

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1269**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 06th FEBRUARY, 2026

ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

†1269. Shri Murari Lal Meena:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that about 33 per cent of the Supreme Court and 50 per cent of the Judges of High Court belong to the family members who have previously held high positions in the judiciary, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the above situation has arisen mainly due to the collegium system under which judges are appointed by judges themselves, if so, whether it adversely affects the principles of transparency and equal opportunity, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any official data regarding the generational (first generation/second generation) background of judges appointed to the High Courts and the Supreme Court, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure transparency, fairness and equal opportunities to ST, SC and OBC advocates in the judicial appointment process?

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. Therefore, category-wise data

pertaining to representation of any caste or class of persons among the Judges of Supreme Court and the High Courts is not centrally available. Since 2018, the recommendees for the post of High Court Judges are required to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). As per the information provided by the recommendees, out of 848 Judges appointed from 2018 till 02.02.2026, 33 belong to SC category, 17 belong to ST category, 104 belong to OBC category and 46 belong to the minority category. 130 women were appointed as Judges in various High Courts during the same period.

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.
