

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 224**  
**ANSWERED ON 20/03/2025**

**OBC/SC/ST counsels on Government panels**

224. **Shri Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that presently the number of OBC/SC/ST counsels on panels of Central Government Ministries/Departments is minuscule;
- (b) if so, the details of OBC/SC/ST counsels on the panels of Central Government Ministries/Departments;
- (c) the details of steps taken by Government to ensure greater representation in the appointment of counsel for its various Ministries/Departments; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF  
LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 224 FOR 20.03.2025 REGARDING OBC/SC/ST COUNSELS ON GOVERNMENT PANELS**

(a), (c) and (d) : Advocates are empaneled in various categories of Panel Counsel for conducting Central Government litigation before various courts/tribunals in the country on the basis of Advocate's interest, qualification, experience, reputation, expertise, professional competence and standing at Bar. Therefore, empanelment of Advocates is completely based on suitability of Advocates irrespective of their caste/community.

(b) : Does not arise.