

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

PLAN OF ACTION FOR 2009-2010

In order to implement the Legal Aid Schemes and Legal Services Programmes of NALSA in accordance with the object of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, following **Plan of Action for the financial year 2009-2010** is drawn up: -

Legal Awareness Programme

1. Continuation of Micro Legal Literacy Projects in all States.
2. Continuation of the NALSA awareness programmes and Lok Adalats relating to NERGA matters.
3. State Legal Awareness Programmes in the States on the following laws:
 - (a) Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.
 - (b) Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
 - (c) Persons with Disabilities (Equal Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act.
 - (d) National Trust Act.
 - (e) Laws relating to Marriage.
 - (f) Labour Laws.
 - (g) Environmental Protection Laws.
 - (h) Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
 - (i) Campaign against Female Infanticide [Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994; Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971]
 - (j) Campaign against Human Trafficking [Bonded Labour System Abolition Act, 1976; Child Labour (Prohibition and Abolition) Act 1986; Interstate Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act 1979; Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act]
 - (k) Child Rights [Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000].
4. Cooperation with National Commission for Women at the Centre and associating the activities of State Legal Services Authorities with the State Women's Commissions.
5. Conduct awareness programmes and seminars with the involvement of National Women's Commission, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Child Welfare and Development and Ministry of Rural Development, Training of Anganwadi Workers; Training to Elected Women Members of Gram Panchayants.

Para-legal Volunteer Scheme: -It is a scheme for building up a group of volunteers from among the rural people to act as intermediaries between the common people and legal services institutions at Central, State, District and Taluka levels. (details of the scheme will be sent separately).

Lok Adalats: Widening the network of Lok Adalat to Government Departments, Petitions pending before Women's Commissions, various Tribunals, Labour Courts, Industrial Tribunal and Tax Tribunals etc; Setting-up Special Lok Adalats in all Family Courts.

Legal Aid Clinics:

- (a) Establishing Legal Aid Clinics in all Gram Panchayats (similar to primary health centers) by engaging competent lawyers as legal consultants in the clinics. Give wide publicity about the clinics with the help of local Self-Government Institutions.
- (b) Setting-up Legal Aid Clinics in all law colleges and law universities and to encourage students to adopt remote village areas as their area of operation. For this purpose, the following strategies may be adopted:
 - (i) The students may be divided into small groups and deputed to the adopted villages.
 - (ii) In urban areas, colonies and slum areas where economically and socially backward people reside may be chosen for setting up Legal Aid Clinics.
 - (iii) Law Students should be guided by a team of senior Professors / Lecturers including part-time Lecturers. Rapport between the students and the people of the adopted area should be maintained throughout the year.
 - (iv) Law Students shall identify the problems which require Legal Aid. They shall discuss the problem with the teacher-in-charge and if it warrants further free legal services, the matter should be brought before the Legal Services Authorities /Committees concerned.
 - (v) The students shall be encouraged to organize legal awareness classes for small groups of people (4 or 5 houses together or 10 to 12 people). It should be more in the form of informal gatherings.
 - (vi) The students should aim at preventive and strategic legal aid.
 - (vii) In appropriate cases, senior students and post-graduate students who have already enrolled as lawyers may be entrusted with the filing and conducting of the litigation in the Courts free of cost.
 - (viii) No fee shall be collected from the beneficiaries of legal aid clinic.

Legal Aid:

Bringing in more competent, well-known and senior lawyers for rendering Legal Services and Legal Aid.

- (a) Payment of better honorarium to the lawyers who provide Legal Aid.
- (b) Inclusion of all designated senior lawyers in the Legal Aid Schemes and requesting them to undertake at least two cases free of charge every year.
- (c) In appropriate cases, payment of the entire expenses including the normal fees of the lawyers.
- (d) Annual evaluation of the progress of cases in which Legal Aid was given. Success rate of the legal aid cases also should be a component of the evaluation measures.

Schemes, Projects and Programmes drawn up by the State Legal Services Authorities for the year 2009-2010:

- (a) Encouraging the preparation of blue-prints for activities for the year 2009-2010 by the State Legal Services Authorities.
- (b) Calling for monthly progress reports in respect of each such programme.
- (c) Take steps for establishment of Permanent Lok Adalats for Public Utility Services U/s 22 B in all Districts.
- (d) Take steps for appointing full time Secretaries in all District Legal Services Authorities.

Evaluation of Projects and Schemes:

Directing the State Legal Services Authorities to set-up Committees for evaluation of the actual benefit received by the beneficiaries under Section 12 of this Act in respect of each project and programme and to send copy of such reports to NALSA.

Measures for Publicity.

- (a) Liaison with the Information and Broadcasting Ministry and Prasar Bharti for timely briefing about the projects and programmes to the Press and Media.
- (b) Other publicity measures like, hoardings, production of short-films; skits in CD form and distribute copies to all TLSCs and DLSAs.
- (c) Printing of publicity materials like posters, pamphlets, booklets and distributing the required quantity of such materials to all States Legal Services Authorities in requisite number, advertisements in newspapers and television (both private and Government owned) etc.

To take necessary steps for ensuring commitment to the provisions in Part-IV of the Constitution of India.**Improving the quality and contents of 'Nyayadeep'**

Interaction and exchange of ideas: with the legal services institutions of the neighbouring countries (e.g. Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan etc.) and other Commonwealth countries.
