

*Mrs. Minakshi Das*, OSJS  
Member Secretary



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
ODISHA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY  
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**L. No. 1424 (30)/Dtd.20.04.2020**

**To**

**The District Judge-cum-Chairperson,  
District Legal Services Authority,  
.....ALL.....**

**Sub: Activities to be undertaken by the DLSAs under NALSA (Legal Services to Disaster Victims through Legal Services Authority), Scheme, 2010 in view of disaster caused by the global pandemic COVID-19 virus.**

**Madam/Sir,**

As you know, **NALSA (Legal Services to Disaster Victims through Legal Services Authority), Scheme, 2010** was formulated with aim and objective to provide legal services to the victims of natural or man-made disasters by co-ordinating with the Government departments and Non-Governmental Organisations. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) having been satisfied that the country is threatened with the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, has considered it necessary to take effective measures to prevent its spread across the country. The Central as well as State Governments (including Government of Odisha) have taken steps for safety and security of the citizens of India as per the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and Epidemic Act, 1946.

In the given scenario, Hon'ble Executive Chairperson of this Authority has been pleased to issue the following instructions to all the DLSAs for their active participation for the safety and security of the victims of disaster, keeping in view the NALSA (Legal Services to Disaster Victims through Legal Services Authority), Scheme, 2010:

1. To establish **Core Group in all districts for Disaster Management** comprising one senior Judicial Officer, young lawyers including lady lawyers, doctors and accredited NGOs working in the area and if such Core Group is already existing, **inform the SLSA with contact numbers** to be widely publicized.

2. **Chairperson(s) of the DLSA(s) shall arrange a meeting with the District Magistrate-cum-Collector of their respective district to make a list of relief measures and schemes of the Government for the COVID pandemic and co-ordinate with them in activities without causing hindrance in smooth flow of relief work while maintaining social distancing and safety measures.**
3. **The DLSA(s) shall ensure the availability of food, medicine, masks, sanitizer, hand wash and drinking water to the people stranded in different parts of the State in co-ordination with the district administration and NGOs and village legal aid clinics, where functional.**
4. **In the event any beneficiary under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 is facing difficulties to get benefit under various schemes of the central as well as state governments due to unavailability/loss/theft of any certificate or document, the DLSA(s) shall take steps for reconstruction or procuring such documents/certificates. Steps shall also be taken by them for opening of bank accounts of such beneficiaries, if required, by co-ordinating with the bank authorities.**
5. **The DLSA(s) shall create awareness about the preventive steps for control of the spread of the virus as well as legal remedies required specially for stranded labourers /women & children/ old and disabled persons/ prisoners / poor & needy category / SC & ST persons/ victims of disaster. This can be done by slideshows or distribution of pamphlets or field visits or any other method without compromising safety or hygiene.**

**No awareness programme should be held in a ceremonial manner. Inaugural function and formalities should be avoided. Proper social distancing and safe hygiene, proper preventive gear be used while doing such activities.**

- 6. District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) Legal Aid clinic(s) shall provide immediate necessary medical help if any particular case comes to their knowledge by effectively co-ordinating with medical authorities for requisite testing or quarantine, apart from their activities.**
- 7. Jail Legal Aid clinic(s) shall address the legal problems of the prisoners during lockdown and co-ordinate with DLSA(s) to facilitate their transportation or temporary shelter in case of release in light of Hon'ble Apex Court's orders in WP (c) No. 01/2020.**
- 8. The DLSAs shall co-ordinate with Labour department and to identify the temporary camps of stranded labourers from different states and co-ordinate the distribution of relief materials, transportation of stranded labourers to safe place. A helpline shall be established by all the DLSAs for the purpose, and the same communicated to the SLSA.**
- 9. The DLSA(s) shall effectively address the problems of women and children during and after the period of lockdown as per the NALSA guidelines vide memo No. 1419 (30) dated 18.04.2020.**



10. The DLSAs shall take appropriate steps with regard to debt release measures for the victims/old/disabled and other beneficiaries under various welfare schemes of the government.

11. The DLSAs shall arrange for the services of the Psychologist/Psychiatrist held for counseling the victims suffering from psychological shock and depression on account of disaster.

***However, in view of the shortage of funds with the state authorities as well as the field units, the DLSAs are instructed to make judicious use of services of available DLSA staff, and the district administration and may engage PLVs selectively by maintaining austerity measures.***

Action taken in the matter may kindly be furnished to this Authority by 06.05.2020 for being placed before the Hon'ble Executive Chairperson.

Yours faithfully,

  
20.4.20  
**Member Secretary**