

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2657

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 18.03.2021

Setting up of All India Judicial Service

2657 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

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

- (a) whether Government is considering to establish All India Judicial Service (AIJS) on the pattern of IAS or IFS drawing best minds via competitive exams;
- (b) whether Government is also considering to give proper reservation to SCs/STs/OBCs in the judiciary; and
- (c) if so, the progress so far and how much time it will take to implement the above proposal?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c): In Government's view, a properly framed All India Judicial Service on the lines of other All India Services like IAS, IPS, IFoS, etc., is important to strengthen overall justice delivery system. This will give an opportunity for induction of suitably qualified fresh legal talent selected through a proper all-India merit selection system as well as address the issue of social inclusion by enabling suitable representation to marginalized and deprived sections of the society.

A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) and the same was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. The proposal was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 and it was decided that the issue needs further deliberation and consideration. The views of the State Governments and High Courts were sought on the proposal. There was divergence of opinion among the State Governments and among the High Courts on the constitution of All India Judicial Service. While some State Governments and High Courts favoured the proposal, some were not in favour of creation of All India Judicial Service, while some others wanted changes in the proposal formulated by the Central Government.

The Proposal for constitution of All India Judicial Service with views from the High Courts and State Governments received thereon was included in the agenda for the Chief Justices Conference was held in April 2015. However no progress was made on the subject and it was decided to leave it open to the respective High Court to evolve appropriate methods within the existing system to fill up the vacancies for appointment of District judges expeditiously.

The proposal of setting up of an All India Judicial Service was again discussed on points of eligibility, age, selection criteria, qualification, reservations etc in a meeting chaired by Minister of Law and Justice on 16th January 2017 in the presence of Minister of State for Law and Justice, Attorney General of India, Solicitor General of India, Secretaries of Department of Justice, Legal affairs and Legislative Department. In view of the existing divergence of opinion amongst the stakeholders, the Government is engaged in a consultative process with the stakeholders to arrive at a common ground.
