

**Statement**

*Sanctioned strength, and the vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court and various High Courts as on 15.3.12*

Sl.No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned strength as on 15.03.12	Vacancy of Judges as on 15.03.12
<b>A.</b>	<b>Supreme Court of India</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>High Court</b>		
1.	Allahabad	160	85
2.	Andhra Pradesh	49	17
3.	Bombay	75	14
4.	Calcutta	58	21
5.	Chhattisgarh	18	06
6.	Delhi	48	12
7.	Guahati	24	01
8.	Gujarat	42	14
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	07
11.	Jharkhand	20	08
12.	Karnataka	50	10
13.	Kerala	38	04
14.	Madhya Pradesh	43	09
15.	Madras	60	07
16.	Orissa	22	07
17.	Patna	43	07
18.	Punjab and Haryana	68	26
19.	Rajasthan	40	13
20.	Sikkim	3	01
21.	Uttarakhand	9	01
TOTAL		895	270

**Malpractices by members of ITAT**

534. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN

SHRI D. RAJA

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Justice of India (CJI) had asked

Government to take appropriate action against at least 20 members of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) who are alleged to have outsourced writing of judgments to private parties and got financial favours in return; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action was taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Chief Justice of India had vide letter dated 18.02.2011 asked the Central Government to take appropriate decision in terms of section 252 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, read with Income Tax Appellate Tribunal Members (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1963, in respect of certain Members of the Tribunal who are alleged to have an unholy nexus with private persons on account of issuance of orders favouring the clients, resulting in possible losses caused to the Government. The matter is under consideration.

#### **Check on paid news during elections**

535. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of notices regarding paid news issued to newspapaers/ candidates contesting elections during 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12; and

(b) whether Government would consider making paid news a criminal offence and prosecute both the newspapaers and the candidates?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Working of Tribunals**

536. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tribunals functioning under the Central Act;

(b) what is their performance in disposal of cases;

(c) the number of benches of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal and the pendency of cases before each of those benches; and

(d) whether it is advisable to close/merge such benches where there are negligible cases thereby curtailing administrative expenses?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Two tribunals *viz.* Appellate Tribunals for Foreign Exchange and Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal, are functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Law and Justice.

(b) During the year 2011 the Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange disposed off 105 cases and the Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal disposed off 34300 cases.