

**Pending cases vis-a-vis vacant posts of Judges**

†416. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of Judges on a large scale in the country due to which imparting of justice is delayed;

(b) the details of pending cases in various courts at present;

(c) the suggestions of Law Commission regarding appointment of Judges and the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) whether there is a decline in disposal of pending cases due to shortage of Judges, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) to (d) The sanctioned and working strength of Judges/Judicial Officers in the High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts at the end of 2013, 2014 and 2015 are given below:

Court/Year	2013		2014		2015	
	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
High Courts	906	639	984	639	1044	601
District/Subordinate Courts	19,518	15,115	20,214	15,634	20,502	16,070

As per information made available by Supreme Court of India, 59,468 cases were pending in the Supreme Court of India as on 19.02.2016. As per information made available by High Courts, 41.53 lakh cases were pending in High Courts and 2.64 crore cases were pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2014.

The Supreme Court, in the case of *Intiyaz Ahmed versus State of Uttar Pradesh and Others, inter-alia*, asked the Law Commission of India to evolve a method for scientific assessment of the number of additional courts to clear the backlog of cases. The Law Commission in its 245th Report recommended 'Rate of Disposal Method' for calculating adequate judge strength for District and Subordinate Courts. The Supreme Court has directed the State Governments and High Courts to file their response in the matter in the above case.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Number of cases disposed off in Supreme Court, High Courts and District/ Subordinate Courts during 2012, 2013 and 2014 are given below:

Court/Year	Number of cases disposed		
	2012	2013	2014
Supreme Court	68,744	77,085	92,722
High Courts	17,86,170	17,72,917	17,34,542
District/Subordinate Courts	1,81,97,153	1,87,83,546	1,90,19,658

#### Disposal of pending court cases

417. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending before the Subordinate Courts and High Courts across the country for the past three years;

(b) whether there is a substantial number of judicial vacancies, if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether Government plans to introduce a time-bound programme to clear pending cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the time-line for implementation of the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):  
(a) to (d) Data on pendency of cases is maintained by the High Courts and the Supreme Court. As per the information available, details of cases pending in High Courts and District/Subordinate Courts at the end of 2012, 2013 and 2014 are given below:

Court/Year	Number of cases pending		
	2012	2013	2014
High Courts	44,34,191	44,62,705	41,53,957
District/Subordinate Courts	2,68,89,203	2,68,38,861	2,64,88,405

As per the information available, details of vacancies position of Judges in High Courts and Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts at the end of 2013, 2014 and 2015 are given below: