

किरेन रीजीजू
KIREN RIJIJU



मंत्री
विधि एवं न्याय
भारत सरकार
MINISTER
LAW AND JUSTICE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

D.O. No. K-15017/03/2022-US.I/II

March, 2022

13 APR 2022

Respected P. Wilsonji,

Please refer to the issue of increasing retirement age of Supreme Court and High Court Judges, raised by you during "Zero Hour" in the Rajya Sabha on 09.02.2022.

2. As you are aware, retirement age of High Court Judges was fixed at 60 years in the beginning which was revised to 62 years w.e.f. 5.10.1963 by the Constitution (Fifteenth Amendment) Act, 1963 pursuant to the increase in the retirement age of Central Government employees from 55 to 58 years w.e.f. 1.12.1962 on the recommendations of the Second Central Pay Commission.

3. The Constitution (One Hundred and Fourteenth Amendment) Bill, 2010 seeking to increase the retirement age of Judges of High Courts from 62 to 65 years was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 25th August 2010. The Bill could not be taken up for consideration and passing in the Parliament and on completion of term of the 15th Lok Sabha, it lapsed.

4. I would like to thank you for sharing your considered views on the increase in retirement age and adverting attention to the recommendations of the Standing Committee. You would also appreciate that this issue needs a holistic approach as it has implications over the entire court eco system including Tribunals etc. and also other functionaries of the government.

5. In view of above, the issue of enhancement of retirement age of Judges of the High Courts would require broad-based consultation with the Learned Attorney General for India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Legal Affairs, Legislative Department, Legal luminaries and other Stakeholders. It would also be appropriate if the increase in retirement age is comprehensively considered along with other measures to ensure transparency and accountability in making of appointments to the Higher Judiciary.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

(Kiren Rijiju)

Shri P. Wilson,
Hon'ble Member of Parliament,
Rajya Sabha,
Flat No. 177, South Avenue,
New Delhi-110011.