

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2033

ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

WOMEN IN JUDICIARY

2033. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

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

- (a) the percentage of women judges in various High Courts and the Supreme Court in the country;
and
- (b) the percentage of these women who belong to the SC, ST and OBC communities respectively?

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) and (b): Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case), which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. As on 06.12.2024, 02 women Judges are working in the Supreme Court and 106 women Judges in various High Courts.

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). Based on the information provided by them, of the women judges appointed since 2018, 02 belong to SC category, 03 belong to ST category and 14 belong to OBC category.

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, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges of the High Court. However, the Government 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.
