

डॉ. आलोक श्रीवास्तव, भा.प्र.से

Dr. Alok Srivastava, IAS



सचिव  
न्याय विभाग  
विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय  
भारत सरकार

SECRETARY  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

D.O. NO. 15011/271-JUS (AU)

Dated the 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2017

Dear Sir,

This is to apprise you of the significant events relating to the Department of Justice for the month of October, 2017.

In an effort to get first hand information for status and also to meet high Court Judges and officers who are connected with Department of Justice's programmes and projects, I toured Kolkata on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2017 and had discussions with Shri Justice Aniruddha Bose, In-charge eCourt project and Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice Shri Jyotirmay Bhattacharya regarding the progress of eCourts and Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure. I also had a meeting with Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary (PWD) and Principal Secretary (Finance) of West Bengal Government regarding pending utilization certificates in the CSS for Judicial Infrastructure.

In another meeting with the State Legal Services Authority, I discussed ways in which Para Legal Volunteers could be utilized effectively under the innovative schemes of Department of Justice viz. Telelaw, Nyaya Mitra and Pro Bono.

#### 1. Appointment of Judges

Shri Justice Humchadakatte Gopalaiah Ramesh was appointed as Acting Chief Justice (ACJ) of Karnataka High Court w.e.f. 10.10.2017 and Shri Justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya was appointed as ACJ of Calcutta High Court w.e.f. 25.10.2017.

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## **2. Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC) for Subordinate Judiciary**

A Cabinet Note dated 3.10.2017 and Supplementary Note for the Cabinet dated 9.10.2017 were forwarded to Cabinet Secretariat for placing the matter before the Cabinet. These Cabinet Notes were subsequently discussed by Secretary (Justice) in the PMO on 16.10.2017 and it was decided to amalgamate the Note for the Cabinet dated 3.10.2017 and Supplementary Note dated 9.10.2017 alongwith information relating to Terms of Reference and the starting of work by Shri Justice (Retd.) Venkatarama Reddi, Chairman of the proposed Commission. Accordingly, the revised Cabinet Note was sent to Cabinet Secretariat on 26.10.2017 for placing before the Cabinet. This note is coming up for consideration of the Cabinet on 10.11.2017.

## **3. Extension of CSS on Judicial Infrastructure**

The Cabinet Note on the subject was submitted to the Cabinet Secretariat on 9.10.2017 which is likely to be taken up by the Cabinet on 10.11.2017.

## **4. Progress under Phase II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project**

i) A sum of Rs.8.92 crores was released to NIC for implementation of cloud connectivity under eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II.

ii) An Executive Management Education Programme for Project Coordinators of eCourts Project of the High Courts (eCourts Mission Mode Project) was conducted from 09.10.2017 to 11.10.2017 at Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. The participants have been trained in Project Management Techniques and Processes, Project Financial Management and Controls, Public Procurement and Contract Management, Issues of Compliance, Service Quality and Internal Client Satisfaction and Managing Vendors under GFR etc.

iii) Approval was obtained for extension of the term of eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India upto beyond 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 or till completion of the Phase-II of eCourts project, whichever is earlier.

#### 5. eJustice Samiksha

eSamiksha software has been modified as eJustice Samiksha to monitor the progress of implementation of programmes and schemes of the Department of Justice. Weekly monitoring has been started to monitor the progress of work under EODB, eCourts project, CSS for Judicial Infrastructure and for appointment cases for judges of Supreme Court and High Courts.

#### 6. Updating the Status of Utilization Certificates

We have started action to reduce the pendency of UCs under the CSS for Judicial Infrastructure. State Governments have been requested to furnish UCs for the funds released under the said scheme. The pendency of UCs currently stands at Rs. 228.74 crore.

#### 7. Telelaw Scheme

Under the telelaw scheme, legal advice is provided through video conferencing, chat or telephone conversation. This scheme was launched in August, 2017 and till now, a total 4221 cases were registered and 2881 persons were provided legal advice till date.

In the month of October, 2017, total 1020 cases were registered and 724 persons were provided legal advice, and 378 female beneficiaries were registered for providing legal advice. In addition, 23 SC and 104 ST applicants were benefitted through telelaw scheme.

#### 8. Nyaya Mitra Scheme

Engagement orders for district level Nyaya Mitra has been issued for 29 districts in 7 States. Out of this, 14 have joined and 6 have requested to extend their joining period. These Nyaya Mitras have been appointed with the aim to reduce pendency of court cases across selected districts, with special focus on those pending cases for more than 10 years. The duration of their engagement presently is for six months till March 31, 2018.

**9. Pro Bono Legal Services**

Under the initiatives of Pro Bono Scheme, total 5 new lawyers have been registered and nearly 28 cases of the marginalized applicants have been assigned to the advocates for Pro Bono services. Representative from Department of Justice participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Pro Bono Conference in Malaysia from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017.

**10. Non-compliance of ACC directions**

Nil

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Alok Srivastava)

Shri P.K. Sinha,  
Cabinet Secretary,  
Cabinet Secretariat,  
Rashtrapati Bhavan,  
New Delhi.

Copy to:-

1. PS to Minister of Law & Justice and Corporate Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. PS to Minister of State for Law & Justice and Corporate Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

(Alok Srivastava)  
Secretary to the Govt. of India