

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**Rajya Sabha
Unstarted Question No. 3954
ANSWERED ON 06.04.2023**

Female standing counsels on Government panels

3954 Shri S Niranjana Reddy:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that presently the number of female counsels on panels of Central Government Ministries/Departments is minuscule as compared to male counterparts;
- (b) the details of steps, which have been taken by Government, to ensure greater gender diversity in the appointment of counsel for its various Ministries/Departments; and
- (c) the Ministry/Department-wise number of male and female lawyers on the panel of Central Government?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) The selection for empanelment of the Advocates on the panel of Ministries and Departments is made on the basis of suitability of the candidates from whom applications are received. There is no discrimination against any category of individual in the empanelment of Central Government Counsels for the Union of India.
- (c) The Central Government empanels Advocates before various Courts/Tribunals to represent Union of India as a whole. The number of counsels on present panel are as under:

S.No.	Ministry/Department	No. of Counsel	
		Male	Female
1.	Department of Legal Affairs	5382	411
2.	Department of Revenue (CBDT)	151	36
3.	Ministry of Forest, Environment & Climate Change	54	21