

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 419**

ANSWERED ON 25/07/2024

**RESERVATION IN JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS**

419. SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is contemplating to raise the number of posts of Judges in context of the suggestion of the Supreme Court;
- (b) whether Government is going to introduce reservations in the judicial appointments ;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (d): The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 was amended to increase the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court of India from 30 to 33 (excluding CJI). The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019 came into force w.e.f. 9.8.2019. During the period from 01.07.2014 to 19.07.2024, the Judges' strength of the High Courts was increased from 906 to 1114.

The 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 for reservation for any caste or class of persons. However, the Government 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. Only those persons are appointed as Judges, who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium.

As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts frame the rules and regulations regarding the issues of appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. Thus, the selection and appointment of judicial officers in the Subordinate/District Courts to fill up different quotas in Subordinate/District courts is the responsibility of the High Court and State Government concerned.

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