

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3396
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08th AUGUST, 2025**

Appointment of Lawyers as Standing Counsels

3396. Adv Dean Kuriakose:

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

- (a) whether there is any basic minimum criteria for appointment of lawyers as standing counsels of various Government Departments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been any evaluation of the performance of these counsels, if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- (d) the total number of cases pertaining to various Central Government Ministries pending before the Kochi High Court; and
- (e) the number and details of such cases that have received a negative verdict at the High Court level due to lapses in contesting the cases?

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) and (b): Department of Legal Affairs empanels suitable Advocates as 'Panel Counsel' court-wise with the approval of Hon'ble Minister for Law & Justice on the basis of Advocate's interest, qualification, experience, reputation, expertise, professional competence and standing at Bar, to represent Central Government's Ministries and Departments before various courts. As such, the minimum criteria in this regard is that the person must be a lawyer duly enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council concerned.

(c): There is a system of In-charge litigations for all the Courts/Tribunals in the country, who not only allocate cases to Panel Counsel but also send report to Department of Legal Affairs on conduct and performance of the Panel Counsel. Besides, the feedback/complaints are also received from Ministries/Departments regarding panel counsel which are duly examined and on proved allegations / mis-conduct, such Panel Counsel are removed from the panel.

(d): As per latest information, a total 13476 cases against various Ministries/Departments of Central Government are pending before High Court of Kerala at Kochi (Ernakulam).

(e): Court cases are decided by the courts on merits of the case presented by the counsel under supervision and in coordination with the administrative Ministry / Department concerned. As such, outcome of a court case cannot be attributed to performance of the counsel solely.