

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:272  
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001  
REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN HIGH JUDICIARY  
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

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

- (a) whether there is a poor representation of women in the higher judiciary; .
- (b) if so, whether present number of women holding the post of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts is quite dismal; .
- (c) if so, the steps being considered to give full representation of women in higher judiciary;
- (d) whether any concrete steps in this regard have been worked out by the Centre; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 272  
ANSWER ON 9.8.2001

The number of sitting women Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts, as on 07.08.2001, was 1 and 19 respectively.

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. There is no proposal currently under the consideration of the Government to reserve posts for women for appointment as Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts.

Government have, however, addressed 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 women candidates from the Bar for appointment as High Court Judges.