

## **Press Release: MLAs and MPs of Gujarat with Declared Criminal Cases against themselves**

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2017

**Ahmedabad:** The Supreme Court on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 **Gujarat Election Watch** on sitting MLAs of the **Gujarat Assembly**, it is seen that out of **158 MLAs** whose affidavits were analysed by ADR, **49 MLAs** or **31%** of the total MLAs had declared **pending criminal cases** against themselves at the time of contesting in elections held in 2012. Out of these, **21** had declared **serious criminal cases** and form or **13%** of the total number of sitting MLAs. Among the political parties, **BJP has the maximum number of MLAs with criminal cases (30)** followed by **INC, with 15 MLAs** and **NCP with 2 MLAs**.

Party Name	Total number of MLAs analyzed	MLAs with declared Criminal Cases	% of MLAs with declared criminal cases	MLAs with declared serious criminal cases	% of MLAs with declared serious criminal cases
BJP	112	30	27%	15	13%
INC	42	15	36%	4	10%
NCP	2	2	100%	1	50%
GPP	1	1	100%	0	0%
JD(U)	1	1	100%	1	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13%</b>

The status of **Lok Sabha MPs from Gujarat** with declared criminal cases against themselves is also **not very encouraging**. All **26 MPs from Gujarat are from BJP** whose affidavits were analysed by ADR and **9** (35% of total MPs from Gujarat) have declared cases against themselves of which **7** or **27%** 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	26	9	35%	7	27%
Others	0	-	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>27%</b>

The **Upper House of the Parliament** or the **Rajya Sabha** too is not immune from **MPs from Gujarat with declared criminal cases**. Out of **11 Rajya Sabha MPs from Gujarat** whose affidavits were analysed by ADR, **2** have declared criminal cases against themselves. Thus **22% of the total Rajya Sabha MPs from Gujarat have declared criminal cases against themselves**. It is to be noted that none of the Rajya Sabha MPs from Gujarat 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
BJP	9	2	22%	0	0%
INC	2	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

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 13<sup>th</sup> December, as recommended by the Apex Court, in order to expedite trial of pending criminal cases against Legislators.

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