

(c) and (d) Filling up of vacancies in the Supreme Court and the High Courts is a continuous and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. Initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies in High Courts keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges (to the Supreme Court) and also due to increase in the strength of Judges. 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. In so far as recruitment of judicial officers in the States is concerned, respective High Courts do it in certain States, whereas in other States the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions.

Increase in the strength of Judges:—

From 01.01.2014 to 26.12.2018, a total of 27 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 446 new Judges were appointed and 379 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1079 currently. Similarly the sanctioned and working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has been increased as follows:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
30.09.2018	22,644	17,509

#### **Telecast of live proceedings of courts**

†2671. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make arrangement for live telecast of the proceedings of the courts;

(b) if so, by when this system is likely to be implemented; and

(c) the details of additional financial burden to be borne by Government to start this system?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) A Writ Petition was filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, seeking declaration for permitting live streaming of Supreme Court case proceedings of constitutional and national importance having an impact on the public at large and a direction to make available the necessary infrastructure for live streaming and to frame guidelines for the determination of such cases which are of constitutional and national importance. The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its Judgment dated 26th September, 2018 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 66 of 2018-Indira Jai Singh *versus* Secretary General of Supreme Court and Others has *inter alia* observed that: (i) it is important to re-emphasise the significance of live-streaming as an extension of the principle of open justice and open courts; (ii) The process of live-streaming should be subjected to carefully structured guidelines, (iii) Initially, a pilot project may be conducted for about three months by live-streaming only cases of national and constitutional importance which can be expanded in due course with availability of infrastructure.

(b) The matter is under examination.

(c) The details of additional financial burden to start this system will depend on the technical specifications of the equipment.

#### **Case pendency and vacancies in Supreme Court**

2672. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the pending cases in the Supreme Court since 2014, year-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the total sanctioned strength and vacancies in the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) As per the information made available by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the year-wise pendency of cases in the Supreme Court since 2014 is given below:—

Year	Number of Cases pending
2014	62,791
2015	59,272
2016	62,537
2017	55,588
As on 01.12.2018	56,994