



**DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE
ON DEVELOPMENT (B) DEPARTMENTS
(2025-26)**

**FIFTEENTH
ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

**REPORT ON THE DEMANDS FOR THE GRANT NO. 3
FOR THE YEAR 2025-26**

FIRST REPORT

(Presented to the House on 21st March, 2025)

**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
DISPUR : GUWAHATI-781006**

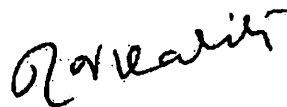
INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly, having been authorized by the Committee to present the FIRST REPORT of the Committee on Demands for Grants (Grant No.3) relating to the Legislative Department for the year 2025-2026.

1. In Pursuance of Rule 260 H (I) of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, Hon'ble Speaker has been pleased to constitute the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments on 1st February, 2025 for a period of one year.
2. The Committee scrutinized the various documents and relevant papers including the status report received from the Legislative Department and also took the personal evidence of the representatives of the Department on the said Demands for Grants in its meeting held on 13th March, 2025.
3. The Committee considered the Draft Report and approved it on 18th March, 2025.
4. The Committee places on record its appreciation to the representatives of the Legislative Department for extending their co-operation to the Committee and the officials of Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat attached to the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments for their full co-operation and unstinted assistance.
5. The Committee also places on record its thanks to the representatives of Finance Department and also the Transformation and Development Department for assisting the Committee in its deliberation.

Place: Dispur

Dated 18th March, 2025.



(RAMENDRA NARAYAN KALITA)

Chairman,

DRSC on Development (B) Deptts.
Assam Legislative Assembly.

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN :

Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita, MLA

MEMBERS :

1. Shri Atul Bora, MLA	Member
2. Shri Siddhartha Bhattacharya, MLA	Member
3. Shri Bhabesh Kalita, MLA	Member
4. Shri Sushanta Borgohain, MLA	Member
5. Shri Manab Deka, MLA	Member
6. Shri Debabrata Saikia, MLA	Member
7. Shri Wazed Ali Choudhury, MLA	Member
8. Shri Abdur Rashid Mandal, MLA	Member
9. Shri Aminul Islam (Sr.), MLA	Member
10. Shri Mazibur Rahman, MLA	Member
11. Shri Durga Das Boro, MLA	Member
12. Shri Jolen Daimary, MLA	Member

SECRETARIAT :

1. Shri Dulal Pegu, Secretary.
2. Shri Indrajit Mozumder, Additional Secretary.
3. Shri Sudip Roy, Under Secretary.
4. Shri Bhaskar Saikia, Librarian.
5. Shri Jitumani Bhuyan, Superintendent.
6. Shri Partha Mitra, Committee Officer.
7. Shri Ratneswar Saikia, Committee Officer.

(1)
CHAPTER-I
REPORT

1. Overview of the Department:

The Legislative Department is a distinct and independent Department of the Government of Assam. The erstwhile Law Department was bifurcated into Judicial and Legislative Department under Appointment (B) Departments Notification No.ABM.23/67/60, dated 18/05/76. From then onwards the Legislative Department has been functioning as a separate independent department of the Government of Assam. It is located in Assam Secretariat, Block-E, Second floor, Dispur, Guwahati-6.

2. Functions & Objective of the Department:

Objectives of the Department:

- To strengthen and maintain the standard and quality of the legislative matters and legislative drafting.
- The mission of the department is to function as a vibrant institution of the State to render high quality legal services (legislative as well as advisory) to our clients particularly to the Secretariat Departments for their proper and effective functioning and ensure effective services to the public through its line agencies.
- Hence, it is the endeavour of the department to provide a just, transparent, accountable and human system of governance through excellence in legislative drafting reflecting human standards and administrative needs.

Functions of the Department:

1. To put into technical shape of the projects of legislations, the policy of which has been approved by the Administrative Department.
2. To draft and vet the proposals of Principal legislations and Subordinate legislations received from various administrative departments and finalize the same in conformity with legal & constitutional provisions.
3. To draft and vet the Ordinances to be promulgated by the Governor.
4. To advise different departments on framing of laws and legislative drafting.
5. To draft and vet statutory rules, regulations, Bye Laws, Notifications, Orders, Deeds and Documents etc. to be framed or issued by different Administrative Departments.
6. To take steps for obtaining assent of the Governor or the President, on the Government Bills, passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly.

7. To take steps for publications of the Assam Acts and Ordinances in the Assam Gazette after being assented by the Hon'ble Governor of Assam or the President of India .

8. To supervise translation of Central Acts and State Acts into Assamese and their publication for the benefit of the general public.

9. To provide fund for salary and other administrative expenses, administrative assistance to various authorities and committees constituted under the Legal Service Authorities Act, 1987.

10. To make payment of Defence Pleaders fees bills and Amicus Curie Fee Bills to the Defence Counsels and Amicus Curie appointed under section 304 of Cr. P.C., by the Courts.

11. To act as the nodal department in respect of Legal Aid to the poor.

3. Organizational set up of the Department:

1. Secretary, (Grade-I of Assam Legal Service) Legislative Department. -- 1 no

2. Joint Secretary, (Grade-II of Assam Legal Service) Legislative Department - 1 no

3. Deputy Secretary, (Grade-III of Assam Legal Service) Legislative Department - 2 nos

4. Under Secretary, (Grade-IV of Assam Legal Service) Legislative Department. - 1 no

5. Other Supporting Staff Comprises of Section Officers, Assistant Section Officers, Junior Administrative Assistants, Computer Operators, Peons posted by the General Administration (Secretariat Establishment) Department.

6. Language Officers under both the Official Language Wings and the staffs under the State Law Commission, and other Grade-III and Grade-IV posts under appointed by the Legislative Department.

7. Posts under the Legal Services Authorities and Committees created by the State Govt. and concerned Authorities and Committees by the respective Appointing Authorities.

4. Governance Structure:

The administration of the Legislative Department is transacted by the Commissioner & Secretary or Secretary of the department assisted by one

Joint Secretary, two Deputy Secretaries one Under Secretary and other Supporting Staff like are appointed by the General Administration (Secretariat Establishment) Department.

5. Jurisdiction of the Department:

The Legislative Department has the following Wings and Organisation under its Administrative Control –

- a) Official Language Wing, Legislative Department
- b) Assam State Law Commission
- c) Legal Services Authorities and Committees in different levels

Performance Budget/Annual Report :

The Fund allocation and expenditure incurred under Plan & Non-Plan (including under EE & SOPD) during last 3(three) years are shown below:

Year	Fund under EE Budget (Rs. In lakhs)			Fund under SOPD Budget (Rs.in lakh)		
	Fund Allotted	Fund Utilized	% Utilization	Fund Allotted	Fund Utilized	% Utilization
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2021-22	1894.59	1314.83556	0.69%	114.90	32.96821	28.69%
2022-23	1919.020	711.84463	37.09%	Nil	Nil	Nil
2023-24	2605.52	1968.17183	75.53%	90.00	51.39570	57.10%

The Legislative Department at the instances of various Administrative Departments have made a total 34 numbers of Acts and 6 numbers of Ordinances which have been published in the Official Gazette during the year 2024.

Physical targets achieved during the last three years

The construction of ADR Centres had taken place in 13 districts of Assam, namely Bongaigaon, Cachar, Darrang, Nalbari, Sonitpur, Tinsukia, Barpeta, Dibrugarh, Dhemaji, Golaghat, Jorhat, Kokrajhar and Udalguri. However, Construction was completed only in 5(five) Districts, namely, Cachar, Darrang, Nalbari, Sonitpur and Tinsukia and the ADR centres are functional in these districts.

In respect of the remaining 8(eight) districts, i.e. Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Dibrugarh, Dhemaji, Golaghat, Jorhat, Kokrajhar and Udalguri, except Udalguri, where construction is on the verge of completion, in the remaining 7 (seven) districts, the construction could not be completed due to requirement of additional funds, work surrendered by contractor, land being low lying needing additional expenditure etc.

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Fund required for outstanding liabilities for ongoing works of ADR centres at Golaghat, Jorhat, Dhemaji, Kokrajhar, Barpeta, Udalguri. | = Rs.5,79,94,548/- |
| 2. Fund required for Additional works under ongoing works of ADR centres at Bongaigaon, Dhemaji, Kokrajhar, Sonitpur | = Rs.1,30,91,776/- |
| 3. Fund required for proposed new construction of ADR centres at Lakhimpur, Sivasagar | = Rs.3,09,14,200/- |

Total = Rs.10,20,00,524/-

Total budget allocated for the current FY 2024-25 = Rs.115.44 lakh, which is going on for payment of pending liabilities during the current financial year 2024-25.

Now to carry out these ongoing, new and for additional works of ADR centres total amount of **Rs.9,04,56,524/- (Rupees nine crores four lakh fifty six thousand five hundred twenty four)** is required for the FY 2025-26.

Status Report and Brief note in respect Grant No.3:

Legislative department is not a revenue earning department. Legislative Department provide fund for salary and other administrative expenses, administrative assistance to various authorities and committees constituted under the Legal Service Authorities Act, 1987, make payment of Defence Pleaders fees bills and Amicus Curie Fee Bills to the Defence Counsels and Amicus Curie appointed under section 304 of Cr. P.C., by the Courts.

The Legislative Department at the instances of various Administrative Departments have made a total 34 numbers of Acts and 6 numbers of Ordinances which have been published in the Official Gazette during the year 2024.

The Assam Legal Services Authority along with District Legal Services Authorities initiated various programmes like providing legal aid to the targeted beneficiaries, holding of Lok Adalats, Legal Awareness Camps etc to arrive at the goal and objective of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 as mentioned hereunder :

I. Strengthening the Legal Aid Clinics:

- At present, there are 314 Legal Services Clinics in the state of which 79 nos Legal Services Clinics are working daily and 93 nos. are working on weekly basis.
- During the year 2024, 4761 nos. out of 6188 persons who visited different Legal Services Clinics situated at different villages were provided assistance in solving their problems. Similarly, 5119 persons who visited the Legal Services Clinics established at the Community Centres, 3936 persons at the Legal Services Clinics of the Courts, 9129 persons at the Legal Services Clinics in various Jails and 4100 persons at various Legal Services Clinics situated at other places including Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB), Colleges and Universities were also provided assistance.

II. Implementation of Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS):

The Legal Aid Defense Counsel under ASLSA in Assam visited the jails 1184 times in their respective districts during the period from April, 2024 to August, 2024. They were assigned 1353 nos. of Sessions Cases and 2570 nos. of Magistrate Courts Cases for representation during the said period. They also represented for providing assistance in respect of 3077 nos. of Bail Applications u/s 437 of Cr.P.C, 1973, 35 nos. of Bail Applications u/s 438 of Cr. P.C, 1973, 662 nos. under u/s 439 of Cr. P.C, 1973 and 1375 nos. of other Bail petitions.

III. Holding of Training Programmes for Panel Lawyers, PLVs and Others:
During the period from January to December, 2024, different District Legal Services Authorities have organized 68 nos. of Training Programme for Para Legal Volunteers, where a total of 1161 nos. of PLVs were provided training. Out of those Programmes, 51 nos. of programmes were Basic Training Programme for 752 nos. of PLVs and 17 nos. of Programmes were the Refresher Training Programme for 409 nos. of PLVs.

IV. Organising Mega Awareness Programs on the issues like Child marriage and gender inequality

In January, 2024, the DLSAs conducted Mass Awareness Meeting to "Stop Child Marriage" in collaboration with concerned District Administration in the potential and prevailing areas of child marriage in compliance of the Activity Calendar of ASLSA. They focused on the issues like gender inequality, education deprivation, etc. In line with the NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services to Children and their Protection Scheme), 2015, DLSA, Chirang produced a short film named *Anjali - A Divine Gift* and released in YOU TUBE on 15/08/2024. The video was dubbed in Bodo as well as Assamese language with English sub-titles. The video can be viewed in www.youtube.com/@dlsachirang.

V. Equal Opportunity Policy for Persons with Disabilities:

In the month of July, 2024, DLSAs organized awareness programme on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and conducted Training Programme for the employees in different Court establishments in pursuant to the "Equal Opportunity Policy for Persons with Disabilities" framed by the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court.

VI. Providing Legal Services to the needy people:

A total 59,914 nos. of persons belonging to SC, ST, women, children, persons with disability, industrial workmen and others whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit were provided legal services by the DLSAs under the guidance of Assam State Legal Services Authority.

VII. Disposal of cases through Mediation:

A total 1099 nos. of cases were disposed of through mediation at Gauhati High Court Mediation Centre and different District Mediation Centres in the state of Assam.

VIII. Providing legal assistance to a Child-in-conflict with Law:

One of the noteworthy significant achievements is that South Salmara-Mankachar provided legal assistance to a Child-in-conflict with Law, a resident of Jamalpur District of Bangladesh, who accidentally entered into the Indian territory in the year 2021 and had been in Observation Home situated at Boko, Kamrup, Assam in connection with Mankachar PS case No. 892 of 2021. DLSA, South Salmara-Mankachar provided all necessary legal assistance in the process of repatriation. On 26.04.2024, handed over the Child-in-conflict to Border Guard Police, Bangladesh and he was reunited with his family after all these years.

After presentation of the Budget Estimates to the House on 10th March, 2025, the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly has scrutinized the Demands for Grants for the Financial Year, 2025-2026.

Budget Estimates under Grant No. 3 for the Financial Year 2025-2026 is as follows:

(Rupees in Lakhs)

	Revenue	Capital	Total	Remarks
			2025-26	Revised Budget Estimates (2024-2025)
Voted	65036.80	13496.16	78532.96	93844.27
Charged	11601.69	1220.58	12822.27	11471.39

Voted Budget provision of Rs.78532.96 Lakhs made for the Financial Year 2025-2026 where Rs.65036.80 Lakhs and Rs.13496.16 Lakhs have been earmarked under the Revenue and Capital Head respectively. It seems that for the Financial Year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.15311.31 Lakhs has been decreased in Voted amount than that of the previous year's Revised Budget Estimates (2024-25).

However, in **Charged Budget**, Rs.11601.69 Lakhs in Revenue Head and Rs.1220.58 Lakhs in Capital Head with a total of Rs.12822.27 Lakhs have been earmarked in the Budget Provision for the Financial Year, 2025-26. It seems that for the Financial Year 2025-2026, an amount of Rs.1350.88 Lakhs has been increased in Charged amount than that of the previous year's Revised Budget Estimates (2024-25).

OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

GRANT NO. 3

The Committee thoroughly discussed all the relevant papers of Grant No. 3 submitted by the Legislative Department and after threadbare discussion following observation and recommendation have been made as follows:

The Committee observed that the Legislative Department is under administrative control of Judicial Department. As such, the Legislative Department is facing various problems related to administrative as well as financial issues.

Therefore, the Committee recommends to bifurcate it from Judicial Department so as to enhance the working capability and smooth functioning of Legislative Department.

After final observation, the Committee recommend that the total amount of Rs.78532.96 Lakhs as sought for under Grant No. 3 (Legislative Department) for the Financial Year, 2025-26 be approved by the August House.

The Action Taken Report on the recommendation may be submitted to the Committee within 90 (Ninety) days from the date of presentation of the Report in the August House.

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATIONThe 1st February, 2025

NO. LADRSC (B).1/2025/1 : In pursuance of the Rule 260 I (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, the Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly has been pleased to nominate the following Members to constitute the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly.

1. Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita, MLA	Chairman
2. Shri Atul Bora, MLA	Member
3. Shri Siddhartha Bhattacharya, MLA	Member
4. Shri Bhabesh Kalita, MLA	Member
5. Shri Sushanta Borgohain, MLA	Member
6. Shri Manab Deka, MLA	Member
7. Shri Debabrata Saikia, MLA	Member
8. Shri Wazed Ali Choudhury, MLA	Member
9. Shri Abdur Rashid Mandal, MLA	Member
10. Shri Aminul Islam (Sr.), MLA	Member
11. Shri Mazibur Rahman, MLA	Member
12. Shri Durga Das Boro, MLA	Member
13. Shri Jolen Daimary, MLA	Member

And in pursuance of Rule 260 I (3) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, the Hon'ble Speaker has been pleased to appoint Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita, MLA and Member of the Committee as the Chairman of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly.

The term of the Committee shall be for a period of one year with effect from the date of its constitution.

Sd/- D. Pegu
Secretary,

Assam Legislative Assembly,

Dated Dispur, the 1st February, 2025

Memo No. LADRSC (B) 1/2025/2-14

Copy forwarded for favour of information and necessary action to :

1. The Ramendra Narayan Kalita, MLA & Chairman, Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Department, Assam Legislative Assembly for favour of his kind information.
2. All Members of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly for favour of kind information.
3. The Director, Assam Government Press, Bamunimaidan, Guwahati -21 for favour of publication of the Notification in the next issue of the Assam Gazette in Part -I. 5 (five) spare copies of the same may please be supplied to this Secretariat for record.
4. The Principal Accountant General, Assam, etc., Maidamgaon, Beltola, Guwahati-28 for information.
5. The Secretary to Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly for placing it before the Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly for favour of his kind information.
6. The OSD to Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly for placing it before the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker for favour of his kind information.
7. The Private Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition, Assam Legislative Assembly for placing the same before the Leader of the Opposition for favour of his kind information.
8. The Private Secretary to Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly for information of the Secretary.
9. The Chief Reporter Cum- Editor of debate & Ex- Officio Joint secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly for information and necessary action.
10. The OSD (Joint Secretary) In- Charge Nazarat Branch, Assam Legislative Assembly for information and necessary action.
11. The Senior Financial Adviser, In-Charge Accounts Branch, Assam Legislative Assembly for information and necessary action.
12. The In-Charge, Website Branch, Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat for information.
13. The Officers in-Charge of all Legislature Committees, Assam Legislative Assembly for favour of information.


Additional Secretary,
Assam Legislative Assembly.