

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Approved Strength			Working Strength			Vacancies as per Approved Strength		
		Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
24.	Uttarakhand	09	02	11	07	0	07	02	02	04
TOTAL		771	308	1079	539	107	646	232	201	433*

*Vacancies include 173 newly created posts of Judges from 01.07.2014 to 10.05.2016.

Filling up of posts of Judges

†263. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has failed to fill up large number of vacant posts of Judges in Courts, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if not, the number of posts of Judges laying vacant and those which were filled, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Filling up of the vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous process, as it requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and increase in Judge Strength from 906 in 30.06.2014 to 1079 as on today. Further, on account of court case regarding the National Judicial Appointments Commission from April, 2015 till the date of pronouncement of judgement *i.e.* 16.12.2015, no fresh appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts were made during the period.

After striking down the constitutional validity of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014, the Supreme Court passed an order regarding improving the Collegium System in December, 2015 by supplementing the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP). As the process was likely to take some time, at the initiative of the Government of India, the matter was taken up with the Supreme Court and the process of appointment of Judges has been resumed. During 2016, 126 fresh appointments of Judges in High Courts and 131 Additional Judges have been made Permanent, which is the highest number of appointments made in the last 26 years. 4 Judges in the Supreme Court have also been appointed.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The subject matter relating to filling up vacancies in the District and Subordinate Courts falls with the domain of the High Courts and the State Governments concerned. The Central Government has no role in appointment of Subordinate Judiciary.

Number of vacant posts of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts as on 1st January of 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 and number of appointments made during the above said years is given below:

Court	No. of appointments made during the year 2014	Vacancies as on 31.12.2014	No. of appointments made during the year 2015	Vacancies as on 31.12.2015	No. of appointments made during the year 2016	Vacancies as on 31.12.2016
Supreme Court	09	03	01	05	04	07
High Courts	82	346	35	443	126	430*

*173 new posts of Judges has been sanctioned in the High Courts from 1.7.2014 to 10.05.2016.

Fast Track Courts

264. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to establish Fast Track Courts to take up trial of cases involving senior citizens, women and children, physically challenged and persons affected with terminal ailments if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is giving separate funds for this purpose, if so, State-wise details of funds earmarked/ released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Establishment of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) falls within the purview of State Governments which in consultation with the High Courts set up such courts using their own resources. The 14th Finance Commission has endorsed the proposal of the Union Government to strengthen the justice delivery system in the States at a cost of ₹ 4144 crore that includes, *inter alia*, establishing 1800 FTCs for a period of five years to take up trial of cases of heinous crimes, involving senior citizens, women, children, physically challenged and persons affected with terminal ailments etc. The 14th Finance Commission has also made suggestions to the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space made available due to the tax devolution for meeting additional requirements. The details of funds earmarked/ released; State-wise given in the Statement.