GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 541

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.12.2022

All India Judicial Services

541. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA: SHRI AJAY NISHAD:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to create an All India Judicial Services so as to make recruitment process in lower judicial service more efficient, uniform and regular and also to address shortage of judges by filling up the vacancy in Judiciary timely;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated or proposes to formulate any plan to provide proper representation to the marginalized sections of the society by setting up the Indian Judicial Service;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (e): In Government's view, a properly framed All India Judicial Service is important to strengthen overall justice delivery system. This will give an opportunity for induction of suitably qualified fresh legal talent selected through a proper all-India merit selection system as well as address the issue of social inclusion by enabling suitable representation to marginalized and deprived sections of society.

A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) and the same was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. Besides attracting some of the best talent in the country, it may also facilitate inclusion of competent persons from marginalized sections and women in the judiciary. The proposal was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 and it was decided that the issue needs further deliberation and consideration.

The views of the State Governments and High Courts were sought on the proposal. There was divergence of opinion among the State Governments and among the High Courts on the constitution of All India Judicial Service. While some State Governments and High Courts favoured the proposal, some were not in favour of creation of All India Judicial Service while some others wanted changes in the proposal formulated by the Central Government.

The matter regarding creation of a Judicial Service Commission to help the recruitment to the post of district judges and review of selection process of judges/judicial officers at all level was also included in the agenda for the Chief Justices Conference, which was held on 03rd and 04th April, 2015, wherein it was resolved to leave it open to the respective High Courts to evolve appropriate methods withinthe existing system to fill up the vacancies for appointment of District judges expeditiously. The proposal for constitution of All India Judicial Service with views from the High Courts and State Governments received thereon was also included in the agenda for the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 05thApril, 2015.

The proposal of setting up of an All India Judicial Service was again discussed on points of eligibility, age, selection criteria, qualification, reservations etc. in a meeting chaired by Minister of Law and Justice on 16th January 2017 in the presence of Minister of State for Law and Justice, Attorney General for India, Solicitor General of India,

Secretaries of Department of Justice, Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department. Setting up AIJS was also deliberated in a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee in March, 2017 and the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of SCs/STs on 22.02.2021.

In view of the existing divergence of opinion amongst the stakeholders, thereis no such proposal of All India Judicial Service at this juncture.
