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Title: Need to give adequate representation to judges belonging to SC/ST community in High Courts and Supreme Court.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice about the negligible appointment of SC/ST Judges in High Courts and in the Supreme Court.

Inspite of requisite high qualifications and rich experience gained by a number of Advocates, the number of SC/ST Judges in various High Courts in the country is alarmingly very low. In the Supreme Court, there is no representation from the SCs/STs among the Supreme Court Judges.

The total number of High Court Judges in various High Courts is about 850. Out of them, only about 25 Judges belong to SC/STs, which roughly works out to about 3%. The strength of SC/ST Judges in the Supreme Court in percentage is 0%. The above statistics very clearly show that there has been perpetuation of social injustice against the a b o v e m a r g i n a l i z e d c o m m u n i t y. Government has done nothing to provide adequate representation to SCs/STs in higher judiciary. Unless and until adequate representations are provided to SCs/STs in higher judiciary, it is not possible to fulfill the dreams of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the theory of socio-economic justice as mentioned in the preamble of the Constitution of India.

Keeping in view the above, I urge upon the Union Government to take effective measures to provide adequate representation of SC/ST Judges by appointing a minimum of 126 SC/ST Judges to the various High Courts in the country and to appoint at least 4 SC/ST Judges in the Supreme Court by issuing administrative order or enacting a suitable legislation in this regard, as the case may be.