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NEWS

## **NGO seeks constitutional body for judicial postings**

New Delhi, Jan 19

An NGO today advocated setting up of an independent constitutional body for appointment of judges and investigating complaints against them to promote transparency in the functioning of judiciary.

"There is an urgent need for setting up of a independent commission for appointment of judges and for addressing complaints against them," said Prashant Bhushan, member of the working committee of Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reform.

The NGO also expressed its disagreement with the view of the Chief Justice of India that judges "are not bound to disclose" their wealth.

"Whether the declaration would be given to the Chief Justice in his personal capacity or in an official capacity," it questioned.

The Chief Justice of India K G Balakrishnan has made it clear that the judges "are not bound to disclose" their wealth.

"There is no statute or law which insists that the judges or the superior courts should submit declaration of their assets. Even then, our judges are submitting the declaration of assets to the Chief Justice," the CJI said in a recent interview to PTI.

"It is not a public document," he said adding, that the declaration given by his colleagues was "based on confidence".

The NGO, however, said that a number of issues ranging from the apex Court & a non-transparent attitude on the disclosure of assets, on appointments and transfer of judges and other matters underscored the need for judicial accountability.