

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1711

ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 03.08.2023

Appointment of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts

1711. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

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

- (a) the number of judges appointed to the Supreme Court and High Courts of the country since 2019 year-wise details;
- (b) the details of number of judges of SC, ST, OBC and minority communities appointed to the Supreme Court and High Courts since 2019, year-wise;
- (c) the reasons for inadequate representation of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts from SC, ST, OBC and minority communities; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to provide adequate representation to SCs, STs, OBCs and Minorities in High Courts and the Supreme Court?

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 (d): A statement showing total number of judges appointed each year in the Supreme Court and High Courts since 2019 may be seen at **Annexure**.

The data regarding Social diversity in High Court Judges has been institutionalized as per the revised Annexure (revised in 2018) wherein the recommendees have to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). Based on the information provided by the recommendees at the time of their appointment to various High Courts, the details of number of judges appointed from the SC, ST, OBC and minority communities since 2019, is as follows:-

Year	General	SC	ST	OBC	Minority	Not Available	Total Appointments
2019	64	3	1	8	3	2	81
2020	52	2	-	11	1	-	66
2021	85	2	4	16	13	-	120
2022	137	6	-	17	5	-	165
2023	38	3	2	15	7	-	65
Total	376	16	7	67	29	2	497

No such data is maintained in respect of the Supreme Court.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide reservation for any caste or class of persons. In the present system of appointment of Judges to the constitutional courts through the Collegium, the onus to recommend candidates and thus to provide social diversity and representation to all sections of the society including SC/ST/OBC/Minorities/Women primarily falls on the Judiciary. Government only appoints those persons as Judges in the Higher Judiciary, which are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium.

However, the Government remains committed to social diversity in the appointment of Judges in the Higher Judiciary and has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in appointment of Judges in High Courts.

Annexure

Total number of judges appointed each year in the Supreme Court and High Courts since 2019

		Years					Total
Supreme Court		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
		10	-	09	03	11	33
High Courts							
Sl. No.	Name	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
1.	Allahabad	10	04	17	13	9	53
2.	Andhra Pradesh	02	07	02	14	2	27
3.	Bombay	11	04	06	19	4	44
4.	Calcutta	06	01	08	16	-	31
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	03	3	1	7
6.	Delhi	04	-	02	17	3	26
7.	Gauhati	04	-	06	2	2	14
8.	Gujarat	03	07	07	-	7	24
9.	Himachal Pradesh	02	-	01	2	-	5
10.	J&K & Ladakh	-	05	02	4	-	11
11.	Jharkhand	02	-	04	1	-	7
12.	Karnataka	10	10	06	6	4	36
13.	Kerala	01	06	12	1	-	20
14.	Madhya Pradesh	02	-	08	6	7	23
15.	Madras	01	10	05	4	11	31
16.	Manipur	-	01	-	-	1	2
17.	Meghalaya	01	-	-	-	1	2
18.	Orissa	01	02	04	6	-	13
19.	Patna	04	-	06	11	-	21
20.	Punjab & Haryana	10	01	06	21	1	39
21.	Rajasthan	03	06	08	2	9	28
22.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
23.	Telangana	03	01	07	17	-	28
24.	Tripura	-	01	-	-	-	1
25.	Uttarakhand	01	-	-	-	3	4
Total		81	66	120	165	65	497