

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
22.	Rajasthan	0.00	4.09	3.22	0.34	12.78	9.00	20.70	7.16
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.05	0.01	5.70	2.61	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	10.69	8.03	6.34	6.03	0.00	16.72	25.76	2.12
25.	Tripura	0.29	0.77	0.42	0.72	1.35	0.00	3.27	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4.23	4.25	17.62	10.86	18.92	12.00	28.93	7.59
27.	Uttarakhand	0.35	1.05	3.71	0.05	3.08	12.00	3.75	0.00
28.	West Bengal	0.00	1.64	1.44	0.80	2.91	0.93	6.84	0.00
TOTAL (Utilisation)		237.93	67.89	110.37	52.45	106.03	123.02	272.10	40.37
TOTAL (Release)		850.49	120.36	151.05	78.16	198.93	171.00	391.21	106.73

#### Steps to clear pending court cases

1442. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the various steps undertaken by Government to clear the huge backlog of pending cases in Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts; and

(b) whether Government proposes to set up a Committee to suggest ways and means to clear pendency of court cases, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Arrears Committees have been set up in the High Courts to clear backlog of cases pending for more than five years. Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of judicial officers / judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development.

#### Vacant posts of Judges

†1443. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL:

SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN:

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

(a) whether thousands of posts of Judges are lying vacant in the courts, if so, the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) by when these posts will be filled up; and

(c) the present number of vacant posts of Judges along with cases pending from lower level Munsif/Magistrate Courts to the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) 3 posts of Judges in Supreme Court, and 477 posts of Judges in various High Courts were vacant as on 25.07.2016; and 4,432 posts of Judicial Officers / Judges of District and Subordinate Courts were vacant as on 31.12.2015.

The sanctioned strength of High Court Judges has increased from 906 judges in June 2014 to 1079 judges in June 2016. The fresh appointments to the higher judiciary could not be made during the period the constitutional validity of National Judicial Appointment Commission was *sub-judice*. However, after pronouncement of the judgement of the Supreme Court, while working on the new draft of Memorandum of Procedure, Government took initiative to resume the process of appointments and 110 Additional Judges of High Courts have been made Permanent Judges and 52 fresh appointments of Judges of High Courts have been made during the year 2016. Four fresh appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court have also been made in 2016.

The filling of vacancies of judges/judicial officers in Districts and Subordinate Courts is within the domain of State Governments and High Courts concerned. For filling of vacancies in District and Subordinate Courts, the matter is regularly pursued with the High Courts. Supreme Court is monitoring the recruitment of Subordinate Judiciary in *Malik Mazhar Sultan and Another versus UP. Public Service Commission and Others*.

As per the information made available by the Supreme Court of India, 62,657 cases were pending in the Supreme Court of India as on 30.06.2016. As per information made available by High Courts, 38.70 lakh cases in High Courts and 2.70 crore cases in District and Subordinate Courts were pending as on 31.12.2015.

#### **Holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies**

1444. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government has mooted the proposal of holding elections to State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha simultaneously, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has considered the Seventy-Ninth Report of the