

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
(Constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987)

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To
The Member-Secretary
Tripura State Legal Services Authority
East Bank of Melarmath Dighi
Agartala-799 001

Sub: Providing **Legal Aid to the under trial prisoners.**

Ref: Letter No. L/24/2009/NALSA/1379-1412, dated August 17, 2009.

Dear Shri S.C.Das,

In the letter under reference, the State Legal Services Authority was requested to make arrangement **to visit jails** for identifying under-trial prisoners for **petty offences** whose period of detention have overshoot the sentence that would have been awarded to them in case of conviction. However, report of the action taken by the State Authority has not been furnished to this National Authority, precisely on this aspect.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarun Chatterjee, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority has directed me to call upon all State Legal Services Authorities to be more focused on this matter by taking steps for visiting jails subsequently to ascertain the details of such detainees for the above purpose.

In view of the circumstances that about 2.8 lakh such under-trial prisoners are languishing in jails all over India, His Lordship directed that the State Legal Services Authorities shall organize **Special Lok Adalats inside the jails** for dealing with **compoundable criminal cases** of the under-trial prisoners. It is requested that this direction may be put into practice immediately.

A report of the action taken may be furnished **every month beginning from 1st January, 2010** indicating the following details :

Name of the Jail	Names of the officials representing Legal Services Authority who visited the jails and the date of visit.	Name of the under-trial prisoners for petty offences / compoundable criminal cases whose period of detention has overshoot the probable sentence.	Date of Lok Adalat	Names of Presiding and other Officers of Lok Adalat	Whether the case could be settled in the Lok Adalat or not.	If not settled, whether legal aid was given to prisoners for expeditious disposal of his/her case in the court.
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The above format may be sent to all District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees to ensure that they send **monthly reports** to the State Legal Services Authority by **10th of every month**. The State Authority is requested to consolidated the above statistics and send it in the same format directly to the National Authority so as to reach by **15th of every month**.

Kindly treat this as very important.

Yours faithfully,

[U. SARATHCHANDRAN]