

TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LEGAL AID IN INDIA



Article 39A of the Constitution obligates the state to provide free legal aid



Legal Aid Services in India are governed by the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987



Legal Service Institutions are constituted at the National, State, District, Taluka, High Court and Supreme Court level



Every person in custody (police, prison and other custody) is eligible for free legal aid at arrest, trial and appeal stage.



Monitoring Committees are mandated to be constituted in every Legal Services Institution to review the quality of legal representation



Almost 80% of India's 132 crore population is eligible for legal aid



There are more than 70,000 legal aid lawyers and 60,000 paralegal volunteers working under the Legal Services Institutions



The per capita spending on legal aid in India is just Rs 0.75



There are 1062 Jail Legal Aid Clinics in India

It is mandatory for every jail to constitute a Legal Aid Clinic



7,01,399 persons in custody have benefitted from legal aid services since 1987



Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

working for the *practical* realisation of human rights in the countries of the Commonwealth

Sources: Legal Services Authorities Act 1987; NALSA Free and Competent Legal Services Regulations 2010; Statistics on NALSA Website, Response to a question raised in Rajya Sabha.