

(b) The total sanctioned strength of Judges in the Supreme Court is 31 and number of vacant posts of Judges is 4 as on 31.12.2018.

**Linkage of Aadhaar with Voter ID**

2673. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Election Commission (EC) has linked Aadhaar number of voters to their Voter IDs;

(b) the number of Aadhaar IDs collected by Election Commission, constituency-wise;

(c) the number of Voter IDs linked to Aadhaar by EC, constituency-wise;

(d) out of the above, the number of people who provided consent, in writing, for linking Aadhaar to Voter IDs;

(e) whether EC linked Voter ID with Aadhaar without informing the Aadhaar holders, if so, the number of such voters, constituency-wise; and

(f) whether EC indirectly collects Aadhaar data from Government departments instead of voters, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that National Electoral Rolls Purification and authentication Programme (NERP) was launched on 03.03.2015 in all States/UTs. All activities relating to collection, feeding and seeding of Aadhaar number were kept under suspension with effect from 13 August, 2015 in the light of Hon'ble Supreme Court's interim order dated 11 August, 2015, in WP (C) No. 494 of 2012.

(b) to (d) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(e) The Commission has stated that linking of Aadhaar with Voter ID is not mandatory, it is voluntary and non furnishing of Aadhaar number will not be a ground for rejection of application for new enrolment/deletion of name of an existing elector.

(f) The Commission has informed that they have given directions to Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of States/Union Territories on 13th August, 2015 that no Aadhaar data shall be collected from any other agency/data hub/organisation of Central/State Government, nor should the data collected so far be used for any authentication/other purpose.