

Authority, 7.41 lakhs persons in custody have been provided legal services through various legal services institutions from the operationalisation in 1995 of Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 till September, 2017. The State-wise data of persons who are provided legal assistance at police stations is not maintained centrally. There is no proposal at present to develop a separate scheme for providing free legal aid to persons at police stations.

#### **Vacancies in courts**

914. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in the various District Courts, High Courts across the country and the Supreme Court, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to fill up the vacancies in the various courts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The details of vacancies of Judges in Supreme Court and various High Courts are given in the Statement-I (*See below*) and details of vacancies of Judges/Judicial Officers in various District and Subordinate Courts in the country, State-wise, as per the information made available by High Courts/State Governments, are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(b) Judges of Supreme Court of India are appointed under Article 124 (2) and the Judges of High Courts are appointed under Articles 217 (1) and 224 of the Constitution. As per the provision in the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts, the proposals are initiated by the Chief Justice of India after consultation with the Collegium of Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of the High Court after consultation with the Collegium of the High Court respectively, for filling up of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and related High Courts. No time frame can be fixed for appointment of Additional Judges in High Courts as filling up of vacancies is a continuous process and it requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. Vacancies also keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges which is a continuous process. As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of State Governments and the High Courts concerned.

***Statement-I******Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and various High Courts  
as on 01.12.2017***

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Vacancies of Judges as on 01.12.2017.
<b>1.</b>	<b>Supreme Court of India</b>	<b>6</b>
1.	Allahabad High Court	51
2.	Calcutta High Court	39
3.	Karnataka High Court	37
4.	Punjab and Haryana High Court	35
5.	High Court of Telengana and Andhra Pradesh	30
6.	Delhi High Court	23
7.	Bombay High Court	21
8.	Gujarat High Court	21
9.	Patna High Court	20
10.	Madhya Pradesh High Court	19
11.	Madras High Court	15
12.	Rajasthan High Court	15
13.	Jharkhand High Court	11
14.	Kerala High Court	10
15.	Orissa High Court	10
16.	Chhattisgarh High Court	10
17.	Guahati High Court	06
18.	Jammu and Kashmir High Court	06
19.	Himachal Pradesh High Court	05
20.	Manipur High Court	03
21.	Tripura High Court	02
22.	Meghalaya High Court	02
23.	Uttarakhand High Court	01
24.	Sikkim High Court	00
TOTAL		392

**Statement-II***Vacancies of Judges/Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts*

Sl. No.	States	Vacancies as on 30.11.2017
1.	Uttar Pradesh	1,344
2.	Bihar**	825
3.	Madhya Pradesh	748
4.	Gujarat**	385
5.	Tamil Nadu*	341
6.	Karnataka**	325
7.	Delhi**	316
8.	Jharkhand**	251
9.	Odisha	204
10.	Maharashtra	149
11.	Haryana	147
12.	Punjab	136
13.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**	114
14.	Rajasthan**	96
15.	West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands**	84
16.	Assam	76
17.	Kerala**	73
18.	Chhattisgarh	63
19.	Uttarakhand**	61
20.	Meghalaya	58
21.	Jammu and Kashmir	39
22.	Mizoram	33
23.	Tripura	31
24.	Manipur	18
25.	Puducherry*	14
26.	Goa	12
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	11

Sl. No.	States	Vacancies as on 30.11.2017
28.	Nagaland	11
29.	Himachal Pradesh**	10
30.	Sikkim**	8
31.	Lakshadweep**	1
32.	Chandigarh	0
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu**	0
TOTAL		5,984

\*as on 7.11.2017

\*\*as on 31.10.2017

### **Malfunctioning of EVMs**

915. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that EVMs used in elections for local bodies continue to malfunction and no remedy has been found for these snags; and

(b) if so, whether Government would order a technical audit of these EVMs for a relook at their design and mode of functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The power of conducting of all elections to local bodies (Panchayats and Municipalities) is vested in the State Election Commissioner of the concerned States in terms of Articles 243-K and 243-ZA of the Constitution of India.

(b) It is for the concerned state Election Commissions to take a view in the matter.

### **Committee's recommendation on reforms in arbitration mechanism**

916. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee set up to suggest reforms in India's arbitration mechanism has submitted its recommendations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has accepted all the recommendations, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and