

Government concerned and it includes the consent of the Chief Justice of the High Court and the Governor of the State and that it satisfies the broad guidelines and criteria recommended by the Jaswant Singh Commission. No such proposal has been received by the Government as on date.

Relationship between judiciary and media

1133. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the observation made by the Supreme Court upon the press and media to restrain from reporting observations that tend to embarrass the judges; and

(b) if so, whether Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to harmonise the freedom of the press *vis-à-vis* judiciary and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vacancies of judges in High Courts

1134. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the High Courts where the vacancies of judges exceed 25 per cent of the sanctioned strength of judges indicating the sanctioned and actual strength of judges as on 1 November, 2009;

(b) the specific reasons for delay in filling up of the vacancies; and

(c) whether in view of delay in the filling up of vacancies Government proposes to re-look into the procedure for selection of judges, so as to enable Government to fill up the vacancies as and when they arise without undue delay, if so, by when the new procedure is likely to be in place and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) A statement showing the sanctioned and working strength of the High Courts where the vacancies of Judges exceed 25 per cent of the approved strength of Judges as on 1st November, 2009, is enclosed (See below).

(b) The process for appointment of Judges of the High Courts is to be initiated by the Chief Justices of the concerned High Courts. The Government has not received sufficient proposals to fill up the vacant posts. The Government is periodically reminding the Chief Justices of the High Courts to initiate proposals in time for filling up the existing vacancies as well as the vacancies anticipated in the next six months.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Statement

Sanctioned and working strength alongwith the vacancies of judges in various High Court

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Approved strength as on 1.11.2009	Working strength as on 1.11.2009	Vacancies of judges
1.	Allahabad	160	83	77
2.	Andhra Pradesh	49	31	18
3.	Calcutta	58	40	18
4.	Chhattisgarh	18	9	9
5.	Gujarat	42	27	15
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	9	5
7.	Jharkhand	20	14	6
8.	Patna	43	22	21
9.	Punjab and Haryana	68	48	20
10.	Rajasthan	40	30	10

Elevation of High Court judges to Supreme Court

1135. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has examined the entire case of Karnataka High Court Chief Justice whose elevation to the Supreme Court was put on hold on account of media reports about his assets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons for injustice to such High Judicial Officer?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) As per existing procedure for appointment, a proposal for appointment of judges of the Supreme Court is initiated by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with the Collegium of the Supreme Court. Hence, a view on the matter has to be taken by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with the Collegium of the Supreme Court.

Overhauling of justice delivery system

1136. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to overhaul the justice delivery system including the appointment of 15,700 new judges to both trial as well as High Courts, and operate courts in three shifts to bring down pendency of cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;