

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2971

TO ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17.03.2023

SC/ST Advocates and Judges

2971. SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) advocates who have been designated as Senior Advocates and Advocates on Record in the High Courts and the Supreme Court of India, court-wise;
- (b) the details of SC and ST judges and advocates who have been proposed to be appointed as judges of High Courts and Supreme Court in the recent past;
- (c) the details of SC and ST judges and advocates actually appointed as judges of High Courts and Supreme Court since independence; and
- (d) the details of High Courts which have special bench to hear matter/appeal under SC ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a): Advocates practicing in the Supreme Court and High Courts are designated as Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court and respective High Courts. The Supreme Court of India and the High Court's seek application for conferment of the designation of Senior Advocate as a part of the Court practice and administration. The Supreme Court of India has laid down norms/guidelines to

govern the exercise of designation of Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court and all High Courts in the country vide its judgment dated 12.10.2017 in WP(C) No. 33 of 2016 and WP(C) No. 819 of 2016. As per the information available in the court websites, as on 11.12.2021 there are 436 designated Senior Advocates and 3041 Advocates-on-Record in the Supreme Court of India. The High Courts have approximately 1,306 designated Senior Advocates. However, no specific detail is maintained with regard to social status as SC/ST of the designated Senior Advocates.

(b) Appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. However, the Government is committed to social diversity in the appointment of Judges in the Higher 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 appointment of Judges in High Courts. As on 16.03.2023, High Court Collegiums have recommended 124 names for appointment as High Court Judges which are under consideration with the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium. Out of these, 04 recommendees belong to SC category and 03 recommendees belong to ST category.

(c): The data regarding social diversity in the appointment of High Court Judges has been institutionalized as per the revised Annexure (revised in 2018) wherein the recommendees have to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). Hence, data since 2018 has been maintained. Out of 569 Judges appointed in the High Courts since 2018, 17 Judges belong to SC category and 09 Judges belong to ST category

(d) The designation of special benches to hear matter/appeal under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 falls within the domain of High Courts.