APPENDIX—I

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDGES AND LAWYERS

Q.1 Is it justified to say that Lok Adalat system is in keeping with our tradition and traces its origin to the Judicial system or ancient India?

i) Yes
ii) No.

Q.2 As the publicly oriented strategic arm of the Legal Aid scheme, is Lok Adalat system as effective as it purports to be?

i) Yes
ii) No
iii) To a certain extent.

Q.3 Informally the essence of Legal Aid is to ease social tension. Are the Lok Adalats catering to its purpose?

i) Yes
ii) No
iii) To a certain extent.

Q.4 What is in your opinion is the real motive behind the introduction of Lok Adalat system?

i) To clear the backlog of cases.
ii) Eliminate the time-consuming complexities.
iii) obviate procedural irrelevancies.
iv) Remedy expensive litigation.
v) Effective entry of the deprived into the portals of Justice.
Q.5. What do you think is the reason behind the coming up of large number of cases of Lok Adalats?

i) The people themselves realise the advantage.
ii) They are brain-washed by the voluntary organisations.
If any other, please specify.

Q.6. Besides Mediation and settlement, can any other technique be applied in the Lok Adalats?

i) Yes
ii) No
if yes, kindly specify.

Q.7. Is it not very exhaustive on the part of the Judges to solve such large number of cases in single day?

i) Yes
ii) No

Q.8. Would it be more effective, if the decisions are made mandatory upon the parties?

i) Yes
ii) No.

Q.9. Won't it be more convenient for the officials, if the Lok Adalats are held on working days instead of holidays?

i) Yes
ii) No

Q.10. Would it be beneficial to appoint at least one woman Judge or lawyer compulsarily for resolving matrimonial disputes?

i) Yes
ii) No
Q.11. Should the problems of woman litigants be given more attention?
   i) Yes
   ii) No

Q.12. Should senior lawyers be entrusted under the legal aid scheme in the place of Junior lawyers?
   i) Yes
   ii) No
   If yes, why?

Q.13. Do you think it is true that after a case is settled in a Lok Adalat, there remains no ill-feelings between the parties?
   i) Yes
   ii) Only to some extent.
   iii) Not possible to say.

Q.14. Can Legal Aid and Lok Adalat system help in modifying inter-personal relationship and cultural traits which inhibit the poor and the backward from seeking Justice against the rich and the powerful in the villages?
   i) Yes
   ii) No

Q.15. Can it initiate and direct a movement for a new legal culture both in the exploiters and the exploited which is conducive to the rule of law, equality and social Justice?
   i) Yes
   ii) No.

Q.16. Can Legal Aid correct the distortions in the Judiciary system, create right attitudes in the legal functionaries and monitor implementations of Laws intended to benefit the weaker sections of people?
   i) Yes
   ii) No. If any other, kindly specify.
Q.17. Do the people of remote areas have been able to get any benefit because it is seen that Lok Adalats are held mostly in cities and sub-urban areas?
   i) Yes
   ii) No
   iii) Only to a small extent.

Q.18. Do you think Legal Aid has been successful in achieving its objectives in the tribal areas of Orissa?
   i) To a large extent.
   ii) To a small extent
   iii) Not at all.

Q.19. In order to show that Lok Adalat is a success, cases are manipulated and a large number of cases is shown as being subject of compromise. What is your opinion?
   i) Not true.
   ii) May be true.
   iii) Can't say.
      if any other, kindly specify.

Q.20. It is felt that a large cross-section of lawyers are apathetic to the cause of Lok Adalat what do you think is the reason?
   i) Poor financial remuneration.
   ii) Cases are not adequately published.
   iii) Indifference to the cases
      if any other, kindly specify.

Q.21. Don't you feel that in their anxiety to get compensation more quickly, the people are being cajoled or pressurised to accept meagre compensation out of proportion of what they are entitled?
   i) Not true.
   ii) May be sometimes
      if any other, kindly specify.
Q.22. "Free legal aid for a fee" has become a common practice. Do you view this allegation as true?
   i) Yes
   ii) No
   iii) Can't say.
   iv) No comments.

Q.23. Do you think, this Lok Adalat system is totally free of corruption?
   i) Yes
   ii) No
   iii) To a large extent as compared to the traditional litigation system.
   iv) any other (please specify).

Q.24. Do you feel that publicity given to the Lok Adalat movement by the mass media is adequate?
   i) Yes
   ii) No
   if any other, kindly specify.

Q.25. Is the number of voluntary organisations working in villages or remote areas is adequate?
   i) Yes.
   ii) No.

Q.26. Keeping in view the rising popularity of the Lok Adalat movement, do you think it is going to substitute to present judicial process?
   i) Yes.
   ii) No.
   iii) too soon to comment.
Q.27. Lok Adalats being unable to reach upon its expectations, may die a pre-mature death. What is your opinion?

   i) Yes
   ii) No.

   if yes, then what can be its substitute?

Q.28. Why not the same procedure be adopted in the courts by the presiding officers with the help of the members of the Bar instead of having another institution called Lok Adalat?

Q.29. While something has been achieved, a lot more requires to be done. Would you like to give some of your innovative and valuable ideas to this effort ensuring that speedy Justice is within the reach of all?

***