

Press Release: MLAs and MPs of Jharkhand with Declared Criminal Cases against themselves

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Ranchi: The Supreme Court on 1st Nov, 2017 had pointed out the increasing criminalization in politics while directing the Centre to come up with a scheme to set-up special fast-track courts that would deal exclusively with the criminal cases pending against Legislators and Parliamentarians.

Based on the information available with **Jharkhand Election Watch** on sitting MLAs of the **Jharkhand Assembly**, it is seen that out of **81 MLAs** whose affidavits were analysed by ADR, **52 MLAs** or **64%** of the total MLAs had declared **pending criminal cases** against themselves at the time of contesting in elections held in 2014. Out of these, **41** had declared **serious criminal cases** and form or **51%** of the total number of sitting MLAs. Among the political parties, **BJP** has the maximum number of MLAs with criminal cases (22) followed by **JMM**, with **13 MLAs** and **JVM(P)** with **5 MLAs**.

Party Name	Total number of MLAs analyzed	MLAs with declared Criminal Cases	% of MLAs with declared criminal cases	MLAs with serious declared criminal cases	% of MLAs with serious declared criminal cases
BJP	37	22	59%	15	41%
JMM	19	13	68%	12	63%
JVM(P)	8	5	63%	5	63%
INC	7	4	57%	2	29%
AJSU PARTY	4	2	50%	1	25%
Marxist Co-Ordination	1	1	100%	1	100%
Jharkhand Party	1	1	100%	1	100%
CPI(ML)(L)	1	1	100%	1	100%
BSP	1	1	100%	1	100%
Navjawan Sangharsh Morcha	1	1	100%	1	100%
Jai Bharat Samanta Party	1	1	100%	1	100%
Total	81	52	64%	41	51%

The status of **Lok Sabha MPs from Jharkhand** with declared criminal cases against themselves is also **not very encouraging**. Out of **12 BJP MPs from Jharkhand** whose affidavits were analysed by ADR, **4** (33% of total MPs from Jharkhand) have declared cases against themselves of which **2** or **17%** have serious criminal cases pending against themselves.

Party Name	Total number of MPs analyzed	MPs with declared Criminal Cases	% of MPs with declared criminal cases	MPs with serious declared criminal cases	% of MPs with serious declared criminal cases
BJP	12	4	33%	2	17%
JMM	2	1	50%	0	0%
Total	14	5	36%	2	14%

The **Upper House of the Parliament** or the **Rajya Sabha** too is not immune from **MPs from Jharkhand with declared criminal cases**. Out of **6 Rajya Sabha MPs from Jharkhand** whose affidavits were analysed by ADR, **1** has declared criminal cases against himself. Thus **17% of the total Rajya Sabha MPs from Jharkhand have declared criminal cases against themselves**. It is to be noted that none of the Rajya Sabha MPs from Jharkhand has declared serious offences.

Party Name	Total number of MPs analyzed	MPs with declared Criminal Cases	% of MPs with declared criminal cases	MPs with serious declared criminal cases	% of MPs with serious declared criminal cases
JMM	1	0	0%	0	0%
INC	1	1	100%	0	0%
BJP	2	0	0%	0	0%
RJD	1	0	0%	0	0%
IND	1	0	0%	0	0%
Total	6	1	17%	0	0%

It is to be noted here that all the major political parties have winners with declared criminal cases.

Criminalisation of politics continues to remain a major concern in India as several sitting MPs and MLAs facing charges of corruption and serious offences such as murder, rape and kidnapping continue to be lawmakers. It is thus hoped that the Centre follows through with the proposed scheme of setting up 12 special courts for a year to fast-track criminal cases against sitting Legislators and Parliamentarians.

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