



# **NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

## **PRESS NOTE**

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is launching a Nationwide programme for setting up Village Legal Services Clinics in one village in each Taluk of the country, which will be inaugurated at the Supreme Court of India on 24.01.2014 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Sathasivam, Chief Justice of India and Patron-in- Chief, NALSA in the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.M. Lodha, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Patnaik, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee and other Hon'ble Judges from Supreme Court and Delhi High Court. The programme will be viewed all over the country through video conferencing facilitated by National Informatics Centre and E-Committee of Supreme Court of India.

The Village Legal Services Clinics are intended to provide easily accessible legal services to the large population living in our villages. They are almost on the lines of primary health centres where a doctor and other auxiliary medical staff provide basic health care to the people situated in village areas affected with poverty and social squalor. Like the doctors rendering health services to the people of the locality in the primary health centre, a lawyer manning the legal aid clinic provides legal services to the people. Village Legal Services Clinics have to be manned by para-legal volunteers selected by the Legal Services Authorities and lawyers with a sense of commitment, sensibility and sensitivity to the problems of common people. The thrust is on the basic legal services like legal advice and assistance in routine issues relating to BPL Card, Election I.D., Adhar Card, Gas Connection, Old age Pension etc. The para-legal volunteers manning the legal aid clinic will also attempt to resolve the disputes of the people in the locality, preventing the disputes from maturing into litigation reducing the burden upon the already overloaded courts. The lawyer assigned to the village legal services clinic will provide all legal assistance, also understanding the difficulties faced by people in the distant villages, for accessing justice.

Village Legal Services Clinic is one of the thrust areas envisioned by the NALSA. NALSA plans to set up legal services clinics in all villages over a period of time and the effort on 24-1-2014 is towards fulfilment of this objective.