

Vacancies of Judges and other staff in Supreme Court

*110. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of vacancies of Judges and other staff in Supreme Court;
- (b) the reasons for delay in filling up these vacancies; and
- (c) by when the process will be completed to avoid delay in providing justice to the needy?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
 (a) to (c) As on 23.11.2016, out of an approved Judge strength of 31 in the Supreme Court, there is a working strength of 24 Judges, leaving 7 vacancies.

The filling up Judges vacancies in Supreme Court and High Courts is a continuous process, as it requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. As per the Memorandum of Procedure for Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts based on the Supreme Court Judgment dated October 6, 1993 in the case of Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record and Anr. *Vs.* Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the initiation of the proposal for appointment of a Judge of the Supreme Court is made by the Chief Justice of India. The Government has not received any proposal from the Supreme Court of India to fill up the existing 7 vacancies.

Regarding vacancy of other staffs in the Supreme Court, the information furnished by the Supreme Court is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Vacancy
1.	Additional Registrar	2
2.	Branch Officer	3
3.	Sr. Personal Assistant	35
4.	Personal Assistant	6
5.	Junior Court Assistant	27
6.	Junior Court Attendant	90
7.	Chamber Attendants	27
TOTAL		190

The Supreme Court further informed that the process of filling up of vacancies by way of promotion/direct recruitment is a continuous process and the Registry is

already taking steps from time to time for filling up the vacancies. Therefore, there is no delay in filling up of vacancies.

Filling up of vacancy of staffs in the Supreme Court is within the administrative jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The Central Government has no role to play in their recruitment or appointment.

Expanding the number of medicines under NLEM

*111. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to expand the number of medicines under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM);

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to include drugs used for cancer treatment under the NLEM; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR):
(a) The revision of the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is an ongoing process. It was first formulated in 1996. Subsequently it was revised in 2003 and 2011. The last revision of NLEM (2015) was notified by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 23.12.2015. The medicines included in NLEM are based on the recommendation of the Core-Committee constituted for the purpose by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Some of the criteria for inclusion are that the medicine should be approved/licenced in India, it should be useful to diseases which are a public health problem in India and should have proven efficacy and safety profile.

(b) and (c) The National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) notified by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 23.12.2015 contains 376 medicines. These 376 medicines include 59 medicines which are used in treatment of cancer.

Strengthening of railway infrastucture at Jodhpur station

†*112. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jodhpur railway station of Rajasthan is strategically the most important railway station;

(b) if so, the details of planning of Railways for Jodhpur railway station; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.