

481 Judges-Additional Judges were in position in the High Courts, leaving 104 vacancies of Judges/Additional Judges to be filled up. These vacancies arose, from time to time, due to retirement, resignation and elevation etc. of the Judges.

The procedure for such appointments involves consultations among several constitutional authorities. Every effort is being made to fill existing vacancies at the earliest.

Election in States

701. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the States in which elections are due to be held during the year 1998;

(b) whether Government propose to hold elections, separately for each State;

(c) whether any consultations have been held with the Chief Ministers of respective States;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether Government propose to have consultations before finalising the schedule for holding these elections?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) General elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Jizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan .National Capital territory of Delhi due to be held by December, 1998.

(b) The Election Commission of India has not yet taken any decision regarding holding general elections to the aforesaid four Legislative Assemblies either separately or according to a common programme.

No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Election Commission of India has informed that under its plenary powers, it is not required to consult the Chief Ministers in this, regard.

Vacancies of High Court Judges

702. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of High Court Judges as on April 1, 1998, in different High Courts; and the percentage of such vacancies constitute with respect to the total number of sanctioned post of judges; indicating the period for which the vacancies are lying;

(b) the total back-log of cases in each High Court; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in following up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) As on 1.4.1998, against the sanctioned strength of 585 Judges/Additional Judges of High Courts, 485 Judges/Additional Judges were in position, leaving 100 vacancies of Judges/Additional Judges to be filled up. These vacancies arose, from time to time, due to retirement, resignation and elevation etc. of the Judges.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House, (*see below*)

(c) The procedure for appointment of Judges of High Courts involves consultations among several constitutional authorities. Every efforts is being made to fill existing vacancies at the earliest.

Statement

Pendency of cases in the High Courts as on 31.12.1997

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Number of cases pending
1.	Allahabad	865455*
2.	Andhra Pradesh	133,211
3.	Bombay	235,381
4.	Calcutta	282,209
5.	Delhi	(up 165,855 to 6/97)
6.	Gauhati	34,165