

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 115

ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 20.07.2023

Need for independent High Courts in North East Regions

115. SHRI P. WILSON:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry have taken steps to ensure that Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh have independent High Courts located in their respective States as the Guwahati High Court is suffering from low manpower and high case load due to adjudicating cases of 4 States, and the language barrier that exists in the North Eastern Region; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (b): Article 214 of the Constitution of India provides that there shall be a High Court for each State. However, such proposals require consultation with concerned State Government as the States are required to create and provide necessary infrastructure facilities and to meet the expenditure for setting up and

running of the High Court. These proposals also need consultation with the concerned High Courts having territorial jurisdiction currently.

The Chief Minister, Nagaland vide letter dated 25.06.2021 conveyed the decision of the State Cabinet taken on the 07.04.2021 for setting up a separate High Court for the State of Nagaland. The proposal for setting up of High Courts for the States of North Eastern Region including Nagaland requires an amendment to the North Eastern Area (Reorganization) Act, 1971. This Act is administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The matter has been accordingly sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

There is no proposal for separate High Court, from the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, pending with the Government.

Recently, the judge strength of Guwahati High Court was increased from existing 24 (twenty-four) to 30 (thirty) judges, with appointment of at-least 3 (three) Judges, each from the States of Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh in view of the enhanced Judge strength of the Guwahati High Court.
