

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY  
Ground Floor, Interim Judicial Complex, High Court of Andhra Pradesh  
Nelapadu, Amaravathi- 522 237, Guntur District

**C I R C U L A R No.1/2019**

Roc.No.100/APSLSA/2019

Date: 18-10-2019

Sub: APSLSA – Directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh –  
Lok Adalat Awards – Issuing notice to parties – Instructions – Issued.

Ref: Hon'ble High Court of A.P directions in W.P.No. 2445 of 2019 dated  
18.09.2019 in B. Srinatha Reddy Vs. DLSA, Kadapa & others.

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Reason for the Circular : Directions of the Hon'ble High Court in the Judgement dated 18.09.2019 in W.P. No. 2445 of 2019 in B. Srinatha Reddy Vs. The DLSA, Kadapa rep. by its Secretary.

Cause of Concern : Failure in adhering to the procedure at Lok Adalats

Subject for attention : Section 19(5)(i) read with sec 20 of LSA Act 1987 permit a case to be referred to Lok Adalat and the Lok Adalat to settle it. Sec 20(4) of the Act, 1987 mandates Lok Adalats to observe and abide by principles of Justice, equity, fair play and other legal principles. Regulation 31 of APSLSA Regulations, 1996 orders the Secretary to inform every litigant of the case referred to it. When the matter is referred to the Lok Adalat it is expected to look into the question whether all the parties to the dispute are entering into settlement or compromise. If all of the parties to the dispute enter into settlement award can be passed. If some of the parties alone agree and others do not agree, then award cannot be passed. The significant point to be noticed is that in a civil case if one of the defendants/respondents had abstained from attending the Court and the Court ordered the case to be heard ex parte and thereafter if that case is referred to Lok Adalat, the non appearing parties still continue to be parties to the dispute. As a consequence of it, the Lok Adalat shall issue notices to such parties too. Failure to do so affects the legality of the Award itself. While the law contemplates that the Award settles the dispute, the ground reality show that the Awards of Lok Adalat themselves are becoming subject matter of dispute before the Hon'ble High Court. Therefore, the Chairman and Secretaries are to read the law laid down by their Lordships in the Judgment referred above and scrupulously follow the principles and conduct proceedings before Lok Adalat in accordance with Law.

  
MEMBER SECRETARY

Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority,  
Vijayawada

To

1. All the Chairmen, DLSAs in the State of Andhra Pradesh
2. All the Chairmen, MLSCs in the State (through the respective Chairmen, DLSA)
3. The Secretary, A.P. High Court Legal Services Committee.