

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LAW AND JUSTICE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1657  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013  
STRENGTH OF ST JUDGES IN COURTS  
Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben

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

- (a) the sanctioned strength and vacancy of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts of the country;
- (b) the number of judges from Scheduled Tribe (ST) community in Supreme Court and High Courts at present;
- (c) whether members of ST community are not appointed as judges in Supreme Court and High Courts and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether even after 65 years of independence, not a single judge from ST community, which constitute 8.2 per cent of the population of the country has been appointed in the Supreme Court;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Union Government plans to look into this aspect to enhance the presence of ST community; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

- (a) : A Statement showing the sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy of judges in High Courts and the Supreme Court of India as on 01.03.2013, is at Annex.
- (b) to (g): Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is 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. As such, no caste or class-wise data of Judges or vacancies is maintained. The Government has, however, requested the chief justices of the high courts to send proposals for appointment of judges from suitable candidates belonging to scheduled castes scheduled tribes, other backward classes, Minorities and from amongst women.