

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1034
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2025**

Representation of Women, SC, ST advocates in Judiciary

**1034. Shri Pushpendra Saroj:
Ms Iqra Choudhary:**

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

- (a) the number of women and Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) advocates currently practising in the district courts, subordinate courts, Central Government legal panels, and under NALSA-affiliated schemes, classified across cadre and court level, State-wise;
- (b) the number of women and Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) advocates from the State of Uttar Pradesh currently practising in the district courts, subordinate courts, Central Government legal panels and under NALSA affiliated schemes, classified across cadre and court level, district-wise; and
- (c) whether any centrally supported clerkship/fellowship or mentorship programmes exist to support first-generation SC/ST law graduates from the State, if so, the number of beneficiaries supported thereunder, State-wise and district-wise across Uttar Pradesh?

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) & (b) As per the Advocates Act, 1961 the Bar Council of India (BCI) is responsible for the regulation of Legal profession in India, and as per the latest consolidated enrolment data compiled by the Bar Council of India from fifteen

State Bar Councils, approximately 2,84,507 women advocates are enrolled across the country, with the State of Uttar Pradesh accounting for 49,545 women advocates as of November 2024. However, with regard to SC/ST advocates, it is stated that caste-wise enrolment data is not centrally maintained by the Bar Council of India.

As regards the empanelment of Central Government Advocates, it is submitted that the process is based entirely on the suitability and merit of the advocates, irrespective of their gender, caste, or community. Further, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) does not maintain data regarding the caste categories, including Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), of empanelled advocates. However, the state-wise number of women lawyers empanelled under NALSA-affiliated schemes is as under:

S.No.	State Legal Service Authorities	Female Lawyers
1	Andhra Pradesh	390
2	Arunachal Pradesh	41
3	Assam	231
4	Bihar	350
5	Chhattisgarh	362
6	Goa	141
7	Gujarat	679
8	Haryana	271
9	Himachal Pradesh	71
10	Jharkhand	246
11	Karnataka	986
12	Kerala	862
13	Madhya Pradesh	342
14	Maharashtra	1137
15	Manipur	83
16	Meghalaya	95
17	Mizoram	25
18	Nagaland	30
19	Odisha	307
20	Punjab	165
21	Rajasthan	148
22	Sikkim	69
23	Tamil Nadu	868
24	Telangana	326

25	Tripura	81
26	Uttar Pradesh	221
27	Uttarakhand	72
28	West Bengal	710
29	A&N Islands	10
30	Chandigarh	20
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
32	Daman & Diu	9
33	Delhi	482
34	Jammu & Kashmir	135
35	Ladakh	5
36	Lakshadweep	0
37	Puducherry	110
	TOTAL	10081

(c) No such centrally supported clerkship, fellowship, or mentorship programme for first-generation Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) law graduates has been formulated. However, some State Bar Councils, including the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh, have initiated limited measures such as induction training programmes, continuing legal education modules, and informal mentorship sessions conducted in association with senior advocates and retired judicial officers. These measures, while commendable, are neither uniformly regulated nor based on centrally funded frameworks and do not include specific tracking of SC/ST or first-generation status.
