

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4225

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 20th December, 2024

Empanelment of the Government Advocates

4225. Smt. Roopkumari Choudhary:

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

- (a) the details of empanelled advocate posts across the country and the number of the said posts that are currently vacant, State-wise;
- (b) the number of advocate posts empanelled under the Central Government and the number of said posts that are currently vacant;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up the existing vacancies of empanelled advocates and ensure efficient legal representation; and
- (d) the details of any specific guidelines or criteria established for the empanelment of advocates under the Central Government?

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): The Department of Legal Affairs empanels Advocates for various Courts/Tribunals in the country generally for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier. There are several categories in which the Department of Legal Affairs empanels Advocates and such empanelled Advocates are collectively called as 'Panel Counsel' for Union of India. Panel Counsels are not appointed against a civil post. They are paid professional fee on case to case basis and monthly retainer fee (applicable to a few categories of panel counsel) in lieu of their services as per the applicable fee structure of the Department of Legal Affairs.

In light of the above description, the concept of sanctioned strength is not applicable in case of 'Panel Counsel'. However, Advocates are empaneled for various Courts/Tribunals by the Department of Legal

Affairs in numbers as required from time to time to conduct Central Government litigation in various Courts/Tribunals.

The State-wise chart of present strength of Panel Counsel is annexed at **Annexure**.

- (c): In view of reply to part (a) and (b) above, does not arise.
- (d): As per extant procedure, an Advocate who is enrolled with Bar Council and suitable with regard to his/her qualification, experience, reputation, expertise, professional competence and standing at Bar, is empanelled for conducting Central Government litigation before various Courts/Tribunals.

The State-wise list of Panel Counsel of Department of Legal Affairs
before various Courts / Tribunals

S.No.	Name of State / UT	Total number of Panel Counsels
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	13
3.	Andhra Pradesh	40
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	11
5.	Assam	49
6.	Bihar	147
7.	Chandigarh	336
8.	Chattisgarh	37
9.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	0
10.	Daman & Diu	0
11.	Delhi (including Supreme Court of India)	2322
12.	Goa	4
13.	Gujarat	34
14.	Haryana	81
15.	Himachal Pradesh	77
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	88
17.	Jharkhand	100
18.	Karnataka	227
19.	Kerala	293
2.	Ladakh	1
20.	Lakshadweep	6
21.	Madhya Pradesh	184
22.	Maharashtra	460
23.	Manipur	19
24.	Meghalaya	3
25.	Mizoram	1
26.	Nagaland	5
27.	Odisha	194
28.	Puducherry	0
29.	Punjab	87
30.	Rajasthan	434
31.	Sikkim	2
32.	Tamil Nadu	330
33.	Telangana	216
34.	Tripura	57
36.	Uttar Pradesh	731
35.	Uttarakhand	39
37.	West Bengal	683
	Total	7311

Note: Apart from above, a total of **267 Advocates** are empaneled by the Central Board of Direct Taxes as Standing Counsel, across the country, for conducting Income Tax matters before various judicial forums.