<u>Magnificent success of Lok Adalat in Rajasthan whereas</u> <u>RSLSA decipher Access to Justice for common man during</u> <u>COVID-19</u>

COVID-19 has changed the human life drastically. During this amid where Courts are not functional in a normal course; people are confined in their houses with no remedial mechanism. In this plight, to ensure access to justice for all, versatile legal services activities and actions have been devised and initiated by RSLSA along with its 36 DLSAs and 181 TLSCs under the vigil direction of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sangeet Lodha, Administrative Judge, Rajasthan High Court & Executive Chairman, RSLSA making all such efforts to ensure that no one would leave behind from access to justice irrespective of any reason.

Lok Adalat was one of those devised new innovative notions which set new dimensions in unprecedented time wherein disputes between parties were settled amicably. The noteworthy constituent of the Lok Adalat is adoption of Online Mode which enabled public at large not to come out of their houses but settled their cases while sitting at their home on a click at one hand and facilitate, persuaded and introduced people to make a move towards technology on other hand.

The Lok Adalat mechanism rejuvenate the faith of common man in justice as a result of striking efforts made by RSLAS along with DLSAs and TLSCs, two Lok Adalats were organised across Rajasthan including the most far – flung deserted Districts such as Barmer, Banswara, Dungarpur, Jaisalmer, and Sirohi on 22nd August, 2020 & 12th December, 2020 respectively.

The common man friendly procedure was adopted. Parties were connected through telephonic call, whats app video calling, SAMA Chat or any other mode. After counseling of both the parties by experts an agreement of settlement was prepared on agreed conditions of parties and signed digitally by both the parties. The best part of the whole process is secure system wherein in case of settlement the identification of parties is ensured through unique OTP being sent on his/her registered mobile phone to undertake his /her digital signature over the agreement of settlement.

Mr. Brajendra Kr. Jain, Member Secretary, RSLSA has informed that in the first Lok Adalat, 72090 cases were taken up out of which 4395 pre-litigation and 29151 pending cases, total 33546 cases were settled and compensations / awards of Rs. 2700949313 were passed in favour of claimants. In the same line of action, the second Lok Adalat also wins the faith of common man in the mechanism of alternative dispute resolution system and dissolved dispute into compromise wherein 10394 pre-litigation cases and 39504 pending cases, total 49898 cases were settled and compensation/ awards of Rs. 4343027627 were passed in the favour of claimants. Collectively, RSLSA has dissolve 14789 pre-litigation and 68655 pending cases, total 83,444 cases into compromise through these two Lok Adalats.

Conspicuously, these two Lok Adalats broken all the barriers and reached to the masses particularly matters pending before Motor Accident Claim Tribunals since long which were taken up and settled. The figure of matters settled under MACT is quite encouraging as 3742 claims pending in MACT were settled and claim amount of Rs. 1,766,956,060 were passed. Similarly family disputes were addressed that resultant into compromise and 4000 families were re-united.

The Lok Adalat has transformed the legal scenario of Rajasthan and made justice accessible at the grass-root level even to disadvantaged persons residing in the remote corners of the Rajasthan.