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records'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

An analysis of the affidavits filed by 6,318 candidates in the Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal (till Phase-III) has revealed that 1,157 of them have criminal cases against them, according to the National Election Watch (NEW) and Association of Democratic Reforms.

The number of candidates who have declared criminal cases against themselves amount to 18% of the total affidavits analysed. There are 632 candidates with serious criminal cases.

Details of 474 candidates could not be analysed due to unclear affidavits available on the Election Commission websites, said the report released on Thursday.

Kerala tops the list with 38% of candidates declaring criminal cases against themselves.

West Bengal (till Phase-III) follows with 25%, Puducherry with 17%, Assam with 15% and Tamil Nadu with 13% of such candidates.

Party wise, the report said, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam has 75% candidates with criminal cases, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has 61%, BJP has 51%, Pattali Makkal Katchi has 43%, Communist Party of India has 40%, and Trinamool Congress has 27% such candidates. In all, 8% of the Independents have criminal records.

The three top candidates with declared serious criminal cases in Assam are Akhil Gogoi, Dulal Bora and Sri Naba Kumar Sarania, all Independents.