CHAPTER V

SYSTEM OF
LOK ADALATS IN
ANDHRA PRADESH
Andhra Pradesh is one of the premier States of the Indian Union. It ranks as the Fifth largest State in terms of territory and population and is the largest State in South India. It was formed on November 1, 1956 by merging the nine Telugu speaking districts of the Hyderabad State with the eleven districts of Andhra State which was separated from the State of Madras in 1953. This is the first linguistic State in the Indian Republic, with the city of Hyderabad as its capital.

Andhra Pradesh lies in the eastern sea board of the Indian peninsula, occupying 2,76,814 Sq. Kms. compromising 8.4 percent of the total land area including a largest coastal line of 960 Kms. Bounded by the States of Chhattisgarh and Orissa in the North, the Bay of Bengal in the East, the States of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in the South and the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka in the West, it formed the major link between the South and North India with a coastal line of 974 Kms.

The total area of Andhra Pradesh is divided into three district regions comprising 23 districts. The first is the 'Coastal Region' with 9 districts generally called as 'Andhra Region', the second as 'Telangana Region' having 10 districts, and the third is the 'Interior Region' consisting of 4 districts collectively known as 'Rayalaseema' wherein the present study area i.e., district falls as one of the Districts of Rayalaseema Region. As per 2001 census, its total population is 76,210,007 with 3,85,27,413 males and
3,76,82,594 females sharing 7.41% percent of country's population\textsuperscript{3}, with rural base and bias. This population is distributed in 17,004,305 households living in 28,123 villages and 210 towns. For administrative purpose the state is divided into 23 districts and 1,125 mandals.

The sex ratio for total population of the state is 978 and that for the children in the age group 0-6 years is 961. According to Census 2001, Andhra Pradesh, with a literacy rate of 60.5% ranks 28\textsuperscript{th} among all the States/UTs. Male Literacy rate is 70.3% and the female literacy rate is 50.4%.

Information on work status of the population reveals that 45.8% have been returned as workers. Male work participation rate is 56.2% and that for the females is 35.1%. Of the total workers 39.6% have been recorded as agricultural labourers followed by other workers (33.1%), Cultivators account for 22.5% of the total workers.

Hindu is the largest religious community that constitutes 89.0% of the total population. Muslims (9.2%) and Christians (1.6%) are other two important religious communities in the state.
## TABLE 5.1
### IMPORTANT STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area (in square kilometer)</td>
<td>275045.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of districts</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sub-districts</td>
<td>1125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of towns</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of inhabited villages</td>
<td>26613</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### POPULATION

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>76210007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>38527413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>37682594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio</td>
<td>978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of urban population</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population density (per sq. km.)</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households</td>
<td>17004305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household size</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### POPULATION (0-6 YEARS)

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>10171857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>5187321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>4984536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage to total population</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio</td>
<td>961</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LITERATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Literacy Rate (7+ years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>39934323</td>
<td>60.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>23444788</td>
<td>70.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>16489535</td>
<td>50.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WORKERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>34893859</td>
<td>45.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>21662192</td>
<td>62.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>13231667</td>
<td>37.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATEGORY OF WORKERS</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivators</td>
<td>7859534</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural labourers</td>
<td>13832152</td>
<td>39.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Industry workers</td>
<td>1642105</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other workers</td>
<td>11560068</td>
<td>33.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAIN RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hindus</td>
<td>67836651</td>
<td>89.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslims</td>
<td>6986856</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christians</td>
<td>1181917</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikhs</td>
<td>30998</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhists</td>
<td>32037</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jains</td>
<td>41846</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>4768</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion Not Stated</td>
<td>94934</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Directorate of Census Operations, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

It abounds in a variety of natural resources, having agriculture as the primary source of employment and income. Although agriculture is the main stay of the 70 percent of population of the State, the State is acquiring another phase, a phase which has taken definite contours over the last few years, the phase of modern industrialization. The State has now acquired a reckonable industrial status in the country accounting for 419 major and medium industrial units.
TABLE 5.2

LIST OF THE DISTRICTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Srikakulam</td>
<td>2. Vijayanagaram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Visakhapatnam</td>
<td>4. East Godavari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. West Godavari</td>
<td>6. Krishna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Guntur</td>
<td>8. Prakasam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Rangareddy</td>
<td>16. Hyderabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Nalgonda</td>
<td>18. Sangareddy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Khammam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Indian Constitution provides for a single integrated judicial system to the whole country linking the lowest tier of Judiciary to the highest tier known as the Supreme Court. As a second tier there is High Court at the State level which acts as a highest judicial body. The State of Andhra Pradesh follows the simultaneous system in the administration of justice under which both criminal and civil justices are dispensed by the same Courts.

HISTORY OF JUDICIARY IN ANDHRA PRADESH – FROM A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The State of Andhra Pradesh was formed by the merger of the Andhra area of the Madras Presidency governed by the British and the Telangana area of the former Indian State of Hyderabad ruled over by the Nizam of Hyderabad. After formation of the State, Hyderabad High Court and
Andhra High Court in Guntur were amalgamated and A.P. High Court was formed on 01-11-1956 with 12 Judges from Andhra High Court and 5 Judges from Hyderabad High Court.  

**Brief Legal History of Andhra and Telangana Regions**

Andhra High Court was established in the year 1954 after the formation of the State of Andhra on its separation from the State of Madras. After formation of the State of Andhra the capital of the State was established at Kurnool but the High Court was established at Guntur.  

High Court of Hyderabad was established in 1872 with the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the Adalat Buzurg and Padshahi Adalat Fouzdari. In 1885, a regulation was passed to enlarge its powers. In 1336F a Royal Charter was issued and an act was passed in 1337 F. under which, the High Court had both judicial and administrative powers.  

**The Andhra Area**

The history of the judiciary in Madras and Andhra commences with the setting up of the Fort St. George in Madras in 1639 by the East India Company. From 1639 to 1666, no regular court or judicial system functioned under the Company Rule. From 1666 to 1686 a regular court consisting of the Governor and Council sat and administered civil and criminal justice to all the inhabitants. Between 1686 and 1726, two regular courts functioned in Madras, a Mayor's court made up of the Mayor (always an Englishman) and two of our twelve alderman constituting the Corporation of Madras and an Admiralty Court mainly to determine all mercantile and maritime cases. These courts were followed by freshly constituted Mayor's Courts established under
charters issued by the British Crown in 1726 and 1753. Three courts were set up—a Court of Requests to try cases up to a value of 5 pagodas (Rs.15/-)—a Mayor's Court to try civil cases of value above 5 pagodas, and a Court of President which reviewed the decisions of Mayor's Court. Later, in 1793, under an Act of Parliament a Recorder's Court was set up consisting of the Mayor, three Aldermen and a Recorder, viz a lawyer of not less than five years standing, to supersede the courts established under the Royal Charter of 1753. This Court exercised civil, criminal, ecclesiastical and admiralty jurisdiction. The Recorder's Court was superseded by a Supreme Court established under the Letters Patent issued by George III in 1801. Thus, initially, the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Courts and other Courts except Court of Requests, merged with the jurisdiction of the Recorder's Court and, thereafter the Recorder's Court was merged with the Supreme Court of Judicature. By 1823 Supreme Courts had been established on almost identical line at Madras, Bombay and Calcutta. The Law administered by the Supreme Court was based on a combination of Common and Statute Law as prevalent in England prior to 1726, the Law as obtained in the Admiralty and Ecclesiastic Courts in England, the Regulations made by the Governor-General-in-Council and the Hindu and Mohammedan Customary laws.

While this was the position in the Presidency town of Madras, as far as the Mofussil was concerned, there were no Company Courts before the year 1802. Civil and criminal justice had continued in many parts of the province much as it had been under the native rulers. There was a concentration of authority in the hands of the Collector of the District who took the place and exercised the same range of power as the Amildar of the old
The Adalat system, first introduced in Bengal by Lord Cornwallis, was extended to Madras under the Regulation of 1802. Under the system civil justice was rendered by Zilla Courts or District Courts, Provincial Courts of Appeal to hear appeals from District Courts and Sadar Diwani Adalat (viz the Governor and members of the Council) to hear appeals from the Provincial Courts of Appeal. By 1843, the Provincial Courts were abolished. Thereafter, in 1873, the Madras Civil Courts Act was passed providing for three categories of Judges viz the District Munsiffs, the Sub-Judges and the District Judges as existing even now. This Act in substance continues to hold the field in the Andhra area of the State except for some minor modifications when it was substituted by the Andhra Pradesh Civil Courts Act of 1973 and this was again amended by A.P. Civil Courts Act of 2000 (Act 28/2000).

On the criminal side also, the Bengal pattern was extended to Madras in 1802, Magistrates and Assistant Magistrates were appointed, besides four circuit courts and the Chief Criminal Courts or Fouzdari Adalat consisting of the Governor and Council. The system so established was frequently altered, amended and re-adjusted and at length over a hundred of these Regulations and Acts were codified into one Code of Criminal Procedure. The ultimate enactment is the Code of Criminal Procedure Act VIII of 1869, wherein all the earlier codes were consolidated and the various categories of criminal courts as now exist viz., the Court of Sessions Judges, Assistant Sessions Judges, and 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class Magistrates were duly established. The Code of Criminal Procedure of 1898 was revised and re-enacted in 1973 and substituted by the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 (Act 2 of 1974).
Thus, with the introduction of the Madras Civil Courts Act and the Code of Criminal Procedure in the Moffusil area, the various Civil Criminal Courts, as now exist came to be established. In the city of Madras, the next land mark after the setting up of the Supreme Court in 1923 was the High Court Act, which was passed in 1861, under which the High Court of Judicature was set up in Madras with original jurisdiction over the Presidency town of Madras and with appellate jurisdiction over all other courts in the Presidency. Under Section 15 of the Act, the High Court was given powers of superintendence over all courts and this power was reiterated in the Government of India Acts of 1915 and 1935 and subsequently, in the Constitution. Thus, the British had set up an integrated judicial system and organization, which continues to exist without much change as of today. The only draw back was the continuing of the powers of the Magistracy on the Executive Revenue Officers, on the criminal side. The British, for reasons of their own, never sought to implement the principles of the separation of the judiciary from the executive and it was left to the Government of Madras after the grant of Independence to initiate measures in this direction in 1949.

**Telangana Area**

The origin of the courts in the Telangana can be traced to the Islamic system of administration of justice introduced by the Moghuls. Qazis disposed of civil and criminal cases in the districts while in Hyderabad City and Subah Headquarters a Bada Qazi disposed of cases. Petty criminal cases were dealt with by the Police. Important civil and criminal cases were heard and disposed of by the ruler or the Naib Sultan or Subedar. After 1858, a Civil Court (Adalat Diwani) and a Criminal Court (Adalat Fouzdari) were set
up in the city of Hyderabad. There were also two Superior Courts viz., a King's Court (Badashahi Adalat) to try important criminal cases and an Appellate Court (Mohmooma Murafa). Other Courts functioning in the city were those of Naibs Sultanat, the Subedar of Hyderabad and the Commissioner of Police. In the Mofussil, the Subedars, the Collectors, the Amildars, the 1st and 2nd Talukdars and the Tahsildars were invested with civil and criminal powers. In about 1875, regular Civil Courts were established and the Revenue Officers were divested of civil powers. The scheme of separation of the Judiciary from the Executive was introduced as early as 1922 long before the scheme was ever contemplated in British India and with this scheme the Revenue Officers were deprived of their magisterial powers.

There were also separate courts for Muslims (Darul-Quaza Court), for Hindus (Govindrao Court), for Christians (Adalat Beroon Bolds) and Arabs (Makums Qaza-wat-e-Arab). A separate court was established in the Residency in 1864 for Europeans. There were special Magistrates' Courts for Districts, dealing with thugs and dacoits. There were also special Magistrates for Customs, Excise and Postal Cases.11

The decisions of the High Court were to be final with the exception of cases in which a sentence of death or imprisonment for life was passed or in which the decision was modified or reversed by the Nizam. Originally, the Nizam was exercising his Royal Prerogative over the Full Bench decision of the High Court, but later the law minister was disposing of appeals. In 1323 F, (1914) a Judicial Committee was constituted with three or five Judges,
including a Legal Advisor and at least two Judges of the High Court who did not participate in the decision under appeal.

The Hyderabad Civil Courts Act, 1324 F (1915) first codified the law relating to the Subordinate Courts. Under that Act, the state was divided into 4 Subahs and a Sadar Adalat was constituted for each of them. A Nizamat-e-Adalat Diwani was constituted for each District and a Munsiffs' Court for one or more Taluks. Where there was no Munsiffs' Courts, Tahsildars were conferred with civil powers upto Rs.100/- which could be raised to upto Rs.300/-. Provision was made for the appointment of Honorary Judicial Officers with jurisdiction upto Rs.300/-. The Nizam Darwi Quaza Court continued to exercise all the powers of a Sadar Adalat to decide cases of Mohammedans in matters such as pre-emption, marriage, meher and dower etc., Jagirdars were constituted as courts within their Jagirs. In 1355 F. a Sadar Adalat, a District Court and a Munsiff Court were constituted for the renditioned area. The above Act was repealed and re-enacted by the Hyderabad Civil Courts Act, 1954 which was in force in Telangana area till the A.P. Civil Courts Act 1972 separated it by virtue of Sec. 34 thereof. It provided for the establishment of a District Court and Sub-Court for each District or for one or more Districts and a Court of Munsiff for each Taluk or taluks. Appeals from the decisions of the District Judge lay to the High Court and those from the decisions of the Munsiffs lay to the District Judge. Appeals from the decision of the Sub-Judges lay to the District Judge where the value of the suit did not exceed Rs.5000/- and to the High Court in other cases.
When the Hyderabad Criminal Procedure Code was passed in 1313 F, the following classes of criminal courts were constituted:

1. Courts of Sessions;
2. District Magistrate;
3. Magistrate of the First Class;
4. Magistrates of the Second Class; and
5. Magistrates of the Third Class.

There was also a provision for the appointment of Sub-Divisional Magistrates and for the appointment of government servants as Special Magistrates for particular cases or classes of cases.

The Act also provided for conferring the powers of a sessions Judge, District Magistrate or any Magistrate on a Jagirdar within his Jagir whose annual income exceeded Rs.25,000/-. Sessions Judges could pass any lawful sentence but sentences of imprisonment over 10 years required confirmation by the High Court. Sentences of life imprisonment required confirmation by the Government, and sentences of death by the Nizam. An Assistant Sessions Judge could pass a sentence of imprisonment up to 7 years, but all cases where the sentence awarded exceeded 4 years required confirmation by the Sessions Court.

The powers of other Courts were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Court</th>
<th>Imprisonment</th>
<th>Fine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I class Magistrate</td>
<td>2 years Rs.2000/-</td>
<td>20 Stripes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II Class Magistrate</td>
<td>6 Months Rs.500/-</td>
<td>15 Stripes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III Class Magistrate</td>
<td>1 Month Rs.100/-</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appeals from the decisions of Assistant Sessions Judges, District Magistrates and First Class Magistrates and Revenue Officers exercising magisterial powers, with the exception of the Tahsildars, lay to the Sessions Court. Appeals from the decision of Magistrates exercising less than II Class powers lay to the District Magistrate. Appeals from the Sessions Judge, the Chief City Magistrate and the Assistant Sessions Judge in cases where the sentence exceeded 4 years lay to the High Court. So also appeals against orders of acquittal. The High Court under the Hyderabad Code of Criminal Procedure has also the powers of revision as under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

THE PRESENT ORGANISATION AND FUNCTION OF THE A.P. STATE JUDICIARY

The State of Andhra Pradesh was established comprising 11 districts of the Andhra State and 9 districts of Telangana area from the state of Hyderabad. Subsequently Prakasam District was formed on 2.2.1970 carved out of Kurnool, Guntur and Nellore. Vizianagaram District was formed on 1.6.1979 by taking some areas from Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam. Rangareddy District was formed on 15.8.1978 by carving out some portions of Hyderabad (Urban) Taluk and the merging the rural and urban areas of the remaining Taluks of Hyderabad District. The High Court of Andhra which was established in 1954 in Guntur under the Andhra State Act in pursuance of Article 214 of the Indian Constitution had all the powers hitherto being exercised by the High Court of Madras in respect of the territories included in the State of Andhra. In 1956 with the establishment of one High Court of Andhra Pradesh the jurisdiction of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh was
extended to the whole of the Telangana area of the erstwhile Hyderabad State, and the High Court of Hyderabad was abolished. Part IV of Chapter V of Indian Constitution contained the provisions relating to the High Court and its mode of functioning. The High Court at the apex of the judiciary exercises superintendence and control over all the subordinate courts functioning in the city and in mofussils including the Civil Courts in the Districts and the Criminal Courts in the Districts and their lower Courts in Andhra Pradesh.

The Chief Justice of High Court:

The Chief Justice is the Head of the Judiciary in Andhra Pradesh with powers of administration of High Court and of the administration of justice throughout the state. The Chief Justice is also the President of the National Academy of Legal Studies & Research University, and Patron-in-Chief of: (i) The Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy; (ii) International Centre for Alternate Disputes Resolutions Southern Region at Hyderabad; and (iii) The A.P. State Legal Services Authority.

In all policy matters and on all pivotal issues, the Chief Justice consults the other Hon’ble Judges by constituting committees, such as Administrative Committee, Disciplinary Committee, Work Review Committee, Library Committee, Finance Committee, etc. The Hon’ble Chief Justice appoints officers of the High Court.

The Registry is headed by the Registrar General and five other Registrars, namely Registrar (Admin), Registrar (Judicial), Registrar (Vigilance), Registrar (Management) and Registrar (Protocol). They are assisted by two Joint Registrars, five Deputy Registrars, twenty Assistant
Registrars (including Special Officer), one Assistant Registrar (Library), one Assistant Registrar (Protocol), other ministerial, lower grade and contingent staff.

The distribution of work relating to various sections of the registry, among its heads, is made from time to time, as per the instruction of the Hon'ble Chief Justice.

The Registrar General allocates the distribution of work among the officers after considering the proposals made by the concerned Registrar.

As discussed in the preceding chapter, in order to meet the constitutional requirement of Article 39-A of the Constitution, the State Governments in the country in order to secure operation of the legal system to promote justice on the basis of equal opportunity and in particular to provide free legal aid to the citizens constituted State Legal Services Authorities in their respective States. Further in order to provide effective monitoring of legal aid programmes, State and District Legal Services Authorities were constituted in pursuance of the provisions of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. The State Legal Services Authorities shall give effect to the policy and directions of the Central Legal Services Authority constituted at national level. The State Level Service Authorities inturn constituted the High Courts Legal Services Committees to perform various functions relating to free legal aid. The State of Andhra Pradesh also followed the same pattern and constituted the Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority as well as Andhra Pradesh High Court Legal Services Committee.
PROFILE OF THE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES IN THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH

The Constitutional obligation to provide Free Legal Aid and to secure equal justice was first formally implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh through promulgation of the Andhra Pradesh State Legal Aid & Advice to the Poor Rules 1980 and establishment of Andhra Pradesh Legal Aid & Advice Board under G.O.Ms. 638 Home Courts “D” Department Dt: 11-12-1980. Separate committees for the High Court and Districts were also established.15

The Legal Services Authorities Act 1987, came into force in the State of Andhra Pradesh w.e.f. 28-11-1995. Consequently, the State Legal Services Authority, the High Court Legal Services Committee, 23 District Legal Services Authorities and 108 Mandal Legal Service Committees were constituted in due course.

The Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 28 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended by the Legal Services Authority (Amendment) Act, 1994, and in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High court of Andhra Pradesh framed the Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authorities Rules 1995 and Regulations in 1996 which came into force from November 17, 1995 and August 16, 1996 respectively.16

Composition of Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority:

Section 6 of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 and Rule 3 of Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authorities Rules 1995 provide for
Constitution of Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority for the State.\textsuperscript{17} This Authority is having the privilege of having the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court as its Patron-in-Chief besides 15 members as well as one Member Secretary. Of these fifteen members a serving or retired Judge of the High Court will act as its Executive Chairman\textsuperscript{18} and Seven Ex-officio members and Seven Nominated Members are the other members. A District Judge from State Higher Judicial Service acts as its Member-Secretary. Among the Seven Ex-officio members, one is the Advocate General of the State, the second is the Principal Secretary in the Department of Finance, the third is the Secretary in the Department of Law, the fourth is Secretary in the Department of Home, the fifth is the Chairman of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission and other two are the Chairmen of the District Legal Services Authorities as nominated by the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of High Court.

Among the Seven Nominated Members, one is the Chairman of A.P. High Court Legal Services Committee who is also the acting Judge of the High Court, the second is the Chairman of Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh, the third is a Senior Advocate of High Court, the fourth is a Professor of Law from any one of the Universities in the State as eminent person, one is a Social Worker and the rest of the two are Advocates of High Court of which one is the Senior Lady Advocate nominated by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in consultation with the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh. The composition of Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority is given in Table 5.3.
# TABLE 5.3

**PRESENT MEMBERS ANDHRA PRADESH STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

1) Hon’ble Sri Justice G.S. Singhvi  
   Patron-in-Chief and  
   Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh

2) Hon’ble Sri Justice Bilal Nazki  
   Executive Chairman and  
   Judge, High Court of Andhra Pradesh

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:**

- Sri. C.V. Mohan Reddy  
  Advocate General of A.P.
- Sri. A. Giridhar, I.A.S.  
  Secretary to Government  
  Finance Department
- Sri. T. Madan Mohan Reddy  
  Secretary to Government  
  Law Department
- Sri. Paul Bhuyan I.A.S.  
  Secretary to Government  
  Home Department
- Dr. Justice K. Punnaiah  
  Chairman  
  State SC & ST Commission
- Sri. K.G. Shankar  
  Chairman, City Civil Court  
  Legal Services Authority, Hyderabad
- Sri. M. Seetharama Murthy  
  Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Rangareddy District.

**Nominated Members:**

- Hon’ble Sri Justice D.S.R. Varma  
  Judge, High Court of A.P. &  
  Chairman, A.P. High Court Legal Services Committee
- Sri. A. Narasimha Reddy  
  Chairman, Bar Council of A.P.
- Sri. C. Padmanabha Reddy  
  Senior Advocate
- Smt. M. Bhaskara Lakshmi  
  Advocate
- Prof. P. Koteswara Rao  
  Professor in Law & Former Head of Department of Law in Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati
- Sri. Mohd. Osman Shaheed  
  Advocate
- Sri. M. D. Jaya Prakash  
  Advocate
- Member Secretary  
  Sri. N. Vidy Prasad
- Administrative Officer\(^{19}\)  
  Sri. T. Venkateswara Reddy

**Source:** Member Secretary, A.P. State Legal Services Authority, Hyderabad.
While nominating the members to the State Authority, only members with qualifications and experiences as mentioned in Rules should be considered. Rule 3 (iv) says that;

A person shall not be qualified for nomination as a member of the State Authority unless he is

(a) an eminent social worker who is engaged in the upliftment of the weaker sections of the people, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women, children, rural and urban labour; or

(b) an eminent person in the filed of law: or

(c) a person of repute who is specially interested in the implementation of the Legal Services scheme.

Member Secretary

The Member Secretary of State Legal Services Authority in Andhra Pradesh is a whole time employee and holds office for the term of not exceeding five years. The following are the powers and functions of the Member-Secretary:20

The Powers and Functions of the Member Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority:-

(a) To give free legal, services to the eligible and weaker sections.

(b) To work out modalities of the Legal Services Schemes and Programmes approved by the State Authority and ensure their effective monitoring and implementation.
(c) To exercise the powers in respect of administrative, house-keeping, finance and budget matters as head of the Department in the State Government.

(d) To manage the properties, records and funds of the State Authority.

(e) To maintain true and proper accounts of the State Authority including checking and auditing in respect thereof periodically.

(f) To prepare annual income and expenditure account and balance sheet of the said Authority.

(g) To liaison with the Social Action Groups and District and Mandal Legal Services Authorities.

(h) To maintain up-to-date and complete statistical information including progress made in the implementation of various Legal Services Programmes, from time to time.

(i) To process proposals for financial assistance and issue utilization certificate thereof.

(j) To organize various Legal Services Programmes as approved by the State Authority and convene Meetings/Seminars and Workshops connected with Legal Services Programmes and preparation of Reports and follow-up action thereon.

(k) To produce video/documentary films, publicity material, literature and publications to inform general public about the various aspects of the Legal Services Programmes.

(l) To lay stress on the resolution of Rural Disputes and to take extra measures to draw schemes for effective and meaningful legal services for setting rural disputes at the doorsteps of the rural people.
(m) To perform such of the functions as are assigned to him under the Schemes formulated under clause (b) of section 4 of the act and
(n) To perform such other functions as may be expedient for efficient functioning of the State Authority.

The term of Office and other conditions relating thereto, of Members of the State Authority in Andhra Pradesh:-

The sub-section (4) of Section 6 of A.P. State Legal Services Authority Rules 1995 lay down the following service conditions.21

(i) The members of the State authority nominated by the State Government shall continue for a term of two years and shall be eligible for re-nomination.

(ii) A member of the State Authority nominated may be removed by the State Government if in the opinion of the State Government, he is not desirable to continue as a member.

(iii) If any member nominated ceases to be a member of the State Authority for any reason, the vacancy shall be filled up in the same manner as the original nomination and the person so nominated shall continue to be a member for the remaining term of the member in whose place he is nominated.

(iv) All members nominated shall be entitled to payment of traveling allowance and daily allowance in respect of journeys performed in connection with the work of the State Authority and shall be paid by the State Authority in accordance with the rules as applicable to be Grade ‘A’ Officers, as amended from the time to time.
(v) If the nominated member is a government employee, he shall be entitled to only one set of traveling allowance and daily allowance either from his parent department, or, as the case may be, from the State Authority.

(vi) In all matters like age of retirement, pay and allowance, benefits and entitlements; and disciplinary matters; the Member Secretary shall be governed by the State Government rules and he shall be deputation to the State Authority.

The number of Officers and other employees of the State Authority

Under sub-section (5) of Section 6 of the Act and under the Rule 6 of the A.P. State Legal Services Authority Rules, the State Authority shall have such number of officers and other employees for rendering secretarial assistance and for its day-to-day functions as are set out in the rules or as may be notified by the State Government from time to time.

The conditions of service and the Salary and Allowance of Officers and other Employees of the State Authority:

Under sub-section (6) of Section 6 of the Act and Rule 7 of the A.P. State Legal Services Authority Rules, (i) The officers and other employees of the State Authority shall be entitled to draw pay and allowances in the scale of pay indicated against each post in the Schedule to these rules or at par with the State Government employees holding equivalent posts; 22

(ii) In all matters like age of retirement, pay and allowances, benefits and entitlements and disciplinary matters, the officers and other employees of
the State Authority shall be governed by the State Government rules as are applicable to persons holding equivalent posts. (Vide Table 5.4)

TABLE 5.4

STAFF PATTERN OF A.P. STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Designation Of the Posts</th>
<th>No. of Posts</th>
<th>Scale of Pay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Member Secretary (in the cadre of District Judge)</td>
<td>1 (One)</td>
<td>Rs. 8140-280-10380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Administrative Officer (in the cadre of Subordinate Judge)</td>
<td>1 (One)</td>
<td>Rs. 5050-160-5200-190-6150-230-7300-280-8700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Record Assistant</td>
<td>1 (One)</td>
<td>Rs. 1535-30-1625-40-1825-50-2075-60-2375-75-2750-90-2840</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Member Secretary, A.P. State Legal Services Authority,
Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

(iii) The officers and other employees of the State Authority shall be entitled to such other facilities, allowances and benefits as may be notified by the State Government, from time to time.

Vesting of Executive Authority

The Executive Authority of the State Authority vests in the Executive Chairman and may be exercised through the member Secretary who shall act...
under the control of the Executive Chairman. Provided that in respect of any
decision to be taken, the Patron-in-Chief may give such advice as is deemed
necessary.

Functions of State Legal Services Authority in Andhra Pradesh

Section 7 of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 lays down
the functions of the State Authority as follows:

It shall be the duty of the State Authority to give effect to the policy
and directions of the Central Authority. The State Authority shall perform all or
any of the following functions, namely,

(a) give legal service to persons who satisfy the criteria laid down under
this Act;
(b) conduct Lok Adalats, including Lok Adalats for High court cases;
(c) undertake preventive and strategic legal aid programmes; and
(d) perform such other functions as the State Authority may be
consultation with the Central Authority, fix by regulations.

State Authority to Act in Coordination with Other Agencies etc., and be
Subject to Directions given by the Central Authority:

In the discharge of its functions the State Authority shall
appropriately act in coordination with the Governmental agencies, non-
governmental voluntary social services institutions, Universities and other
bodies engaged in the work of promoting the cause of legal services to the
poor shall also be guided by such directions as the Central Authority may give
to its in writing.
In addition to the functions to be performed by the State Authority, as laid down by Section 7 of the Act, the State Authority may also perform the following function as laid down in Regulations 4 of A.P. State Legal Services Authority Regulations, 1996. They are;

The State Authority may conduct legal literacy camps in different parts of the State, with a view to terminating knowledge about the legal aid schemes conducted in the State, or with a view to spreading consciousness about the legal rights and duties of citizens with special reference to the tribal and rural populations, women, children, disabled, handicapped and the weaker sections of the Society.24

finance public interest litigations before appropriate courts in the state if it is satisfied that such litigations are for the general benefit of a large body or class of persons who cannot by themselves take recourse to law due to penury illiteracy or other similar reasons;

conduct legal aid clinics in different parts of the State in collaboration with Law Colleges, Universities and other social service organizations.

establish or direct the District Authority to establish conciliation committees at various centers in the state with a view to providing permanent or quasi-permanent infrastructure for resolving legal disputes between the parties, whether they may be pending in courts or may be in the offing. For establishing such Committee it will be open to the State Authority / or the
District Authority to take active assistant/support of such social service organizations that have zeal for legal aid work; and

review the cases where legal services are refused by the District Authority, on application.

Lok Adalats Programme in Andhra Pradesh

Lok Adalats in the State of Andhra Pradesh caught the attention of the people in the later half of 1985. The first Lok Adalat in the State was organized in Visakhapatnam on December 15, 1985, and the second one at Ongole and the third Lok Adalat was inaugurated in Hyderabad city. According to Dr. N.R.Madhava Menon, the State of Andhra Pradesh held 9 Lok Adalats till April 1986 and settled 2,581 cases amicably on the principle of mutual give and take. It is revealed from the study of 'The Hindu' that during the years 1985-87, the Lok Adalats successfully settled 57,000 disputes through this forum. Most of the cases concerned land acquisition and Motor Vehicle Accident compensation. The Lok Adalat at Visakhapatnam was a unique event in the history of Legal Aid Scheme in the country where thousands of persons were benefited and the huge volume of litigation regarding land acquisition claims in respect of the land acquired mostly by the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant were finally settled.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Lok Adalats</td>
<td>2983</td>
<td>2293</td>
<td>3657</td>
<td>4737</td>
<td>7,307</td>
<td>8,169</td>
<td>8,438</td>
<td>9,802</td>
<td>9,335</td>
<td>57279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of cases take up</td>
<td>76078</td>
<td>77173</td>
<td>107323</td>
<td>134792</td>
<td>1,50,487</td>
<td>1,107,914</td>
<td>1,44,122</td>
<td>1,39,085</td>
<td>96979</td>
<td>1,028423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of cases settled</td>
<td>75680</td>
<td>34377</td>
<td>38185</td>
<td>81971</td>
<td>99,598</td>
<td>66,796</td>
<td>79,497</td>
<td>81,505</td>
<td>89583</td>
<td>649929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal cases settled</td>
<td>(69,34)</td>
<td>(35,5%)</td>
<td>(66,81)</td>
<td>(66,18%)</td>
<td>(65,46%)</td>
<td>(61,16%)</td>
<td>(65,16%)</td>
<td>(68,60%)</td>
<td>(60,18%)</td>
<td>2191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excise cases settled</td>
<td>305,15</td>
<td>178,83</td>
<td>198,38</td>
<td>219,38</td>
<td>26,649</td>
<td>38,42</td>
<td>28,718</td>
<td>57,703</td>
<td>57,187</td>
<td>272350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excise cases settled</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compounding Fee</td>
<td>35,11</td>
<td>34,35</td>
<td>37,23</td>
<td>44,91</td>
<td>47,23</td>
<td>51,34</td>
<td>51,34</td>
<td>51,34</td>
<td>51,34</td>
<td>2191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MVOP cases settled (Rs. In Crores)</td>
<td>17358</td>
<td>62936</td>
<td>80,02</td>
<td>6,652</td>
<td>70,87</td>
<td>6,228</td>
<td>6,228</td>
<td>6,228</td>
<td>6,228</td>
<td>446,70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount awarded in MVOP Cases (Rs. In Crores)</td>
<td>105,31</td>
<td>48,89</td>
<td>57,23</td>
<td>44,91</td>
<td>57,23</td>
<td>51,34</td>
<td>51,34</td>
<td>51,34</td>
<td>51,34</td>
<td>2191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other cases</td>
<td>2983</td>
<td>2293</td>
<td>3657</td>
<td>4737</td>
<td>7,307</td>
<td>8,169</td>
<td>8,438</td>
<td>9,802</td>
<td>9,335</td>
<td>57279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount awarded in other cases (Rs. In Crores)</td>
<td>86,47</td>
<td>86,47</td>
<td>90,03</td>
<td>90,03</td>
<td>98,96</td>
<td>126,10</td>
<td>20,109</td>
<td>62,229</td>
<td>42657</td>
<td>27850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Member Secretary, State Legal Services Authority, City Civil Court Compound, Hyderabad, A.P.
Table 5.5 gives year-wise details of Lok Adalats conducted, Legal Literacy Camps organized and Legal Aid provided by the State Legal Services Authority of Andhra Pradesh during the study period for 1997 to 2005. An analysis of Table 5.5 reveals that the number of Lok Adalats conducted was 57279 of which the highest number of Lok Adalats was 9935 during the year 2004 and the least number was 2993 during the year 1997. The total number of cases taken up was 927744 of which the highest number of cases taken up was 150487 in the year 2001 and the least number was 71773 during the year 1998. The number of cases settled was 1026423 which accounted to 62.94 percent. The number of criminal cases settled was 272530 of which the highest number was 57167 during the year 2005 and the least was 19938 in the year 1999. The number of Excise cases settled was 112843 of which the highest number was 46332 in the year 2001 and the least was 5122 during the year 2003. During the years 1997 to 1999 no excise cases were settled. The total amount of compounding fee for Excise cases was 3.80 crores of which the highest was 1.93 crores during the year 2000 and the least was 8.85 lakhs in the year 2004. The total number of MVOP cases settled was 67967 of which the highest number was 17358 in the year 1997 and the least was 4352 in the year 2004. The total amount awarded in MVOP cases was 446.70 crores of which the highest amount awarded was 105.31 crores in 1997 and the least was 29.51 crores in the year 2004. The total number of LAOP cases settled was 2191 of which the highest number of cases settled was 1003 during the year 2000 and the least was 16 in the year 1999. The total amount awarded in LAOP cases settlement was 4.95 crores of which the highest amount awarded was 1.26
crores during the year 2001 and the least was 0.18 crores in the year 2003. The total number of other cases settled was 171575 of which the highest number of cases settled was 42920 during the year 2003 and the least number was 8706 in the year 2000. The total amount awarded in other cases was 238.46 crores of which 58.81 crores was the highest amount awarded during the year 2004 and the least amount was 11.90 crores during the year 1998. The total legal literacy camps conducted during the study period was 18437 of which the highest number of camps conducted was 3222 during the year 2005 and the least number was 614 in the year 1997. The total number of persons to whom legal aid granted was 16338 of which the highest number of persons awarded was 4207 during the year 1997 and the lowest number is 942 in the year 2002 during the study period.
LOK ADALATS HELD IN THE STATE OF A.P. FROM 01.01.2005 TO 31.12.2005
Number of cases settled in Andhra Pradesh

- 81,505 cases
- 79,497 cases
- 66,786 cases
- 58,508 cases
- 89,583 cases
- 1-01-2001 to 31-12-2001
- 1-01-2002 to 31-12-2002
- 1-01-2003 to 31-12-2003
- 1-01-2004 to 31-12-2004
- 1-01-2005 to 31-12-2005
TABLE 5.6
STATEMENT RELATING LEGAL AID GRANTED BY A.P. STATE LEGAL SERVICE AUTHORITY
FROM 1997 TO 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Application Pending</th>
<th>Application Received</th>
<th>Total for disposal</th>
<th>Legal Aid granted</th>
<th>Application Rejected</th>
<th>Sent to other depts</th>
<th>Returned to The parties</th>
<th>Compromised</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>1141</td>
<td>4764</td>
<td>5905</td>
<td>1482</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>2911</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>1090</td>
<td>3724</td>
<td>4814</td>
<td>1609</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>1162</td>
<td>6409</td>
<td>7571</td>
<td>1116</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>4820</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>7233</td>
<td>7769</td>
<td>1069</td>
<td>1043</td>
<td>3457</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>1184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1184</td>
<td>7822</td>
<td>9006</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>3820</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>2030</td>
<td>1377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>1,377</td>
<td>17,136</td>
<td>18,513</td>
<td>982</td>
<td>1025</td>
<td>3186</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>9,911</td>
<td>2,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2939</td>
<td>13110</td>
<td>16049</td>
<td>1024</td>
<td>2206</td>
<td>1520</td>
<td>1751</td>
<td>4894</td>
<td>4654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>4654</td>
<td>17468</td>
<td>22122</td>
<td>1038</td>
<td>2704</td>
<td>3984</td>
<td>2131</td>
<td>5379</td>
<td>6886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>6886</td>
<td>18289</td>
<td>25175</td>
<td>1631</td>
<td>3097</td>
<td>5286</td>
<td>1199</td>
<td>7372</td>
<td>6590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>6590</td>
<td>17302</td>
<td>24292</td>
<td>1141</td>
<td>3164</td>
<td>4892</td>
<td>1314</td>
<td>6408</td>
<td>8514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>6590</td>
<td>113257</td>
<td>128274</td>
<td>12012</td>
<td>14882</td>
<td>35831</td>
<td>8077</td>
<td>36623</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Member Secretary, A.P. State Legal Services Authority, City Civil Court Compound, Hyderabad.
Table 5.6 gives details relating to Legal aid granted by Andhra Pradesh Legal Services Authority to the applicants during the study period from 1997 to 2006. An analysis of Table 5.6 shows that during the study period as many as 113257 applications were received for legal aid of which 128274 were finalized as eligible for disposal of which 12012 were granted legal aid, 14882 were rejected, 35831 were sent to other departments, 8077 were returned to the parties, 36623 compromised and by the end of 2006 as many as 8514 applications were in balance. The highest number of applications received was 18289 during the year 2005 and the least was 3724 in the year 1998. The highest number of applications kept for disposal was 25175 in the year 2005 and the least was 4814 in the year 1998. The highest number awarded legal aid was 1631 during the year 2005 and the least was 920 during the year 2001. The highest number of applications rejected was 3164 during the year 2006 and the least was 49 in the year 1998. The highest number of applications sent to other departments was 5286 during the year 2005 and the least was 1520 during the year 2003. The highest number of applications returned to parties was 2131 during the year 2004 and the least was 39 during the year 1998. The highest number of cases compromised was 9911 during the year 2002 and the least was 37 during the year 1999. The highest number of applications remained balance was 8514 by the year 2006 end and the least number was 536 during the year 1999 end.
# Table 5.7

## A.P. State Legal Services Authority

Legal Aid Beneficiaries from 1999 to 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>ST</th>
<th>BC</th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>CHILDREN</th>
<th>OTHERS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>1211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>1365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1146</td>
<td>1631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>1502</td>
<td>2482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1348</td>
<td>2063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1211</td>
<td>904</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>2150</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>5401</td>
<td>11727</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Member Secretary, State Legal Services Authority, City Civil Court Compound, Hyderabad.*
Table 5.7 gives details about the beneficiaries of Legal Aid provided by Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority during the period from 1999 to 2006. An analysis of Table 5.7 shows that the total number of Scheduled Caste beneficiaries were 1211, the Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries were 904, the Backward Classes beneficiaries were 1987, women beneficiaries were 2150, the child beneficiaries were 74 and other category beneficiaries were 5401. In other words, the other categories beneficiaries were more benefited followed by women, Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and children.

CREATION OF PERMANENT LOK ADALATS U/S 22(b) of Legal Services Authorities Act

The State Legal Services Authority sent proposal to the State Government requesting for the provision of infrastructure and budget for establishment of 23 permanent Lok Adalat Benches for public utility services for all the 23 Districts in the State in compliance with the statutory mandate of chapter VI A of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Responding to the proposals, the State Government vide letter No: 23717/Cyirts-A1/2003, Home Courts Department dated : 26-08-2004, requested this Authority to phase out the setting up of Lok Adalats not exceeding 3 to 4 per year and to rationalize the staff pattern. Accordingly, this Authority has requested the State Government to establish at least 5 permanent Lok Adalats immediately. For the first time, the A.P. Legal Security Authority constituted 6 Permanent Lok Adalats in six districts two to each region of Coastal Andhra, Telangana and Rayalaseema. Vide Table 5.8.
TABLE 5.8
PRESENT NAMES OF THE CHAIRMEN PERMANENT
LOK ADALATS IN A.P.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Name of the District</th>
<th>Name of the Chairman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>Sri. K.Ashok Babu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Visakhapatnam</td>
<td>Smt. D.Leelavathi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Guntur</td>
<td>Sri. N.Basavaiah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Chittoor</td>
<td>Sri. T.V.C.\textasciitildeapathi Rao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Kadapa</td>
<td>Sri. G.Mohan Gandhi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Member Secretary, A.P. State Legal Services Authority, City Civil Court Compound, Hyderabad.

Permanent Lok Adalats for A.P. Transco etc:

The State Legal Services Authority has constituted Nine permanent Lok Adalats for settlement of cases relating to Andhra Pradesh Transco, Andhra Pradesh Administrative Tribunal, Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh Women's Commission, Mahila Lok Adalat, Visakhapatnam, Police Commissionerate, Visakhapatnam, Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanams Cases, Tirupathi, Pension Lok Adalat for the retired Employees of the State Government, Andhra Pradesh State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and they are yielding good results.

Expansion of Lok Adalat net:

The object of the State Legal Services Authority under Policy for Access to Justice is “expansion of Lok Adalats” to every civil dispute and compoundable offence. The A.P. State Legal Services Authority is conducting
the following Special Lok Adalats in its own and also through the District Legal Services Authorities and Mandal Legal Services Committees.28

1. GRAM LOK ADALAT: For settlement of cases in villages to see the villages are litigation free.

2. JAIL LOK ADALAT: For early disposal of under trial prisoners cases.

3. PARIVAR LOK ADALAT: For settlement of Family disputes.

4. PARIVAR LOK ADALAT: For settlement of compensation cases under the Railway Act, Land Acquisition Act and other Acts including M.V.Act at State level.

5. PRASHANTH LOK ADALAT: For settlement of all compoundable Criminal Cases.

6. PARISHRAM LOK ADALAT: For settlement of Labour Cases.

7. PARISHKAR LOK ADALAT: For settlement of all civil disputes

8. PRATIDIN LOK ADALAT: Daily Lok Adalat with Member Secretary and two others as Bench

9. JUVENILE LOK ADALAT: To give speedy relief to the children

10. SANCHAR LOK ADALAT: For settlement of Telephone and Postal cases.

11. WATER LOK ADALAT: For settlement of cases pertaining to Hyderabad Metro Water supply and sewerage Board.

12. TRANSCO LOK ADALAT: A permanent Lok Adalat Bench is constituted at Hyderabad, by the State Authority for settlement of cases pertaining to electricity disputes.
13. MAHILA LOK ADALAT: For settlement of per-litigation disputes and pending cases of Matrimonial and Family nature, a permanent Lok Adalat bench is constituted.

PENSION LOK ADALAT: Pension Lok Adalat bench is constituted at Hyderabad for dealing with all issues relating to the pension cases of the retired State Government employees.

Organisation of Special Lok Adalats:

The Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority has also taken steps for organizing special lok adalats in coordinating with the Law Enforcement Agencies and the Members of the Bar for settlement of maximum number of compoundable criminal cases before the Lok Adalats, the pendency of which stood on 1,07,641 as on 01-08-2004 in the State. The Hon'ble Executive Chairman, Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority, had a meeting with the Principal Secretary, Home and Director General and Inspector General of Police to ensure cooperation from the Law Enforcement Agencies for this massive Exercise.

Land Acquisition matters for Lok Adalats:

The Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority has also addressed the State Government to refer all land acquisition matters pending before courts or proposed in future for settlement before Lok Adalats, duly authorizing its Officers, to enter into negotiated settlement with the interested persons through, Lok Adalats and to direct all its Departments, Agencies and
Organizations to invariably follow this procedure. The response of the State Government is quite positive.29

Excise and Prohibition cases for Lok Adalats:

The Andhra Pradesh State Legal Service Authority has also addressed the State Government to revise the statutory rules for compounding of offences under the Andhra Pradesh Prohibition Act 1995, so as to enable settlement of a good number of cases under the Excise & Prohibition Laws, involving minor and trivial offences, before Lok Adalats. The Government have amended the rules as proposed by G.O.Ms.No.1084, Revenue (Ex-II) dated: 21-12-2004. Follow up action to settle all compounding cases including those at the crime stage under Prohibition and Excise Laws as per the emended rules before the end of February 2005 was taken.30

BSNL Cases for Lok Adalats:

The Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority has also addressed the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to positively consider referring its money defaulter cases to Lok Adalats for settlement formulating a scheme of reasonable concessions to the defaulters and authorizing its officers to enter into conciliated settlement of such disputes.

ANDHRA PRADESH HIGH COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE:

Prior to the enactment of the Legal Services Authorities Act, as stated earlier, the A.P. High Court Legal Aid and Advice Committee was functioning under A.P. State Legal Aid and Advice to the poor Rules 1980. The said Committee was conducting and extending Legal Aid and Advice and
conducting Lok Adalats for speedy justice as envisaged under Article 39-A of the Constitution of India.

The spirit of Article 39-A of the constitution is that the State shall secure that the operation of the Legal system promotes justice, on a basis of equal opportunity and shall in particular, provide free legal aid by suitable legislation or schemes in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.

To achieve the said object, those bodies were functioning under the supervision and control of A.P. State Legal Aid and Advice Board.

It was felt desirable to constitute Statutory Legal Services Authorities at the National, State, District, Mandal and at High Court levels so as to achieve objectives monitoring of legal aid programmes. Accordingly the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 was amended by the Legal Services Authorities (Amendment Act 1994) which has come into force for achieving the objectives of the Constitution of India and also to give statutory recognition to the awards passed by the Lok Adalats constituted under the said Act.

Under the provisions of Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 and Rules 1995 and Regulations 1996 framed there under, the A.P. High Court Legal Services Committee has been constituted in November 1995, headed by a sitting High Court Judge and with other members as required. The committee is functioning to secure the objectives of the said Act and to
provide legal services also to organize the Lok Adalats for speedy and amicable settlement through the mechanism and mediation in the State.³¹

Composition of Andhra Pradesh High Court Legal Services Committee:

Section 8 (A) of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 and Regulation 5 of A.P. State Legal Services Authority Regulations, 1996 lay down that the State Authority shall constitute a Committee called the High Court Legal Services Committee consisting of a sitting Judge of the High Court who shall be nominated by the Patron-in-Chief as Chairman and the following eight other members to be nominated by the Patron-in-Chief.³² The list of Present Members is given in Appendix VI.

(i) The President of the A.P. High Court Advocates Association;
(ii) One Member of the A.P. High Court Advocates Association having not less than 15 years of standing at the Bar;
(iii) One Member of the A.P. High Court Advocates Association having not less than 5 years and not more than 15 years of standing at the Bar;
(iv) One Member of the Women Lawyers' Association of High Court of A.P. having not less than 10 years standing at the Bar;
(v) one serving or retired eminent Law Teacher of a University;
(vi) an eminent social worker engaged in the upliftment of the weaker sections of the people, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Children and Rural Labour;
(vii) an eminent person in the field of Law; and
(viii) a person of repute who is specially interested in the implementation of the Legal Service Schemes.

The experience and qualification of Secretary of the High Court Legal Services Committee under sub-section (3) of Section 8-A

A person shall not be qualified for appointment as Secretary of the High Court Legal Services Committee unless he is an officer of the High Court not below the rank of Joint Registrar.33

Term of Office of the Members and Secretary of the High Court Legal Services Committee

Regulation 6 of A.P. State Legal Services Authority Regulations 1996 lays down that the term of the office of the Secretary and members of the High Court Committee shall be for a period of Two Years unless earlier terminated by the Patron-in-Chief.34

All members of the Committee except the Secretary shall function in an honorary capacity.

If any member sending including the Chairman ceases to be the member of the High Court Committee for any reason, the vacancy shall be filled up in the same manner as the original nomination and the person so nominated shall continue to be the member or the Chairman, as the case may be, for the remaining term of the member or the Chairman in whose place he is nominated.35

Removal of the Members other than Chairman of the High Court Committee from Office in certain circumstances36

Regulation 7 (1) (2) and (3) say that the Patron-in-Chief in consultation with the Executive Chairman of the State Authority may remove
any member nominated under Section 8A (2) (b) from the High Court Committee, who

(a) fails without sufficient cause, to attend three consecutive meetings of the Committee; or

(b) has been adjudged insolvent; or

(c) has been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the Patron-in-Chief of the State Authority, involves moral turpitude; or

(d) has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a member; or

(e) has so abused his position or mentally incapable of acting as a member; or

(2) No member of the Committee shall be removed, on any of the grounds specified therein unless he has been given reasonable opportunity to be heard;

(3) A member of the High Court Committee may resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the Patron-in-Chief through the Executive Chairman of the State Authority and forwarded through the Chairman of the High Court Committee. The resignation shall take effect from the date on which it is accepted by the Patron-in-Chief.

The number of officers and other employees of the High Court Legal Services Committee and other conditions of service:

According Section 9 sub-section 6 of the A:P. Legal Services Authorities Rules 1995, the High Court Legal Services Committee shall have such number of Officers and other employees for rendering secretarial assistance and for its day-to-day functions as are set out in the Rules or as many be notified by the State Government from time to time.
The officers and other employees of the High Court Legal Services Committee shall be entitled to draw pay and allowances in the scale of pay indicated against each post in the Schedule to these rules or at par with the State Government employees holding equivalent posts. Vide Table 5.9.

### Table 5.9
Sanctioned Staff Pattern of the High Court Legal Services Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Designation of the Posts</th>
<th>No. of Posts</th>
<th>Scale of Pay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Record Assistant</td>
<td>1 (One)</td>
<td>Rs. 1535-30-1625-40-1825-50-2075-60-2375-75-2750-90-2840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Attenders</td>
<td>2 (Two)</td>
<td>Rs.1375-25-1475-30-1625-40-1825-50-2075-60-2375</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Member Secretary A.P. State Legal Services Authorities City Civil Court Compound, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

In all matters like age of retirement, pay and allowances, benefits and entitlements and disciplinary matters, the officers and other
employees of the High Court Legal Services Committee shall be governed by the State Government rules as are applicable to persons holding equivalent posts.

The officers and other employees of the High Court Legal Services Committee shall be entitled to such other facilities, allowances and benefits as may be notified by the State Government from time to time.

**Powers and Functions of the High Court Committee in Andhra Pradesh**

Regulation (8) of the A.P. Legal Services Authority Regulations 1996 lays down the powers and functions of the Andhra Pradesh High Court Legal Services Committee as follows:

Subject to the general superintendence and control of the State Authority, the High Court Committee exercises the following powers and performs the following functions. To

- recommend to the State Authority for filing of Public Interest Litigation in the High Court for the general public if a large body or class of persons who cannot by themselves take recourse to law due to penury illiteracy or other similar reasons;

- convene and organize Lok Adalats at regular intervals in respect of High Court cases;

- receive applications for legal services in respect of cases pertaining to High Court of A.P.;

- ensure that the case of every applicant is promptly processed and disposed of;

- consider the cases brought before it for legal services and decide as to what extent legal services can be made available to the applicant;
- persuade the parties to appear before it and make efforts to bring about a just settlement between them and if necessary also refuse the legal services, if in its opinion, the conciliation has failed due to any fault on the part of the applicant;
- encourage and promote conciliation and settlement in all legal proceedings;
- take proceedings for the recovery of the costs awarded to a person to whom legal services are rendered;
- submit recommendations and suggest improvements to the State Authority in the working of these Regulations;
- prepare and submit such reports, returns and other statistics or information, as the State Authority may call for; and
- perform and exercise such other functions and powers as may be determined by regulations made by the State Authority from time to time.
### TABLE 5.10

STATISTICS RELATING TO LOK ADALATS & LEGAL LITERACY CAMPS
CONDUCTED BY THE HIGH COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Lok Adalats conducted</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of cases brought before Lok Adalat</td>
<td>1051</td>
<td>913</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>4877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of cases settled</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.V.O.P. Cases, settled</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount awarded in M.V.O.P. Cases</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5510600</td>
<td>2816520</td>
<td>15,32,000</td>
<td>445,000</td>
<td>692222</td>
<td>10996342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other cases settled</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount awarded in other cases</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>150000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>349,614</td>
<td>551,240</td>
<td>661488</td>
<td>1712342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Aid Granted (Financial Year)</td>
<td>812</td>
<td>1077</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>4768</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Secretary, A.P. High Court Legal Services Committee High Court Buildings, Hyderabad.
Table 5.10 shows the statistics relating to the number of Lok Adalats and Legal Literacy Camps conducted by the Andhra Pradesh High Court Legal Services Committee during the period from 1997 to 2006. An analysis of Table 5.10 reveals that over a period of ten years as many as 128 Lok Adalats were conducted and the highest number of Lok Adalats were held during the year 2001 which recorded to 26 and the least number of Lok Adalats held were three in the year 1998. The total number of cases brought before Lok Adalat during the period was 4877 of which the highest number of cases brought was 1051 in the year 1997 and the least number was 84 in the year 2005. During this period the total number of cases settled was 573 of which the highest number of cases settled was 102 in the year 1999 and the least number of cases was 15 in the year 2005. The total number of MVOP cases settled during the period was 120 of which the highest number of cases was 74 in the year 2002 and the least was five in the year 2004. During the year 1997 to 2001 the number of MVOP cases settled was Zero. During the period as there were no cases settled and hence no amount was paid to the parties. The total amount awarded in MVOP cases during the period from 2002 to 2006 was Rs.1.09 crores of which the highest amount awarded was 0.55 cases in the year 2002. The number of other cases settled during the period was 33 of which the highest number of cases settled was 15 during the year 2004. The total amount awarded in these cases was Rs.17.12 lakhs of which the highest amount paid was Rs.6.61 lakhs during the year 2006 and the least amount paid was Rs.1.5 lakhs during the year 2002. The total number of persons to whom legal aid granted was 4768 during the period of
which the highest number of persons obtained legal aid was 1077 during the year 1998 and the least was 241 during the year 2005.

TABLE – 5.11

STATEMENT RELATING TO LEGAL AID GRANTED BY HIGH COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE FROM 1996 TO 31-12-2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Applications received</th>
<th>Legal Aid granted</th>
<th>% of granted</th>
<th>Applications Otherwise disposed</th>
<th>% disposed of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>3,849</td>
<td>812</td>
<td>21.10</td>
<td>3,037</td>
<td>78.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>2,668</td>
<td>1,077</td>
<td>40.37</td>
<td>1,591</td>
<td>59.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>4,573</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>9.51</td>
<td>4,138</td>
<td>90.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>4,428</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>8.42</td>
<td>4,055</td>
<td>91.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>4,208</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>9.51</td>
<td>3,808</td>
<td>90.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>3,441</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>7.32</td>
<td>3,189</td>
<td>92.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1,298</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>24.50</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>75.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2,214</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>24.21</td>
<td>1,678</td>
<td>75.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>27.39</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>72.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1264</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>25.63</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>74.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>28,823</td>
<td>4,768</td>
<td>16.54</td>
<td>24,007</td>
<td>83.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee, Hyderabad, A.P.

Table 5.11 gives details about the number of persons to whom Legal aid was granted during the study period from 1997 to 2006. An analysis of Table 5.11 shows that as many as 28823 applications were received requesting for legal aid during the period of which the highest number of applications received was 4428 during the year 2000 and the least was 880 during the year 2005. The total number of persons to whom legal aid provided was 4768 as shown in Table 5.10 which accounts to only 16.54 percent. The total number of applications otherwise disposed during the
study period was 24007 which accounts to only 83.46 percent of which the highest number otherwise disposed of was 4138 (90.49%) during the year 1999. On the whole only 16.54 percent applicants were provided legal aid and 83.46% applications were disposed of otherwise.

**District Legal Services Authorities in Andhra Pradesh**

Section 9 (1) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 provides for the constitution of District Legal Services Authorities for all the Districts in Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh in consultation with the Chief Justice of High Court constitutes this body with the respective District Judge as its Chairman. The State Government appoints the Secretary of the District Authority who belongs to the State Judicial Service not lower in rank than that of a Subordinate Judge of the District authority to exercise such powers and perform such functions under the Chairman of the District Authority. The other members are also appointed by the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of High Court. Accordingly the State Government of Andhra Pradesh constituted District Legal Services Authorities in all the 23 Districts with the District Judges as their Chairmen and also appointed 23 Secretaries, one to each District Authority along with other members. At present the District Legal Services Authority in each district of Andhra Pradesh consists of the following Eight Members:

**I. Ex-Officio Members:**

1. District Magistrate/Judge - Chairman
2. District Superintendent of Police - Member

245
II. Nominated Members:

Eminent Social Worker engaged in the upliftment of weaker sections of the people including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Children and Rural Labours - Member

6. An Eminent Person in the field of Law - Member

7. A Person of repute who is specially interested in the implementation of Legal Services Schemes - Member

8. Subordinate/Civil Judge from State Judicial Service appointed by Government of Andhra Pradesh - Secretary

The District Authority under sub-section (5) of Section 9 of the Act may have such number of officers and other employees for rendering secretarial assistance and for its day-to-day functions.

The conditions of Services and the Salary and the Allowances of the Officers and other employees of the District Authorities under sub-section (6) of Section 9 are entitled to draw pay and allowances in the scale of pay indicated against each post in the Schedule to these rules or at part with the State Government employees holding equivalent posts.

In all matters like age of retirement, pay and allowances, benefits and entitlement and disciplinary matters, the officers and other employees of the District Authorities shall be governed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh rules as are applicable to persons holding equivalent posts.
The Officers and other employees of these District Authorities shall be entitled to such other facilities, allowances and benefits as may be notified by the State Government from time to time.

**Full-time Secretaries to District Legal Services Authorities**

The A.P. State Legal Services Authority also sent a proposal to the State Government appraising the need of appointment of full time Secretaries to the District Legal Services Authorities. The Authority requested the State Government of sanction of 23 posts of full time Secretaries for all the District Legal Services Authorities in the cadre of Senior Civil Judge for better implementation of the Scheme. The state Government vide letter No: 3454/Courts-A1/2005-1, negatived the proposal on the ground that the Government is not in a position to meet the expenditure due to paucity of funds. The State legal services Authority sent proposal once again to the government vide letter ROC.No. 43/LSA/2005, dated: 28-01-2006 requesting the Government to review and reconsider the earlier view of the Government. In response to this, the Government of Andhra Pradesh appointed 23 full time Secretaries to District Legal Services Authorities. The list of present Chairmen and Secretaries is given in Appendix-IX.

As stated earlier, these District Legal Services Authorities perform such functions like; organizing Lok Adalats within the District; coordinate the activities of the Taluk / Mandal Legal Services Committees and other Legal Services in the Districts and perform such other functions as the State Authority may fix by regulations.
In the discharge of its functions under this Act, the District Authority shall, wherever appropriate, act in coordination with other governmental and non-governmental institutions, universities and other engaged in the work of promoting the cause of legal services to the poor and shall also be guided by such directions as the Central Authority or the State Authority may give to it in writing.

The Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority in order to provide good accommodation to District Legal Services Authorities in the State to carry on their regular business constructed ‘Nyaya Seva Sadans’ at all the District headquarters. These Nyaya Seva Sadans are not only housing the District Legal Services Authorities to conduct conciliation and Lok Adalats but also providing shelter to the litigants who visit the district headquarters.

Taluk/Mandal Legal Services Committees in Andhra Pradesh

The State Legal Services Authority of Andhra Pradesh constituted Taluk/Mandal Legal Services Committees for each Mandal or group of Mandals with Senior Civil Judge operating within the jurisdiction as its ex-officio Chairman and four other members as per Section 11-(A) of Andhra Pradesh Legal Services Act, 1987. The following are the ex-officio and nominated members of the Committee.42

Ex-officio Members:

1. Senior Civil Judge - Chairman
2. Sub-Divisional Police Officer - Member

Nominated Members:

3. An eminent social worker
engaged in the upliftment of
weaker sections of the people
' including SCs, STs, Women,
Children and rural labour - Member

4. An Eminent person in the
field of Law - Member

5. A person of repute who is
specially interested in the
implementation of legal
services scheme - Member

The number of Officers and other Employees of the Taluk/ Mandal Legal Services Committee under Sub-section (3) of Section 11-A

The Mandal Legal Services Committee may have such number of officers and other employees for rendering secretarial assistance and for its day-to-day functions.

The conditions of service and the Salary and Allowances of Officers and other Employees of the Mandal Legal Services Committee under Sub-section (4) of Section 11-A

(i) The Officers and other employees of the Taluk/Mandal Legal Services Committee are be entitled to draw pay and allowance in the scale of pay as fixed by State Government on par with the employees holding equivalent posts in the State Government.

In all matters like age of retirement, pay and allowances, benefits and entitlements and disciplinary matters, the officers and other employees of
the Mandal Legal Services Committee are governed by the State Government rules as are applicable to persons holding equivalent posts.

The Officers and other employees of the Mandal Legal Services Committee shall be entitled to such other facilities, allowances and benefits as may be notified by the State Government from time to time.

In pursuance of Section 11-A (1) of the Legal Services Act 1987, the Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Committee has constituted 108 Taluk/Mandal Legal Services Committee in all the 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh. In the four districts of Rayalaseema there are 22 Committees, in the ten districts of Telangana region there are 37 Committees and in the nine districts of Coastal Andhra there are 49 Committees.43 Vide Annexure-VIII.

Lok Adalats

Every Lok Adalat organized for an area shall consists of the following members as per Section 19 of the Act:

(1) Serving or retired Judicial Officer and

(2) Three other persons as members.

The experience and qualifications of other persons of the Lok Adalats other than the serving a retired Judicial Officer;

(a) an eminent Social Worker who is engaged in the upliftment of the weaker sections of the people, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Children Rural and Urban Labour; or

(b) a lawyer of standing; or

(c) a person of repute who is specially interested in the implementation of the Legal Services Scheme and Programmes.
Execution of awards passed by the Lok Adalats in respect of pending cases and pre-litigation cases

The awards passed by the Lok Adalats in respect of pending cases shall be executable by the courts in which those matters were pending prior to the passing by the Lok Adalats.44

Provided that the awards passed by the Lok Adalats in respect of the matters at prelitigative stage shall be executable through the Court of District Judges of the District in which the Lok Adalats is held

(i) Necessary certificate for refund of Court Fee will be issued by the Court which referred the case to the Lok Adalat to the persons who is entitled for which refund of Court Fee.

(ii) On production of such certificate, the District Collector or the competent Revenue Authority shall refund the amount of Court Fee in the manner provided in the Andhra Pradesh Court Fee and Suit Valuation Act, 1956".

A.P. State Legal Services Authority Activities:

The A.P. State Legal Services Authority is involved in performing the following activities also.

Legal Aid Councils:

284 Legal Aid Counsels were appointed for all the Magistrate Courts in the State to give necessary legal assistance to the prisoners in custody as per the model scheme of National Legal Services Authority.

The Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority organizes state level conference of all the Chairmen and Secretaries of all the District
Legal Services Authorities in the State now and then Hyderabad, to formulate a positive plan of action for efficient and effective dispensation of legal services to every needy person through the legal services authorities.

National Legal Literacy Mission (NLLM)

The A.P. State Legal Services Authority has formulated a comprehensive and qualitative Plan of Action to implement the policy for “Access to Justice for All” and the same is under execution by the District Legal Services Authorities and Mandal Legal Services Committees in the State making maximum use of the resources and infrastructure available with the Authorities. The objects of the “Policy for Access to Justice for All” are:

1. Development of para-legal Services through training to various target groups to in turn act as trainers and also training in alternative disputes resolution process to judicial officers and advocates and spread of legal literacy and awareness through them.

2. Spread of legal awareness and literacy to every citizen that they have a right to live with human dignity, that they can enforce their rights in law, that they have to perform their legal duties and obligations and that they can approach the legal services Authorities for all permissible assistance.

3. Evolution of a permanent and continuous mechanism to be available at the offices of District Legal Services Authorities, Mandal Legal Services Committees and Courts for rendering proper legal advice to the needy.

4. Legal aid to all needy citizens, particularly to prisoners and other eligible categories through competent and committed legal aid counsel and duty counsel.
5. Evolution of a uniform policy for implementation of Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

6. Expansion of Lok Adalat net to every civil dispute and compoundable offence.

7. Devising the necessary ways and means to answer the minimum needs of infrastructure required for effective functioning of the Legal Services Authorities.

The policy and content of National Legal Literacy Mission are under implementation in content and substance in the State through the plan of action formulated for implementation of "Policy for Access to Justice for All".

Computerisation of Legal Services

In commemoration of the Silver Jubilee year of Legal Services and Decennial year of Legal Services Authorities in Andhra Pradesh.

The Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authorities has taken steps to computerize the Andhra Pradesh High Court Legal Services Committee and all the District Legal Services Authorities by providing 28 computers with all the peripherals to have a comprehensive data base of all the activities of the legal services authorities and to provide connectively between the State Authority and all the District Legal Services Authorities.

World Mental Health Day is observed every year throughout the State on every October 10 by organizing Legal Awareness Camps for Mentally retarded associating psychiatrists. Exclusive Literacy programmes for Senior Citizens were also organized in all the Districts, Legal Services
weeks were celebrated on a large scale by all the District Legal Services Authorities and Mandal Legal Services Committees by organizing Special Legal Awareness Campaigns and Special Lok Adalats.

**Special Legal Assistance to Tsunami Victims**

Six districts, namely East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore were affected by Tsunami disaster. The Hon'ble Executive Chairman, convened a meeting with the Chairman of the six District Legal Services Authorities, Chairman, Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh and President, Andhra Pradesh High Court Advocates Association on 10-01-2005 and formulated a comprehensive plan of action to extend all necessary legal service to the victims of Tsunami. Accordingly, Special Legal Assistance Cells were established in all the Tsunami affected areas in the state and wide publicity through the media, pamphlets and posters was given about the legal aid, assistance the advice available to Tsunami victims. The members of the Committees extensively toured the effected villages and spread awareness among the victims. Exclusive Legal Literacy Camps were also held in the regard.

Besides all the above the Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority is also exploring possibilities of settlement of Labour & Industrial Disputes and Consumer Disputes etc., through Lok Adalats. A permanent Legal Services Center and a Permanent Lok Adalat for Industrial and Labour cases were inaugurated at Hyderabad on 26-01-2005 by the Hon'ble Sri Justice Bilai Nazki, Executive Chairman, Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority. A high level meeting with the Regional Managers of the
Insurance Companies was recently held to promote settlement of maximum number of claims arising out of motor accidents pending before Courts through Lok Adalats.

The overall effort and emphasis of the Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority is to broad base legal services to the optimum possible extent in the areas of legal aid, legal advice, legal literacy and Lok Adalats in Andhra Pradesh.

**Activities of A.P. High Court Legal Services Committee**

The A.P. High Court Legal Services Committee is involved in performing the following activities.

**Conciliation**

Every day the Secretary, A. P. High Court Legal Services Committee, is conducting conciliation and counseling to the parties and is also providing necessary Legal Advice in pre-litigation matters and matters pending before the Hon'ble High Court as well as in Subordinate Courts of A.P.

**Legal Advice to Prisoners**

The Committee is regularly receiving representations from the prisoners. In all these matters necessary legal advice is giving to prisoners and necessary legal aid is also providing and also taking all-necessary follow up action as per law.

- Legal Aid rendered to 107 prisoners during the year 2004
- Legal Aid rendered to 253 prisoners during the year 2005
Public Interest Litigation

The Committee is keeping constant watch and bring such issues to the notice of High Court for filing Public interest Litigation on bonded Labour Issues, student issues in general and SC/ST students issues, on police harassment, on Devadasi system published in News Papers.

A. P. State Legal Services Authority, is taking all steps for creating awareness to change the attitudes of villagers and also for eradicating the pernicious religious custom of Devadasis. In the State special calls also established for the Welfare of women suffered under this system and also for eradication of the system.

A Public interest litigation is entertained by the High Court on the recommendation of the High Court Legal Services Committee with regard to the incident where in a young giri is dedicated to the village as “JOGINI” by the villagers on the occasion of “Maisamma Jatara”.

Family Counseling

Family Counseling is held regularly by the Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee in respect of matrimonial/family disputes. Committee is intending to establish permanent family counseling center in High Court premises.

Legal Advice by Post

The High Court Legal Services Committee is receiving representations directly from Public through post. The High Court Legal Services Committees also receives representations forwarded by State
By Phone

Public from the nook and corner of the State are contacting Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee for legal advice. On an average 20 phone calls were being receiving by the Secretary from the Public and they were promptly rendering proper legal advice.

Legal Aid Advocates

The High Court Legal Services Committee is organizing periodical meetings with panel Advocates and discussing with regard to the progress of the case entrusted to Panel Advocates and also discussing with regard to further steps to be taken after disposal of the matters before High Court.

Legal Aid to the persons who want to approach Supreme Court

For eligible persons the High Court Legal Services Committee is processing and forwarding the representations to the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee after observing all the formalities for providing necessary legal aid.

Publicity

The A. P. High Court Legal Services Committee, with the help of State Legal Services Authority published pamphlets, broachers, video and audio cassettes en-lighting the public about their rights and privileges contained in various Acts.

The A. P. State Legal Services Authority, the A. P. High Court Legal Services Committee are giving vide publicity throughout the State by
installing boarding about providing legal aid and holding of Lok Adalats in Police Stations, Prisons, Mandal Revenue Officers, all subordinate courts in the state and in the Hon'ble High Court in the following format.

An Overview:

Andhra Pradesh is one of the premier States of the Indian Union. This State was formed by the merger of the Andhra area of the Madras Presidency and the Telangana area of the former Indian State of Hyderabad. After the formation of Andhra Pradesh the Andhra Pradesh High Court has formed. The constitutional obligation to provide free legal aid and to secure equal justice was first formally implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh through promulgamation of the Andhra Pradesh State Legal Aid and Advice to the Poor Rules 1980 and establishment of A.P. Legal Aid and Advice Board. The Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 came into force in the State in November 1985. Consequently the State Legal Services Authority, the High Court Legal Services Committee, 23 District Legal Services Authorities and 108 Mandal Legal Services Committees were constituted in due course. These institutions are guided by the Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority Rules 1995 and Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority Regulations 1996 in respect of their constitution, powers and functions. The object of the State Legal Services Authority under policy for Access to Justice is 'expansion of Lok Adalats' to every civil dispute and compoundable offence. The A.P. State Legal Services Authority is conducting special Lok Adalats also through District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk/Mandal Legal Services Committees like Gram Lok Adalats, Jail Lok Adalats, Parivar Lok Adalats, Prashant Lok Adalats.
Prashanth Lok Adalats, Parishka Lok Adalats, Pratidin Lok Adalats, Juvenile Lok Adalats, Sanchar Lok Adalats, Water Lok Adalats, Transco Lok Adalats, Pension Lok Adalats and so on. The A.P. Legal Services Authority is involved in performing various other activities like organizing Legal aid Councils, organizing national literacy camps, publicity etc. The Lok Adalat system in Kurnool district, the Mandal Legal Services Committees in Kurnool district, the procedure for organizing Lok Adalats and their performance over a period and so on are discussed in the next chapter.
REFERENCES:


4. Ibid.


6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

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10. Ibid.

11. Ibid., p.3.

12. Ibid.

13. Ibid., p.4.


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24. A.P. Legal Services Authority 1996 Regulations.

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43. *Ibid.*, 11-A (1), No.1829/LSA/98, dt.25.03.1998, Member Secretary, A.P. State Legal Services Authority, Hyderabad.