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House OKs bill to raise No. 8 of SC judges

New Deihi: Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the Supreme Court (No of Judges) Amendment Bill to increase the strength of the apex court from current 30 to 33, excluding the Chief Justice of India. With the C.J. the strength of the SC has now increased from 31 to 34.

Lek Sabha had cleared the bill on Monday. With its passage in Parliament, the SC collegium can now make recommendations for elevation of three more chief justices from HCs. Prior to the passage of the bill, the SC was functioning at its full strength of 30 judges, excluding CJI. The government had brought the bill to increase the strength of SC judges based on a recommendation made by CJI Ran-jan Gogoi who had written to the PM seeking increasing the strength in view of rising pendency of cases in SC. TNN