

(d) and (e) While it is the endeavour of the Government to provide prisoners access to lawyers and justice, no separate plan for prisoners who are below poverty line, is under consideration, at present.

### **Shortage of Judges**

1926. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI:

SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of Judges in various courts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for delay in appointment of Judges; and
- (d) the steps Government is taking to fill the vacancies at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details showing the vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts as on 21.07.2014 and vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Judiciary as on 31.12.2013 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge in the Supreme Court rests with the Chief Justice of India and for appointment of a Judge of a High Court rests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. In this arrangement, number of posts have remained vacant for want of proposals from the High Courts to fill the positions.

Filling up of the vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous consultative process among Constitutional authorities to select suitable candidates for higher judiciary, which is a time consuming process. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, they do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges. The Government has been periodically reminding the Chief Justices of the High Courts to initiate proposals in time for filling the existing as well as the anticipated vacancies in the High Courts.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the

members of subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court and State Government. Thus, as regards the Judge strength in the District and subordinate courts and filling them up is concerned, the responsibility vests with the respective State Governments and the High Courts.

**Statement**

*The details of the vacancies of the Judges in the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts as on 21.07.2014 and vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Judiciary as on 31.12.2013*

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Vacancies of Judges as on 21.07.2014	Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Judiciary as on 31.12.2013
1	2	3	4
A.	Supreme Court of India	05	-
B.	High Court		
1.	Allahabad	71	184
2.	Telangana & Andhra Pradesh	18	146
3.	Bombay	11	278
4.	Calcutta	19	140
5.	Chhattisgarh	05	294
6.	Delhi	11	718
7.	Gauhati	11	178
8.	Gujarat	11	6
9.	Himachal Pradesh	03	18
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	04	360
11.	Jharkhand	10	30
12.	Karnataka	17	109

240 <i>Written Answers to</i>		[RAJYA SABHA]	<i>Unstarred Questions</i>
1	2	3	4
13.	Kerala	05	194
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	90
15.	Madras	16	616
16.	Manipur	02	398
17.	Meghalaya	0	296
18.	Orissa	03	6
19.	Patna	09	72
20.	Punjab and Haryana	20	43
21.	Rajasthan	13	165
22.	Sikkim	0	6
23.	Tripura	0	0
24.	Uttarakhand	03	35
TOTAL		273	4382

**Assistance to Goa under various schemes of the Ministry**

1927. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial assistance is given to the Government of Goa under various schemes of the Ministry; and

(b) if so, the scheme-wise details of assistance given during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):  
 (a) and (b) The details of financial assistance released to the State Government of Goa under the Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary and the Scheme for establishment and operationalisation of Gram Nyayalayas during last five years and under the Thirteenth Finance Commission Award (2010-15) are given in the Statement (*See below*).