

Hindi in Devanagri script. It is also to be noted that there is no mention of National Language in the Constitution of India.

Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution states that proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court, shall be in English language. Clause (2) of the Article 348 of the Constitution states that notwithstanding anything in sub-clause (a) of clause (1), the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of the Hindi Language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State.

The Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 has stipulated that consent of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India be obtained on any proposal relating to use of a language other than English in the High Court.

The use of Hindi in proceedings in the High Court of Rajasthan was authorized under clause (2) of Article 348 of the Constitution in 1950. After the Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 as mentioned above, the use of Hindi was authorized in the High Courts of Uttar Pradesh (1969), Madhya Pradesh (1971) and Bihar (1972) in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

The requests relating to use of Bengali, Tamil, Hindi, Gujarati and Kannada in the High Courts of Calcutta, Madras, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Karnataka accordingly were forwarded to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on 18.01.2016 has conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberation, disapproved the proposals, reiterating the previous resolutions on the subject which had unanimously resolved that the proposals could not be accepted.

Vacancies in High Courts

595. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge number of posts for the Judges in different High Courts are lying vacant till date;

(b) if so, the number of posts of Judges lying vacant in the different High Courts separately; and

(c) steps Government proposes to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Details of the vacancies of Judges of High Courts as on 18.11.2019 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the High Court. As per the Memorandum of Procedure, the Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposals for filling up of vacancies of Judges in the High Court six months prior to the occurrence of vacancies.

Appointment of Judges in the High Courts is a continuous collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary, as it requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at the State and Centre level. 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.

Statement

Details of the vacancies of Judges of High Courts

(As on 18.11.2019)

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Vacancies
1.	Allahabad	60
2.	Andhra Pradesh	22
3.	Bombay	29
4.	Calcutta	32
5.	Chhattisgarh	07
6.	Delhi	23
7.	Gauhati	06
8.	Gujarat	24
9.	Himachal Pradesh	03
10.	High Court for Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union territory of Ladakh	09
11.	Jharkhand	06

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Vacancies
12.	Karnataka	23
13.	Kerala	15
14.	Madhya Pradesh	22
15.	Madras	21
16.	Manipur	01
17.	Meghalaya	01
18.	Orissa	13
19.	Patna	26
20.	Punjabi Haryana	36
21.	Rajasthan	29
22.	Sikkim	0
23.	Telangana	11
24.	Tripura	01
25.	Uttarakhand	01
TOTAL		421

Decision on recommendations of Collegium

†596. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to set a deadline for taking decision on recommendations of Collegiums in matters of appointment, promotion and transfer of Judges;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is taking time to take decision on the recommendations given by the Collegiums owing to which the number of pending cases is increasing due to lack of timely appointment of Judges; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.