

LOK ADALAT SYSTEM IN INDIA

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I. INTRODUCTION

In every system of government, the effective administration of justice is a permanent and necessary condition of peace, order, civilization and governance of the country. Administration of justice means to adjudicate the rights and duties of the individuals on the basis of rules laid down by the State. State shall make efforts to provide the right to access to justice to all as access to justice from an independent and impartial agency in public law as well as in private law is a recognized human right¹. But, rendering of justice to the people, rich or poor, is a question of fundamental character.² It becomes a sacred duty of the State to establish a judicial system where its people without any distinctions are enabled to vindicate their grievances and have justice without any delay on the part of the judiciary as it is an essential requisite for the survival of the State.

The architects of our Constitution emphasized to ensure justice to all even to the poorest of the poor through efficacious justice delivery mechanism. The framers of the Constitution prescribed the mandate for justice – social, economic and political, in its Preamble. The various provisions of the Constitution such as Articles 14, 21, 38 and 40 also lay down stress upon the right to equal and effective justice. In order to achieve the goal of justice, Article 39-A³ has been enshrined in the Constitution with the purpose to provide free legal aid and to strengthen the justice delivery system. Keeping in view the philosophy of equality and justice, the Apex

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¹ Article 10 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 emphasize upon the right to a full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal. Similarly, Article 14 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 also says about the right to equality before the courts and tribunals; right to a fair and public hearing.

² LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA, FOURTEENTH REPORT, *Reform of Judicial Administration*, 587 (1958).

³ Art. 39A read as under : “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 or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizens by reason of economic or other disabilities.”

Court has also played a vital role through its catena of judgments⁴ for the betterment of administration of justice. The court declared in these cases the right to free legal services and speedy trial as the fundamental rights which are included within the broad matrix of the principle of right to life and personal liberty in Article 21 and right to equality under Article 14.

However, in spite of these mandates of the Constitution and directions of the Apex Court, the desired goal of effective justice dispensing system has not been achieved. The Indian Judicial system has been affected by the problems of legal formalities, rigid procedural rules, delay in justice, corruption, expensive litigation, arrears of cases in all courts, inadequate number of courts, etc. In the light of these drawbacks in the justice delivery mechanism, the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system has been introduced in order to provide speedy and less expensive justice to all. ADR mechanism has various major methods such as Arbitration, Conciliation, Mediation and Lok Adalat.

II. CONCEPT AND NATURE OF LOK ADALAT

The institution of Lok Adalat is a significant method of alternative dispute resolution system. The basic idea behind the scheme of Lok Adalat is to speed up clearance of pendency of huge arrears in courts and fulfil the constitutional goal of access to equal, fair and efficacious justice to all irrespective of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth and socio-economic position. The vernacular meaning of Lok Adalat is people's court which is innovated in order to provide speedy and inexpensive justice at the door steps of poor and neglected section of the society. It is an expeditious mode of redressal of grievances of parties which avoid frequent adjournments, lengthy arguments and hierarchy of appeals.⁵ The institution supplements but does not supplant the existing adjudicatory machinery. The procedure of Lok Adalat is simple, informal, flexible, non-controversial and without legal technicalities. It is a forum which aims at bringing about settlement

⁴ *Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar*, AIR 1979 SC 1369; *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India*, AIR 1978 SC 597; *M.H. Hoskot v. State of Maharashtra*, AIR 1978 SC 1548; *State of Haryana v. Darshana Devi*, AIR 1979 SC 855; *Sunil Batra v. Delhi Administration*, AIR 1980 SC 1579; *Khatri v. State of Bihar*, AIR 1981 SC 928; *Gopalanachari v. State of Kerala*, AIR 1981 SC 674; *Sheela Barse v. State of Maharashtra*, AIR 1983 SC 378; *Sukhdas v. Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh*, AIR 1986 SC 991; and *A.R. Antulay v. R.S.Nayak*, (1992) SCC 225.

⁵ Mark William, *Impression of a Lok Adalat*, THE LAWYERS 8 (1990).

through voluntary, convivial and persuasive efforts. The mechanism has been introduced for dispensation of justice in a manner compatible with the social, cultural, economic and administrative needs of India.

The forum of Lok Adalat follows democratic values and provides opportunities to disputants to reach at an amicable agreement without pressurizing them. A compromise through Lok Adalat is always based upon the free and mutual consent of disputing parties. The disputes are settled in the institution on the basis of principles of natural justice, equity, and fair play.⁶ It ensures standards of fairness and the emphasis is more on natural justice than the rigours of law. The keynote of the system is justice rather than law. The Lok Adalat is a unique forum which not only renders justice to disputants but also strengthen the human relations. Therefore, when the justice is dispensed by Lok Adalats, there is neither victor, nor a vanquished but both the disputants are winners.⁷ It is a participatory justice delivery mechanism in which judges, lawyers, litigants, social workers, law teachers and common people are actively involved in justice dispensing process.⁸ Lok Adalat determines the disputes by discussions, counselling, negotiations, conciliation and by adopting commonsense and human approach to the problems of the disputants.

III. GENESIS OF LOK ADALAT

The institution of Lok Adalat is not a modern concept it was in existence from time immemorial with different nomenclature. In ancient India, the system was called as people's court or popular court or panchayat system. Besides the State's courts, a large number of people's court also functioned with a view to provide justice to people at their doorsteps. The official courts were established and governed by the authorized officers of the State while the people's court used to deliver justice to all with the help of respectable persons of locality and community.⁹ The people's court encouraged the principle of self government and reduced the burden

⁶ J.S. Bisht, *Lok Adalat: A Mechanism of Alternate Dispute Resolution*, 31 INDIAN BAR REVIEW 165 at 179 (2004).

⁷ S.S. Sharma, LEGAL SERVICE, PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATIONS AND PARA LEGAL SERVICES (2003) 186.

⁸ Prabha Bhargava, LOK ADALAT: JUSTICE AT THE DOOR-STEPS (1998) 5.

⁹ P.B. Mukherji, *The Hindu Judicial System* in S.K. (ed.), THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF INDIA (VOL. II, 1969) 439-440.

of central administration. The courts had knowledge about the disputants, the witnesses and the facts of the dispute and it was easy for them to determine the dispute speedily and effectively.¹⁰

In ancient time, mainly three kinds of people's courts were existed,¹¹ viz. (i) Puga, (ii) Sreni and (iii) Kula. The Puga court consisted of members belonging to different castes and professions but staying in same village or town.¹² The Puga court as the highest court in the hierarchy of people's court enjoyed an appellate jurisdiction in all cases decided by the Sreni and Kula. The Sreni courts were consisted of persons of same trade, same professions, artisans or persons belonging to different tribes who were governed by principles of the same merchant guilds or trade or profession. These appeared to be industrial courts or courts of profession or courts of disciplinary bodies of different merchants guilds. The courts had jurisdiction to decide matters relating to their special trade or profession or occupation.¹³ The Sreni courts had the appellate powers against the decision of Kula courts. The Kula court was the lowest people's court which comprised of agnates and cognates of the litigants. It was the informal body of relatives of disputing parties which investigated and decided their disputes.¹⁴ It was considered as the lowest people's court in the hierarchy of popular courts. The people's courts had jurisdiction to settle civil cases and petty criminal offences.¹⁵ The procedure adopted by these courts was simple, informal, systematic and based on traditions, usages and customary laws of land. The people's courts functioned under the indirect control and supervision of the king.

In medieval period, the Muslim rulers established their own legal system but they did not interfere in the functioning of people's courts. During the Muslim rule, the popular courts or Gram Panchayats as dispute resolution mechanism continued working with minor variations. The disputes at the local level were not resolved by the royal courts but by the people's

¹⁰ A.S. Altekar, STATE AND GOVERNMENT IN ANCIENT INDIA (1977) 254.

¹¹ S.D. Sharma, ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN ANCIENT INDIA (1988) 167.

¹² M.K. Sharan, COURT PROCEDURE IN ANCIENT INDIA (1978) 26; Birendra Nath, JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION IN ANCIENT INDIA (1979) 76.

¹³ M.K. Sharan, COURT PROCEDURE IN ANCIENT INDIA (1978) 27.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ R.C. Majumdar, THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE: THE CLASSICAL AGE (VOL. III, 1970) 359-360.

courts of the caste, guilds, artisans and association of traders within which such dispute arose. These tribunals adjudicated the matters in accordance with the customs or usages of the family, caste, trade, locality or community.¹⁶ The Panchayats were empowered to settle civil cases and petty criminal cases of local nature. These courts dispensed justice on the basis of customary laws and principles of natural justice. It is significant to mention here that the local courts in the form of Panchayats played an important role in administering of justice process during the Muslim rule.

The People's Court or Village Panchayats worked for a long time and existed even at the time of commencement of the British rule in India. The British rulers discouraged administering of justice through People's Courts or village Panchayats and established their own hierarchy of formal courts to render justice in civil and criminal matters. They moulded the ancient Indian legal system according to their vested interest with the result that the functioning of people's court withered away and became empty and suffocating with engulfing nothingness.¹⁷ In this way, they gave a death blow to the functioning of people's courts.

IV. LOK ADALAT IN POST INDEPENDENCE PERIOD

After Independence the institution of Lok Adalat as an alternative forum has come into existence as per the recommendations of Law Commission of India¹⁸ and Legal Aid Committees¹⁹. In March, 1982, the first Lok Adalat was organized at village 'Una' in district of Junagarh of Gujarat. Thereafter, the institution of Lok Adalat was developed in many other States and Union Territories and gradually it had become very popular for providing speedy and inexpensive justice. The mechanism of Lok Adalat which was functioning on the informal basis, had got legal status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 which came into force on

¹⁶ Upendra Baxi and Marc Galanter; *Panchayat Justice: An Indian Experiment in Legal Access*, in M. Cappelletti (ed.), *ACCESS TO JUSTICE* (Vol. III, 1979) 344.

¹⁷ P. Parameswaran, *Dispensation of Justice : Problem of Cost, Quality and Delay*, AIR 1991 Jour 31.

¹⁸ LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA, ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH REPORT , GRAM , NYAYALAYA (1986).

¹⁹ Gujarat Legal Aid Committee (1971); The Report of Expert Committee on Legal Aid Processual Justice to the people (1973); Report on National Juridicare : Equal Justice – Social Justice (1977) and The Committee for Implementation of Legal Aid Scheme (1980).

November 9, 1995. The cherished object of the Act is to constitute legal services authorities to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that operation of the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunity.

V. STATUTORY LOK ADALATS

There are two kinds of Lok Adalats under the Legal Services Authorities Act namely Lok Adalat and Permanent Lok Adalat.

A. *Lok Adalat*

Under Section 19(1),²⁰ various legal services authorities and committees²¹ are authorized to organize Lok Adalats settling various matters²². The Lok Adalat is constituted by a sitting or retired judicial officer as the chairman, with two other reputed and public spirited persons. A Lok Adalat has jurisdiction to arrive at a compromise between the parties with regard to any matter which may be pending before any court as well as matter which has not yet been formally instituted in any court or tribunal. Such matters may be civil, criminal or revenue in nature, but any matter relating to an offence not compoundable under any law cannot be settled by the Lok Adalat even if the parties involved therein agree to settle such matter.²³ In a given area, different and separate Lok Adalats can be constituted for dealing with specified types of matters. A Lok Adalat is also empowered to settle a dispute which a concerned regular competent court has jurisdiction to entertain and try the same, but which in fact has not been instituted before it.²⁴ It is not necessary that to confer power on a Lok Adalat, the dispute must be first filed before a Court.²⁵ However, criminal matters which are not compoundable have been kept

²⁰ The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

²¹ Every State Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority, the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, every High Court Legal Services Committee and Taluk Legal Services Committee.

²² Matrimonial cases, labour disputes, bank loan cases, electricity cases, insurance cases, family disputes, property disputes, forest cases, MACT cases, etc.

²³ *Supra* n. 20, Sec. 19.

²⁴ *A. Ahmed Pasha v. C. Gulnaz Jabeen*, AIR 2001 Kant 412.

²⁵ *Moni Mathai v. Federal Bank Ltd., Arakkunnam*, AIR 2003 Ker 164 at 169.

outside the purview of a Lok Adalat. Serious crimes, therefore, are beyond the ambit of a Lok Adalat but all other cases come within the sway of a Lok Adalat.²⁶ The Lok Adalat is not empowered to determine the anticipatory bail application.²⁷

The disputes can be referred to Lok Adalat by mutual consent of parties or at the request of one or more parties where the court is *prima facie* satisfied that there are chances of settlements. In third way, the court can also refer the case on its own motion if it is satisfied that the matter is an appropriate one to be taken cognizance of by Lok Adalat. The purpose of such reference is to explore the possibility of conciliation. However, a reasonable opportunity needs to be provided to the parties to the dispute before a reference of dispute to Lok Adalat. Besides the Court, the authority or committee organizing the Lok Adalat, on receipt of an application of any one of the parties of any matter which is at the pre-litigation stage, can refer the same to a Lok Adalat. Reference in such cases is to be made only after providing reasonable opportunity of hearing to the parties by the concerned authority or committee. Pending cases are referred to Lok Adalat by the Courts whereas the pre-litigating matters are sent only by the concerned authority or committee.²⁸ The Civil Court even if *prima facie* is satisfied that there are chances of settlement in a case but it can not refer the case to Lok Adalat without providing a reasonable opportunity to the parties.²⁹ Therefore, the cases or disputes can not be sent to Lok Adalat by the court or authority or committee by pressurizing the parties and without their consent.

B. Permanent Lok Adalat

A Permanent Lok Adalat can be established for the settlement of disputes related to public utility services,³⁰ compoundable criminal offences

²⁶ *Abdul Hasan v. Delhi Vidyut Board*, AIR 1999 Del 88.

²⁷ *Sreedharan T. v. Sub. Inspector of Police, Balussery Police Station*, 2009 CriLJ 1249 (Ker).

²⁸ *Supra* n. 20, Sec. 20.

²⁹ *Commissioner, Karnataka State Public Instruction (Education), Bangalore v. Nirupadi Virbhadrappa Shiva Simpi*, AIR 2001 Kant 504; *Sau Pushpa Suresh Bhutada v. Subhash Bansilal Maheswari*, AIR 2002 Bom 126; *Shashi Prateek v. Charan Singh Verma*, AIR 2009 All 109.

³⁰ Public utility services include transport services for the carriage of passengers or goods by air, road or water; postal, telegraph or telephone services; supply of power, light or water to the public; system of public conservancy or sanitation; services in hospital or dispensary and insurance service.

and the matters where the value of property in dispute does not exceed ten lakh rupees. Permanent Lok Adalat is presided over by a person who is or has been a district judge or additional district judge or higher judicial officer than that of a district judge, as the chairman and two other persons having adequate experience in public utility services.³¹ For the determination of a dispute any party to a dispute may make an application to the Permanent Lok Adalat for settlement of dispute only at pre-litigation stage. When such an application is made to Permanent Lok Adalat by one party, the other party to dispute is not allowed to invoke the jurisdiction of any court in the same dispute.³² It means when an application is made by either party to the Permanent Lok Adalat to settle a dispute at the pre-litigation stage, the Permanent Lok Adalat shall do so, and, the other party is precluded from approaching the civil court in such a case.³³

Permanent Lok Adalat is not empowered to dispose of the matrimonial dispute being not a public utility service.³⁴ The matter pending before the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal can only be referred to the Lok Adalat and the same could not be referred to Permanent Lok Adalat.³⁵ The Permanent Lok Adalat has jurisdiction to dispose of matters related to public conservancy and sanitation since such matters come under the matrix of public utility services.³⁶ If in a case the determination before the Permanent Lok Adalat involves the question as to whether or not an offence, which is non-compoundable in nature, has indeed been committed, such case falls outside the jurisdiction of the Permanent Lok Adalat.³⁷ The public utility services do not include the imposition of tax, thus, the Permanent Lok Adalat can not interfere with the jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation in levying the tax.³⁸ It can not entertain and adjudicate any claim against a private individual like insured and driver. The claim should be against a public utility service.

³¹ *Supra n.* 20, Sec. 22B.

³² *Id.*, Sec. 22C[1].

³³ *United India Insurance Co. Ltd. v. Ajay Sinha*, AIR 2008 SC 2398.

³⁴ *Rita Kumari v. Shyam Sunder*, AIR 2007 NOC 259 Cal.

³⁵ *Dinesh Kumar v. Balbir Singh*, AIR 2008 HP 59.

³⁶ *Municipal Council, Tonk v. Serv Seva Sansthan*, AIR 2004 Raj 96.

³⁷ *Supra n.* 34.

³⁸ *Ranchi Municipal Corporation v. Bhagwati Devi*, AIR 2011 Jhar 103.

C. *Power and Procedure of Lok Adalats*

The procedure followed at a Lok Adalat is very simple, flexible, informal and devoid of all legal formalism and rituals. Every Lok Adalat or Permanent Lok Adalat is free to formulate its own procedure for the purpose of conducting conciliation. The Lok Adalats or Permanent Lok Adalats shall be guided by the principles of natural justice, objectivity, fair play, equity and other principles of justice without being bound by the Code of Civil Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act. It has been conferred with all the indicia of a court since it shall be deemed to be a civil court. So, it enjoys the same powers as that of a civil court in summoning and enforcing the attendance of any witness; examining him on oath; reception of evidence on affidavits; requisition of any public record or document. All proceedings before a Lok Adalat or Permanent Lok Adalat are deemed to be judicial proceedings under Sections 193, 219 and 228 of IPC.³⁹ Every Lok Adalat or Permanent Lok Adalat is required to make sincere efforts to bring about a conciliatory settlement in every case put before it without any duress, threat or undue influence, allurement or misrepresentation. In a case if the Lok Adalat fails to make an award on the basis of compromise and settlement then such case will be returned by it to the court from which the same was received for further proceedings.⁴⁰ When the reference of a matter is made by an authority or committee to Lok Adalat and it has failed to pass an award, then it is required to advise the parties to seek remedy in a court of law.⁴¹ It means if no compromise or settlement is or can be arrived at, no order can be passed by the Lok Adalat in such a case.⁴² While, if disputes are not settled by Permanent Lok Adalat by way of conciliation, then the disputes can be decided on the basis of merit.⁴³ But, when the Permanent Lok Adalat disposes of the case on the failure of conciliation proceeding, a sufficient opportunity must be granted to the parties so that they may address the Adalat on their respective plea. The adjudicatory power of Permanent Lok Adalat is based upon

³⁹ *Supra* n. 20, Sec. 22.

⁴⁰ *Id.*, Sec. 20(5).

⁴¹ *Id.*, Sec. 20(6).

⁴² *Kishan Rao v. Bidar District Legal Services Authority*, AIR 2001 Kant 407; *State of Punjab v. Phulan Rani*, AIR 2004 SC 4105; *Union of India v. Ananto*, AIR 2007 SC 1561; *State of Punjab v. Jalour Singh*, AIR 2008 SC 1209.

⁴³ *Supra* n. 20, Sec. 22C.

the written consent of disputants. Unless such a written consent is given by the parties to the Permanent Lok Adalat, it shall have no power to decide the issues on merits.⁴⁴

D. Award of Lok Adalats

Every award of Lok Adalat or Permanent Lok Adalat is final and binding on all the parties to the dispute and is deemed to be the decree of civil court.⁴⁵ The award of Lok Adalat is an order by the Lok Adalat with the consent of the parties, instead of by the process of arguments in court, therefore, there is no need either to reconsider or review the matter again and again, and no appeal can be filed against the award.⁴⁶ An award of Lok Adalat and/or Permanent Lok Adalat come under the writ jurisdictions of the High Court and the Supreme Court only when the award has been passed against the statutory provisions and principle of natural justice. It is necessary to provide this opportunity to aggrieved party against the miscarriage of justice, arbitrariness or illegalities by Lok Adalat or Permanent Lok Adalat.⁴⁷ The Act does not say anything regarding the manner of execution of the award of Lok Adalat. The award of Lok Adalat in pending case can be executed by such court which has referred the case to Lok Adalat for settlement while in pre-litigation matters, the award of Lok Adalat can be executed by such Court which has the jurisdiction to hear such matter but such matter has not been brought to it.⁴⁸ There is no court fee if the matter is referred to Lok Adalat at pre-litigation stage and if the court fee is already paid at the time of institution of the case such amount will be refunded to the concerned party if the dispute is resolved by the Lok Adalat.

⁴⁴ *Sandip Ekka v. Selestia Kerketa*, AIR 2011 Jhar 130; *Deputy Divisional Manager, Shillong v. Jharna Ghosh*, AIR 2011 Gau 205; *Divisional Manager, New India Assurance Co. Ltd., Ranchi v. Urmila Devi*, AIR 2011 Jhar 133.

⁴⁵ *Supra* n. 20, Secs. 21 and 22E.

⁴⁶ *Punjab National Bank v. Lakshmi Chand Rai*, AIR 2000 MP 301; *P.T. Thomas v. Thomas Job*, AIR 2005 SC 3575; *State Bank of Indore v. Balaji Traders*, AIR 2003 MP 252; *Mahila Banwari Bai v. Kashmir Singh*, AIR 2009 MP 232.

⁴⁷ *Joti Sharma v. Rajinder Kumar*, AIR 2007 J&K 35; *State of Punjab v. Jalour Singh* AIR 2008 SC 1209; *Dinesh Kumar v. Balbir Singh*, AIR 2008 HP 59; *Shashi Prateek v. Charan Singh Verma*, AIR 2009 All 109.

⁴⁸ *Valarmathi Oil Industries v. Saradhi Ginning Factory*, AIR 2009 Mad 180; *Thomas Job v. P.T. Thomas*, AIR 2004 Ker 47; *Thomas Anthony v. Florance George*, AIR 2007 Ker 31.

VI. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Lok Adalat is a unique institution which dispenses informal, expeditious, inexpensive and qualitative justice to all irrespective of their social, political and economic status. The performance of institution of Lok Adalat can be evaluated from the established fact that till June, 2010, a large number of 835305 of Lok Adalats have been organized within the country. In these Lok Adalats, total 29657376 cases have been settled which also include 1792062 MACT cases. In the MACT cases, total amount of Rs. 84,669,052,753 have been awarded as the compensation to the claimants.⁴⁹

The chief beauty of this mechanism is the decimation of bitterness as compromise is the very soul of Lok Adalat justice. It settles the disputes by negotiation, conciliation, persuasion and by adopting principles of natural justice. The forum strives to develop the peace, order and harmony among the disputing parties and helps to further the social solidarity in the society. The basic objective of the institution is to develop litigation free society by ending the feudalistic approach. In order to improve and strengthen the Lok Adalat mechanism, some suggestions are as follows:-

1. The settlement of disputes through Lok Adalat system should be added as a Fundamental Duty under Article 51A of the Constitution.
2. Members of Lok Adalats should be experienced, dedicated, experts, talented and committed persons, therefore, the provision regarding training of members of Lok Adalats should be added in the Act and only trained persons should be appointed as members of Lok Adalats.
3. To increase the cooperation of the public in general and disputants in particular, the specific provision should be added in the Act to ensure the presence of parties during Lok Adalat proceedings for desired results of the system.
4. More matters should be brought under the jurisdiction of Lok Adalat like intellectual property disputes, environment matters, disputes relating to education system, cyber crimes, taxation matters, matters relating to Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment

⁴⁹ NYAYA DEEP, July, 2010.

Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and disputes relating to professional services.

5. The Lok Adalat should be empowered to decide the cases on the basis of merit as the Permanent Lok Adalat is authorized to decide if the conciliation process failed.
6. Where the case is decided by Lok Adalat or Permanent Lok Adalat on merit the limited right of one appeal to the High Court should be allowed.
7. A definite but simple procedure should be provided to execute the awards of the Lok Adalat by the Lok Adalat itself.
8. Video recording of proceedings of Lok Adalat should be done for advertisement and monitoring purposes.
9. The independent monitoring cells should be established at the district, division and State level to monitor the functioning of Lok Adalats as a watchdog in their respective areas.
10. The Lok Adalat law should be added as a compulsory subject in the curriculum of law courses.
11. There should be effective coordination among the legal services authorities, government departments, social organizations, etc. for strengthening the Lok Adalat mechanism.
12. The law teachers, students and other social workers should be encouraged to take active part in the process of the Lok Adalats.
13. The features and advantages of Lok Adalat system should be propagated by mass media to create awareness among people so that they may take benefits of this forum.