

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

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Patna: The Supreme Court, on 1st November, 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 **Bihar Election Watch** on sitting MLAs of **the Bihar Assembly**, it is seen that out of **243 MLAs** whose affidavits were analysed by ADR, **141 MLAs** or **38%** of the total MLAs had declared **pending criminal cases** against themselves at the time of contesting in elections held in 2015. Out of these, **97** had declared **serious criminal cases** and form or **40%** of the total number of sitting MLAs. Among the political parties, **RJD has the maximum number of MLAs** with criminal cases (46) followed by **JD(U)**, with **37 MLAs** and **BJP** with **34 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
RJD	80	46	58%	34	43%
JD(U)	71	37	52%	28	39%
BJP	53	34	64%	19	36%
INC	27	16	59%	11	41%
IND	4	3	75%	2	50%
CPI(ML)(L)	3	3	100%	2	67%
LJP	2	2	100%	1	50%
Others	3	0	0%	0	0%
Total	243	141	58%	97	40%

The status of **Lok Sabha MPs from Bihar** with declared criminal cases against themselves is also **not very encouraging**. Out of **40 MPs from Bihar** whose affidavits were analysed by ADR, **28** (70% of total MPs from Bihar) have declared cases against themselves of which **20** or **50%** have serious criminal cases pending against themselves. **All 4 MPs from RJD** have declared **serious criminal cases** while **50%** or **3** of **MPs from LJP** and **36%** or **8** of **MPs from BJP** have declared **serious criminal cases**.

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	22	14	64%	8	36%
LJP	6	4	67%	3	50%
RJD	4	4	100%	4	100%
RASHTRIYA LOK SAMTA PARTY	3	2	67%	2	67%
INC	2	2	100%	1	50%
JD(U)	2	1	50%	1	50%
NCP	1	1	100%	1	100%
Others	0	-	0%	0	0%
Total	40	28	70%	20	50%

The **Upper House of the Parliament** or the **Rajya Sabha** too is not immune from **MPs from Bihar with declared criminal cases**. Out of **16** Rajya Sabha MPs from Bihar whose affidavits were analysed by ADR, **5** have declared criminal cases of which **3** have declared serious offences. Thus **19% of the total Rajya Sabha MPs from Bihar have declared serious criminal cases 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	5	3	60%	2	40%
JD(U)	9	1	11%	0	0%
RJD	2	1	50%	1	50%
Total	16	5	31%	3	19%

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

It is hoped that the Centre would come up with the scheme to set up special fast-track courts by 13th December, as recommended by the Apex Court, in order to expedite trial of pending criminal cases against Legislators.

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