

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3044

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9TH AUGUST, 2024

Transparency in Judiciary

3044. SHRI MATHESWARAN VS:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enact law mandating the Supreme Court, High Court and District Judges to declare their assets and liabilities annually to promote transparency and accountability;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the timeline by which the legislation is likely to be enacted;
- (c) whether any response has been received from Chief Justices of High Court to the letter issued by the Department of Justice on 19.06.23 regarding publication of Annual reports by High Courts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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) & (b): As per The Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Condition of Services) Act, 1958 and the High Court Judges (Salaries and Condition of Services) Act, 1954 and rules framed thereafter, there is no provision to declare assets by judges of Supreme Court and High Courts. However, the “Restatement of values of Judicial Life” adopted by a full Court Meeting of Supreme Court on 07.05.1997 lays down certain judicial standards which are to be followed by the Judges of the Supreme court and the High Courts. As adopted by the Full Court of the Supreme Court in its meeting dated 7th May, 1997 provided further to make it mandatory for every Judge of the Supreme Court and the High Courts including the Chief Justices, to make a declaration of his/her assets and liabilities at the time of appointment and thereafter in the beginning of every year. The Full Bench in its meeting dated 26th August, 2009 decided to disclose the statement of assets submitted by the Judges on the basis of Resolution dated 7th May 1997 to public by putting it on Supreme Court website. Further, the Full Court in its meeting dated 8th September 2009 resolved to put the declaration of assets in the Supreme Court website on or before 31st October 2009 and that is purely on Voluntary basis.

(c) & (d): The letter dated 19.06.2023, issued by Department of Justice was addressed to the Chief Justice of India and Chief Justice of High Courts under which the views of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on the need to publish the Annual Report by all the High Courts and placing the same on their respective website was conveyed.
