

The following methods are already in practice for clearance of backlog:

- (i) In the High Court grouping and classification of similar matters, constitution of special Benches for hearing old matters as well as categories demanding priority.
- (ii) In the Subordinate Courts close monitoring of work by the High Court, fixation of target for disposal in all Courts, implementation of Special list System and Units System.

Apart from these, a special drive has been launched in the High Court and Subordinate Courts aiming at elimination of pendency of over five year old cases by the end of 2016.

#### **Filling up of vacant posts of Judges**

1540. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 1056 posts of Judges sanctioned in the country out of which only 591 Judges have been appointed so far resulting in pendency of huge number of cases in the Courts across the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the necessary steps taken by Government to fill up these vacancies to fully meet the aspirations of countrymen for speedy and affordable justice?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):  
(a) As on 1.5.2016, out of an approved strength of 1065 in the High Courts, there is a working strength of 632 Judges, leaving vacancies of 433 Judges. The details showing the Approved strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the High Courts is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) 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. The Supreme Court struck down the

Constitutional Amendment Act and the National Judicial Appointments Act in October 2015 and passed an order regarding improving the Collegium system in December 2015. In view of the large number of vacancies and the fact that the process of supplementing the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for improvement in the "Collegium System" as per Supreme court Order dated 16.12.2015 was likely to take some time, on the initiative of Government of India, the matter was taken up with the Supreme Court and the process of appointment of Judges has been resumed. As on 01.05.2016, 86 Additional Judges have been made permanent and 51 fresh appointments of Judges in various High Courts have been made in the last three months.

**Statement**

*Approved strength, working strength and vacancies of  
Judges in the High Courts*

(As on 01.05.2016)

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Approved Strength			Working Strength			Vacancies as per Approved Strength		
		Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A.	High Court									
1.	Allahabad	76	84	160	63	17	80	13	67	80
2.	High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad	46	15	61	26	0	26	20	15	35
3.	Bombay	71	23	94	55	09	64	16	14	30
4.	Calcutta	45	13	58	34	09	43	11	04	15
5.	Chhattisgarh	17	05	22	09	--	09	08	05	13
6.	Delhi	45	15	60	33	04	37	12	11	23
7.	Gauhati	18	06	24	07	07	14	11	-01	10
8.	Gujarat	39	13	52	27	07	34	12	06	18
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10	03	13	09	02	11	01	01	02
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	13	04	17	08	01	09	05	03	08
11.	Jharkhand	19	06	25	09	06	15	10	0	10
12.	Karnataka	47	15	62	27	04	31	20	11	31
13.	Kerala	35	12	47	25	09	34	10	03	13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	26	13	39	14	0	14
15.	Madras	56	19	75	41	0	41	15	19	34
16.	Manipur	04	01	05	04	01	05	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	03	01	04	02	0	02	01	01	02
18.	Orissa	20	07	27	14	06	20	06	01	07
19.	Patna	40	13	53	29	0	29	11	13	24
20.	Punjab and Haryana	64	21	85	36	11	47	28	10	38
21.	Rajasthan	38	12	50	20	10	30	18	02	20
22.	Sikkim	03	0	03	02	0	02	01	0	01
23.	Tripura	04	0	04	04	0	04	0	0	0
24.	Uttarakhand	09	02	11	06	0	06	03	02	05
TOTAL		762	303	1065	516	116	632	246	187	433

#### Setting up of Morning/Evening/Special Courts

1541. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various types of Judicial Magistrate Courts, particularly of Morning/Evening and Special Courts functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the total number of cases disposed of by these Courts during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has issued any direction to State Governments for setting up of more such Courts in their respective State, if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):  
(a) to (c) Setting up and functioning of Judicial Magistrate Courts particularly Morning /Evening and Special Courts is within the domain of the State Governments and the High Courts. The 13th Finance Commission had made a provision of funds for the States for increasing the working hours of Courts through setting up such Courts utilising the existing infrastructure. As per the reports received, 2739 such Courts have