GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5725 TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH APRIL, 2025

Gender Disparity in the Judiciary

5725. Ms. S Jothimani:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce reservation or special incentives for the inclusion of more women in the judiciary, particularly at higher levels, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of any programme or initiatives undertaken to encourage more women to pursue careers in the judiciary and legal profession;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any studies or held consultations regarding gender disparity in judicial appointments and if so, the findings thereof; and
- (d) the measures being taken to ensure gender sensitivity in judicial training, legal education and court proceedings?

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): Appointment of Judges to 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.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. However, the Government is committed to enhancing social diversity in 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 the appointment of Judges in High Courts. Only those persons who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, are appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

The National Judicial Academy (NJA) regularly conducts various programmes to inculcate gender sensitivity in legal training, judicial sensitization and court hearings.