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[ No.10583-LSA-4/2013/L.]

**LAW DEPARTMENT**  
**RESOLUTION**

The 3rd October, 2013

**Sub: Social Harmony Award for the Litigation free Revenue Villages.**

It has been the agenda before the State Government to constitute a suitable mechanism for increasing the literacy level of the people and minimizing the litigation among the people to bring social harmony among them. The law makers have also tried their best to bring change in the mind-set and attitude by various legislative measures both in substantive and procedural laws to resolve disputes among the litigants by way of amicable settlement including conciliation. Lok Adalats have played pivotal role in the matter. No doubt, such measures are giving result; but for achieving the desired objectives, one of the important aspects is co-operation of people and change in their mindset and attitude, especially in the rural areas. In those areas, for a litigation between two individual or two groups not only there occurs bloodshed but it seriously disturbs the peace and tranquility in the area, which disturbs the neighbourhood and fellow feeling at times which is beyond repair and its effect remains for a long period. It cannot be said that the victim should not resort to legal remedy when his legal right is infringed, but if it can be avoided by any sort of compromise without affecting his legal right it will also be worthy of being applauded which resultantly see the prevalence of social harmony.

Therefore, after careful consideration the State Government have decided to declare a cash award of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh) to be given in every calendar year at least to one revenue village of each district of the State in which no litigation (both Civil and Criminal) is pending within that calendar year as amongst villagers which will

encourage the rural mass in the direction of maintenance of peace and social harmony. The said award shall be called “**Social Harmony Award.**”

This would indicate that at least in every year 30 villages in 30 districts will be free from litigation. In case two or more villages in a district are found to be free from litigation it will be decided by lottery and if in subsequent year remaining villages of that district are maintained as litigation free villages, or any other village then priority will be given to the village which is found to be litigation free from the previous year. Since the intention of the award is not only to minimize the litigation but also to maintain social harmony, it would be appropriate that the award money should be given on the Republic Day of the subsequent year i.e. on 26th January of each year.

The State Legal Service Authority shall, on the basis of reports from the Taluk Legal Service Committee after due enquiry as well as verification through Police and Revenue Authorities, recommend to the State Government identifying such villages eligible to receive Social Harmony Award. The final selection shall be made by one High Level Committee which shall be constituted under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. Other members of such Committee shall be as follows, namely:—

1. Secretary to Government, Finance Department
2. Secretary to Government, Revenue Department
3. Secretary to Government, Home Department
4. Secretary to Government, Law Department

The Committee shall hold meeting on such date as may be decided by the Chairman of the Committee. Before the date of meeting the recommendation of State Legal Service Authority and the reports from the Taluk Legal Service Committee shall be collected. The Prize money shall be kept in the concerned Gram Panchayat Fund which will be invested in fixed deposits in any Nationalized Bank and the interest accrued therefrom shall be distributed as Scholarship among two Students of each such Revenue Village who have secured highest mark in the Annual High School Certificate Examination conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Odisha.

The Finance Department have concurred in the proposal on 19th August, 2013 vide UOR 3437 ACSF.

This Resolution is issued after approval of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

This Departments Resolution No. 6640-ILR-22/2012/L., dated 26th June, 2012 stands superceeded.

**ORDER**

Ordered that this Resolution be published in the Extraordinary issue of the *Odisha Gazette* and copies thereof be forwarded to all Departments of Government/all Heads of Departments/ all Collectors/Accountant General (A&E),Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

By Order of the Governor

S. PUJAHARI

Principal Secretary to Government