,32,61,048 was awarded. During the year under review a total number of 15776 Civil disputes of different nature have been disposed off through these Lok adalats.

### **Lok Adalats in Revenue Courts.**

More than 80 percent of the people are living in the villages and the main livelihood of these villagers is agriculture. In order to maintain harmony amongst the villagers and to make them free from litigating with each other with regard to their agricultural land

disputes, Lok Adalats to resolve the disputes in Revenue and Consolidation Courts were introduced so that the people may get quick relief. Due to continuous efforts, during the year 2010-2011 a total number of 41249 revenue and consolidation cases have been resolved through Lok adalats.

### **Pre-Litigation Lok Adalats**

In order to curtail the cumbersome process of litigation from pillar to post the concept of Pre-litigation Programme has been launched in the State in a big way.

During the year 2010-2011, total numbers of 577 Pre-litigation Lok Adalats have been organized throughout the State to dispose off the cases pertaining to the bank disputes , disputes relating to the financial institutions, mobile companies, bob cards and matrimonial disputes etc. wherein a total number of 10992 cases were disposed off.

State Authority in coordination with the State Women Commission is holding pre-litigation Lok Adalats pertaining to Family disputes.

### **Legal Literacy Camps/Awareness Camps**

National Legal Literacy Mission is implemented in the State of Uttar Pradesh through District Legal Services Authorities and Tehsil Legal Services Committees. The task of accreditation of Non-Governmental Organizations has also been taken up by the State Legal Services Authority as per the directions and guidelines of National Legal Services Authority. During the year 2010, total number of 1335 Legal Literacy Camps were organized throughout the State wherein, 7,42,072 persons were the beneficiaries of the Legal literacy/Legal Awareness.

The beneficiaries of legal literacy camps were :-

1-	S.C.	108481
2-	S.T.	12066
3-	O.B.C.	150117
4-	Women	76179
5-	Children	53830
6-	Minority	56765
7-	Others	284634

Gyan Mala Booklets in simple Hindi language on different subjects of common interest such as Legal Services and Free Legal Aid, Maintenance, Special Schemes for S.C. and S.T. , Marriage, Divorce, Motor Accident Claims, Prevention of Women from Dowry Prohibition Act etc. are published and distributed in the Legal Literacy Camps, Fairs/Melas etc. These booklets are also being provided to different NGOs and other public free of cost in order to spread legal literacy at the grass root level.

### **Synergy with the State Judicial Academy**

In order to facilitate the litigants legal services free of cost in the districts at Tehsil level, Legal Aid Awareness Camps are being organized wherein the Judicial Officers of the concerned District Legal Services Authority sensitize the public about their legal rights.

Judicial Officers on their appointment in the State are trained in the Judicial Training and Research Institute at Lucknow. During foundation training to these Judicial Officers, State Legal Services Authority through the officers of the Authority are sensitizing them regarding the Legal Aid Programmes, Lok Adalats, Plea-bargaining and other modes of A.D.R. Mechanism such as the importance of Mediation etc. during their functioning in the regular courts.

The Judicial Officers are also being sensitized about the implementation of the acts pertaining to mentally and physically challenged persons, Victims of Domestic Violence, the disadvantaged as well as down-trodden people, women, children etc..

In order to provide free and competent legal services to the eligible persons, NALSA has circulated the (Free and Competent Legal Services), Regulations, 2010 amongst the Legal Services Authorities. Under this regulation 10 competent and experienced advocates from each district, 5 advocates from each Tehsil and 15 advocates from each High Court Legal Services Committee and Sub-Committee are to be appointed.

By this time the Legal Aid Panel Lawyers/Retainers have already been appointed in 38 districts of the State and their respective Tehsil Legal Services Committees and they are rendering qualitative legal services to the needy people.

Three Legal Aid Counsels in each Juvenile Justice Board are also rendering free legal services to the Juveniles facing enquiry before the Juvenile Justice Boards. In order to spread the legal literacy at the grass root level, Para Legal Volunteers are also being trained through the District Legal Services Authorities.

In order to ensure that justice is made accessible to all particularly marginalized people living on the periphery of the social system, a Roundtable consultation was organized jointly by the department of Justice, UPSLA and the UNDP at I.J.T.R. Lucknow on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2011. The event was published in CNS which is an International Publication Agency.

### **Para Legal Training**

State Legal Services Authority is imparting training to the law students of different Law Universities of the country.

By this time as many as 100 students have already been trained as Para Legal Volunteers by the State Authority. During the month of June, 2011, U.P. State Legal Services Authority is also imparting training to around 40 law students of different Law Universities. During the Training Programme the Law students are allowed to interact with the luminaries of the Judiciary, Administration, Police Departments so also from Social Activists. They are also given field training like visiting to Jails, Juvenile Homes, Legal Literacy Camps, Lok Aalats, Family Courts, I.J.T.R. etc.

Apart from the regular activities, the State Authority under the directions of the Hon'ble High Court in Vishnu Dayal Sharma Vs. Government of U.P. and others and Bachhey Lal Vs. State of U.P. and others is acting as a Nodal Authority for monitoring the cases of missing children, children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection so also to look after the cases pertaining to the life convicts. The compliance reports are being regularly sent to the Hon'ble Court.

### **Alternative Dispute Resolution**

Earlier under the directions of NALSA Mediation Centres have been setup in 11 districts of the State namely Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Bareilly, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Kanpur Nagar, Lucknow, Meerut, Mooradabad & Varanasi. Subsequently NALSA has

directed all the State Legal Services Authorities to open Mediation Centres /A.D.R. Centres in all the districts of their respective States. Accordingly A.D.R. Centres have been setup in almost all the districts of the State. District Judges of the concerned districts have been asked to nominate at least 10 competent advocates in each district to act as mediators. Since the 40 hrs mediation training is mandatory for a successful mediation, at the request of the State Authority, Trained Mediators from Delhi Mediation Centre are deputed by the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee, Supreme Court of India and they are imparting training to the nominated Advocate mediators and also to the Referral Judges. By this time mediation training has already been given to the advocate mediators of 10 districts namely Agra, Aligarh, Lucknow, Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur Dehat, Ghaziabad, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jallaun at Orai and Hamirpur. Files are being referred to these Mediation Centres by the Referral Judges for resolution through Mediation.

We are also going to organize another 40 hours mediation training programme at I.J.T.R. Lucknow from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2011 and from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 wherein the nominated advocate mediators of 4 districts namely Azamgarh, Mau, Balia and Ghazipur will be participating. Simultaneously a request is going to be made to the MCPC, Supreme Court of India to depute trained mediators for imparting 40 hours training to the advocate mediators of another 4 districts namely Deoria, Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir Nagar and Basti from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2011.

Hon'ble the Executive Chairman has invited application from the trained mediators and some other lawyers of Allahabad High Court those who are having interest and commitment to the cause of the social justice with a view to spread legal awareness about the mediation in the districts through these committed and public spirited lawyers. Some of the trained mediators as well as some of the advocates though they have not been completely trained, have gladly come forward to organize awareness programmes in the districts so also to take part in the legal aid activities. Accordingly some of the trained mediators are organizing mediation awareness programmes in the districts to the untrained mediators so also Refresher Courses to the trained mediators.

The initiative taken by the Hon'ble Executive Chairman of the State Authority involving the trained mediators of Allahabad High Court to accept the pious job of organizing Mediation Awareness programmes in the district courts has been highly appreciated by

Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.V. Raveendran, Judge, Supreme Court of India and the Chairman Mediation & Conciliation Project Committee Supreme Court of India.

### **Legal Aid Clinics**

Legal Aid Clinics / Legal Literacy Clubs have been opened in the schools and colleges through out the State. Free legal services are being provided by the State Legal Service Authority, High Court Legal Services Committee, Sub Committee and District Legal Services Authorities. During the year 2011 under review total number of 2213 persons have been rendered free legal aid.

### **Toll-Free Help Line**

Toll-free Help Line Service was introduced and 3 advocates appointed by the State Legal Services Authority are rendering free legal services to the litigants regularly. During the year 2010-2011 as many as 2780 persons were benefited by getting free legal aid through Toll- free Help Line Services.

### **Permanent Lok Adalats (For Public Utility Services)**

Permanent Lok Adalats ( For Public Utility Services ) under section 22-B of the act have been established in 23 districts of the State in the first phase.

For quick functioning of these Permanent Lok Adalats, the then Active Chief Justice/Executive Chairman of the State Authority Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amitava Lala has inaugurated the Permanent Lok Adalats in the Districts Ghaziabad, Meerut and Bulandsahar.

During the financial year 2010-2011 the functioning of these Permanent Lok Adalats are already commenced.

### **Activities of the State Authority**

U.P. State Legal Services Authority in coordination with the I.J.T.R., Lucknow has organized Seminars on the topics pertaining to Infanticide and Female Foeticides, Victims of Domestic Violence etc.



1<sup>st</sup> May being the **Labour Day**, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2010, awareness programmes /camps etc. were organized through out the State through the District Legal Services Authorities. In the Awareness Programmes the problems relating to child labour, and provisions regarding legal services to the workers in the unorganized sectors were discussed.

The State Authority in collaboration with the National Committee for Legal Aid Services India, Centre for Social Research , New Delhi has organized a two days Judicial Symposium on 28-29<sup>th</sup> August,2010 on the topic “**women rights access to Justice**” at I.J.T.R., Lucknow. In the said symposium, 30 Judicial Officers from 5 selected districts were participated.

For the benefit of mentally ill persons, on the occasion of the World **Mental Health Day** on 10<sup>th</sup> October, the event was organized by all the District Legal Services Authorities.

**Legal Services Day** was observed on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.

H.I.V. / AIDS Day on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2010, **Disability Day** on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and **Human Rights Day** on 10<sup>th</sup> December were also observed by all the District Legal Services Authorities.

During the month of Jan, 2011 Legal Literacy Programmes on the rights of Legal Literacy /Awareness Programme were organized on rights of the **Transgender people** ( Kinnar ).

Under the directions of the Hon'ble Executive Chairman, letters were issued to all the District Legal Services Authorities to send the data-wise particulars about the Transgender people and the locality where they have been thickly pocketed. A perusal of the reports received from the District Legal Services Authorities, it is revealed that the Transgender people are mostly pocketed in the Western Districts of the State. A Seminar at State Level regarding the rights of the Transgender people is going to be organized very shortly.

A conference was organized on “**Issues relating to Family Courts and Inter-country Adoption**” was organized by the U.P. State Legal service Authority on 7.1.2011 at I.J.T.R., Lucknow. In which Hon'ble Ferdino I. Rebello, Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court, Patron-in-Chief of the State Legal Services Authority was the Chief Guest.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011, **International Women's Day** was celebrated in all the District Legal Services Authorities of the State.

**Justice at the door-steps**

The Legal Aid is an essential part of the administration of justice the object of the legal aid is to secure justice to the weaker, down trodden and marginalized people. A large section of the society has no knowledge about their rights due the lack of literacy and it is imperative on the part of the State Authority to make them aware about their rights and remedies by providing legal services at their door steps. With this idea, under the able guidance of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amitava Lala, Sr. Judge Allahabad High Court and Executive Chairman U.P. State Legal Services Authority is introducing a Mobile Van to secure legal literacy and to organize Lok Adalats at the door steps in case, poor, needy and marginalized sections of the society approach the legal services authority for legal assistance. We have already obtained the Mobile Van and got it registered. We are going to launch the Mobile Van very shortly and some experienced Judicial Officers, PLVs, trained social activists etc. will visit every nook and corner of the villages, remote tribal areas, slum areas etc. to spread legal awareness amongst the women, S.C., S.T. and other weaker and disadvantaged sections of the society.

It is evident from the above report regarding the activities of the U.P. State Legal Services Authority that under the able guidance of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amitava Lala, Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court/Executive Chairman, U.P. State Legal Services Authority has shown an excellent performance in its field of working and has successfully implemented all the schemes of National Legal Services Authority.

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