

Press note:

Today on the occasion of “Legal Services Day”, the Telangana State Legal services Authority and District Legal Services authorities of Warangal and Hanumakonda have conducted a Legal Awareness Programme at Ambedkar Bhavan, Hanumakonda.

2. The Legal Services Day is celebrated on 9th November of every year since the Legal Services authorities act came into force on this day to ensure equal justice to all the people of this country and providing competent free legal aid to all vulnerable and weaker sections of people, though the act was passed in the year 1987.

3. This is an important occasion to highlight the role of Legal Services institutions and objectives of the Legal Services Authorities Act. The objectives of the legal services institutions is to provide competent and free legal aid to support weaker sections of society as mentioned under sec.12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act; to organize legal awareness programmes to educate the people; to conduct lok-adalaths so as to facilitate the people for amicable settlement of cases or resolving the disputes in a peaceful atmosphere.

4. On this occasion, Honble Sri Justice Sujoy Paul, Judge of High court for

the state of Telangana and Executive chairman of Telangana state legal services authorities have inaugurated the programme in the presence of Principal district & Sessions Judges of the Warangal and Hanumakonda district; Member Secretary, Telangana State Legal Services authority, Hyderabad; District Collectors of both the district; Commissioner of police, warangal; Both the district Advocates Bar Associations presidents and Bar Council members have attended the said programme.

5. *All the dignitaries on the dais have urged the people to utilize the services of Legal service authorities act as it is free of cost and timely guidance is being provided by the legal services institutions whenever any person approaches the offices of legal services institutions. Both the District collectors have explained the schemes of the government floated to help the down trodden people of the society and assured that they are ready to work with the legal services authority to reach out the people by rendering legal assistance or services.*

6. *The Member Secretary of the Telangana state legal services authority, Hyderabad addressed the gathering that the legal services institutions have been helping the common man who ever visits the office with problems or issues and guiding them in resolving their disputes. Further stated that the legal services institutions through the Para Legal volunteers helping the*

innocent people and extending their support in getting their rights and resolving the issues. Further, requested the Asha workers and Anganwadi teachers to enrol themselves as Para Legal volunteers as they are working force in the ground level. So that they can identify the child labour issues or child marriages in the society and if they notice child labour cases or child marriage cases, they can bring it to the knowledge of the police or legal service institutions. In that way they can help the children. The member secretary have explained to the participants as to who are the persons entitled to free legal aid from the legal services institutions and also the effect of the resolving the disputes through the Lok-adalath mechanism and uses of the Lok-adalath and alternative dispute resolution system.

7. Honble Smt. Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya, Judge High court for the state of Telangana, also addressing the participants virtually.

8. His lordship addressed that the legal services are essential for ensuring equality, dignity and fraternity among citizens; it aims to ensure justice for all regardless of their socio-economic status. This legal services authorities act provides for the establishment of legal services authorities at various levels to provide legal assistance to the needy. His lordship emphasized as to the establishment of Community Mediation centers in view of the rising of matrimonial disputes and for resolving the matrimonial

disputes and to safeguard the marital institution, community mediation centers are very important. His lordship gave the example of Community Mediation centers established at Kamareddy and Nizamabad district.

9. *His lordship further addressed the participants that the legal services authorities act was enacted to meet the needs of poor persons by seeing conditions of the poor persons. Legal services is not for the first time brought into existence in India. But it was there even during the independence period itself legal services was there. There was a case against the Azad Hind Fouze activists before the INA court. The trial of the said was conducted by a judge of British . At that time, there was no money with them to face the trial. At that time, a group of lawyers i.e. Bhula bhai Desai, Jawaharlal Nehru etc. The said case was conducted by Bhula Bhai Desai before the said British Judge without taking any money. Free legal aid concept was developed during the period of freedom fight itself.*

10. *His lordship reminded the participants that in the constitution, there is a chapter i.e. Fundamental rights. In the same constitution, there is a chapter Fundamental duties. At the time of drafting our constitution there was a big discussion/doubt that whether our constitution was being drafted in a right direction or not?. On raising the said issue, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar answered the doubt stating that "Even if we frame a strong constitution, it is sure that it*

turn out bad because of those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot". Even if we frame a weak constitution, it is sure that it turn out good and will get good result, because of those who are committed, dedicated and truthful. Dr.B.R.Ambedkar further said that "This constitution itself does not do any work, but results of the constitution, will depend on the integrity and devotion of persons who implements constitution".

11. On this occasion, Honble Sri Justice Sujoy Paul, Judge High court for the state of telangana and Executive chairman of TSLSA, Hyderabad have distributed the cheques to the Self Help Gourp women sanctioned by the District Rural Development Agency, Warangal and Hanumakonda as they are the disadvantaged communities to empower them and to over come all social and economic barriers through the self managed organizations.

12. In this programme, department of Empowerment of person with disabilities, senior citizens and transgender persons, have sanctioned marriage incentives to the married couple. This marriage incentives are granted since a normal person married a disabled persons. So as to bring them into main stream. Further the department also granted wheel chairs and Tri Cycles to the physically disabled persons and the same were handed over to the physically disabled persons. Further in the same programme, computers are also distributed to the children of deaf and dumb for their education purpose

sponsored by KSM foundation. The most important in this programme is one person by name Namala Ashok, Special Magistrate 2nd class have donated 25 Iron cots/beds to the children in conflict with law who are staying in the Observation home for boys at Warangal out of his own funds on the persuasion of the Telangana State legal services authority, Hyderabad.

13. This Legal Awareness Programme on the occasion of Legal Services day was attended by the Anganwadi teachers, Asha workers, women from Self Help Groups; advocates of the Warangal and Huanumakonda bar associations; Law Students and district welfare department; District Minority Welfare department etc.

14. In this Legal awareness programme, different departments established their stalls to sensitize the public who attended the programme on the different types of schemes that available in their respective departments.

Sd/-
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