Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Vacancies as on 29.02.2016
9.	Himachal Pradesh	06
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	08
11.	Jharkhand	13
12.	Karnataka	31
13.	Kerala	03
14.	Madhya Pradesh	24
15.	Madras	40
16.	Manipur	01
17.	Meghalaya	02
18.	Odisha	06
19.	Patna	24
20.	Punjab and Haryana	37
21.	Rajasthan	26
22.	Sikkim	01
23.	Tripura	0
24.	Uttarakhand	05
	TOTAL	464

Implication of judges' vacancies on pendency of cases

1077. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of judges in the High Courts of the country, State-wise;

(b) the actual strength at present;

(c) the reasons for posts of judges lying vacant in these High Courts;

(d) the implication of these vacancies on the pendency of cases; and

(e) the steps taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) Details showing the approved strength, working strength and vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts as on 29.02.2016 is given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USQ No.1075, part (a) to (c)].

(c) The Collegium system of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts ceased to exist consequent upon the coming into force of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 *w.e.f* 13.04.2015. However, the Constitutional validity of both the Acts was challenged in Supreme Court. While the case was being heard and till the Judgement was pronounced only those Additional Judges whose terms were expiring were given extensions of three months as per the Supreme Court Orders dated 12.05.2015 and 15.07.2015. No other appointments were made.

(d) Disposal of cases in courts falls within the domain of Judiciary. However, a large number of Vacant posts of judges is one of the several reasons for pendency of cases.

(e) In view of the large number of vacancies and keeping in view the fact that the process of supplementing the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) was likely to take some time because of the need for consultation with the States, the matter was taken up with the Supreme Court and the process of appointment of Judges has been resumed.

Wi-Fi facility in courts

1078. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to provide Wi-Fi facility in all the courts, including High Courts and the Supreme Court in near future, if so, the details thereof;

(b) in how many States, including Delhi, these facilities are already available or are under consideration; and

(c) whether Government would consider grants to States for providing Wi-Fi facility at the court premises, if so, the details thereof?