

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5562  
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2002  
SC/ST JUDGES IN JUDICIARY  
B.K. PARTHASARATHI

**Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that judges belonging to SCs and STs in the judiciary is negligible;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for appointment of SCs and STs in the judiciary in Supreme Court and High Court and setting up of National Juicial Commission and all Judicial Service; and
- (d) the total number of judges belonging to SC/ST appointed in various courts in the country particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS(SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (d) Appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts are made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. No statistics is, therefore, maintained for the number of Judges belonging to SC/ST in Supreme Court of India or the High Courts. There is no proposal currently under the consideration of the Government to reserve posts for SC/ST or women for appointment as Judges of the Supreme Courts of India and High Courts.

Government encourages representation of SC/ST, women and other Backward classes in the appointment of Judges and, accordingly addresses letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them, inter-alia to locate suitable candidates from the Bar for appointment as High Court Judges. They were reminded last on March, 15,2002.

One of the items of the National Agenda for Governance is to set up a National Judicial Commission (NJC) to make recommendations for judicial appointments in the Supreme Court and the High Courts and draw up a Code of Ethics. The Government is committed to the idea of setting up the Commission to deal with these matters. The setting up of the National Judicial Commission would require amendment to the Constitution of India.

One of the proposals for judicial reforms includes creation of All India Judicial Service. Necessary consultation is in progress with the newly-created States and High Courts.