

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1236
ANSWERED ON 01/08/2024

IMPACT OF VACANCIES ON PENDENCY OF CASES

1236. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:

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

- (a) the total number of vacancies of Judges in District Courts and High Courts across various States, State-wise;
- (b) the details of posts of Judges filled up during the last five years in various Courts, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (c) whether Government has assessed the impact of vacancies on the huge pendency of cases in the country, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The status of vacancies of Judges across the country is as under:

S. No.	Name of Court	Vacancy as on date
1	High Courts	359
2.	District and Subordinate Courts	5,238

Further, the details of State-wise vacancies of Judges in High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts across various states are at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II* respectively.

(b): The statement showing posts of Judges filled up during the last five years in High Courts and Supreme Court is as under:

Sl No.	Name of the Court	Year					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (as on 29.07.2027)
1	Supreme Court	10	--	09	03	14	03
2	High Court	81	66	120	165	110	11

A statement of vacancies of Judges filled up during the last five years in High Courts of all states is at *Annexure-III*.

Further, in case of District & Subordinate courts, filling up of vacant positions in the District Courts of the country is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government in consultation with the High Court frames the rules and regulations regarding the issues of appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. In some States, the respective High Court undertakes the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Court does it in consultation with the State Public Service Commission. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide judicial order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has stipulated certain timelines which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts for initiating the recruitment process of judges in subordinate courts. A statement showing sanctioned strength and vacancies over the last five years in district and subordinate courts, state wise is at *Annexure-IV*.

(c): The Government is aware of the impact of the vacancies on the huge pendency in the country. However, the vacancy of judges is not the sole reason for affecting the disposal of cases in courts. The disposal of cases in courts is also affected by several other factors which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1236 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2024
REGARDING 'IMPACT OF VACANCIES ON PENDENCY OF CASES'.**

Vacant Positions of Judges in the High Courts as on 29.07.2024

Sl. No.	Name of High Court	Total Vacancy
1	Allahabad	076
2	Andhra Pradesh	9
3	Bombay	28
4	Calcutta	28
5	Chhattisgarh	7
6	Delhi	21
7	Gauhati	6
8	Gujarat	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	2
11	Jharkhand	7
12	Karnataka	12
13	Kerala	8
14	Madhya Pradesh	17
15	Madras	12
16	Manipur	1
17	Meghalaya	0
18	Orissa	13
19	Patna	19
20	Punjab & Haryana	30
21	Rajasthan	17
22	Sikkim	0
23	Telangana	14
24	Tripura	0
25	Uttarakhand	4
	Total	359

Annexure-II**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1236 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2024 REGARDING 'IMPACT OF VACANCIES ON PENDENCY OF CASES'.****Vacant Positions of Judicial Officers in District & Subordinate Court as on 29.07.2024**

Sl. No.	State & UT	Total Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11
3.	Assam	25
4.	Bihar	483
5.	Chandigarh	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	195
7.	D & N Haveli	1
8.	Daman & Diu	0
9.	Delhi	81
10.	Goa	10
11.	Gujarat	535
12.	Haryana	217
13.	Himachal Pradesh	19
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	100
15.	Jharkhand	203
16.	Karnataka	244
17.	Kerala	66
18.	Ladakh	8
19.	Lakshadweep	2
20.	Madhya Pradesh	319
21.	Maharashtra	250
22.	Manipur	13
23.	Meghalaya	43
24.	Mizoram	29
25.	Nagaland	10
26.	Odisha	167
27.	Puducherry	19
28.	Punjab	73
29.	Rajasthan	320
30.	Sikkim	12
31.	Tamil Nadu	339
32.	Telangana	115
33.	Tripura	24
34.	Uttar Pradesh	973
35.	Uttarakhand	28
36.	Andaman and Nicobar*	242
37.	West Bengal*	
TOTAL		5238

*Combined vacancy of UT Andaman & Nicobar Island and State of WB as shown against State of West Bengal

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1236 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2024 REGARDING 'IMPACT OF VACANCIES ON PENDENCY OF CASES'.

Fresh Appointments of Judges in Various High Courts in Last 5 Years.							
S.No.	High Court	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	Allahabad	10	4	17	13	9	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	2	7	2	14	6	0
3	Bombay	11	4	6	19	9	0
4	Calcutta	6	1	8	16	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0	3	3	2	1
6	Delhi	4	0	2	17	5	0
7	Gauhati	4	0	6	2	5	0
8	Gujarat	3	7	7	0	8	1
9	Himachal Pradesh	2	0	1	2	3	0
10	J & K and Ladakh	0	5	2	4	0	1
11	Jharkhand	2	0	4	1	0	1
12	Karnataka	10	10	6	6	5	0
13	Kerala	1	6	12	1	3	7
14	Madhya Pradesh	2	0	8	6	14	0
15	Madras	1	10	5	4	13	0
16	Manipur	0	1	0	0	2	0
17	Meghalaya	1	0	0	0	1	0
18	Orissa	1	2	4	6	2	0
19	Patna	4	0	6	11	2	0
20	Punjab & Haryana	10	1	6	21	4	0
21	Rajasthan	3	6	8	2	9	0
22	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Telangana	3	1	7	17	3	0
24	Tripura	0	1	0	0	2	0
25	Uttarakhand	1	0	0	0	3	0
	Total	81	66	120	165	110	11

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1236 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2024 REGARDING 'IMPACT OF VACANCIES ON PENDENCY OF CASES'.

Sanctioned Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts for last five years													
Sl.No	Name of the State/Uts	As on 31.12.2018		As on 31.12.2019		As on 31.12.2020		As on 31.12.2021		As on 31.12.2022		As on 31.12.2023	
		Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies
1	Andhra Pradesh	494	49	597	68	607	97	607	116	607	73	618	83
2	Telangana	493	48	413	79	474	96	474	49	560	150	560	115
3	Auranchal Pradesh	30	5	41	14	41	9	41	9	41	8	44	10
4	Assam	430	47	441	29	466	54	467	31	485	60	485	46
5	Bihar	1845	640	1925	776	1936	503	1954	560	2016	667	2016	1550
6	Chandigarh	30	0	30	1	30	4	30	0	30	0	30	1
7	Chattisgarh	452	55	468	75	480	93	482	73	527	90	562	139
8	D & N Haveli	3	0	3	0	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1
9	Daman & Diu	4	0	4	1	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0
10	Delhi	799	258	799	118	799	151	884	192	884	203	887	89
11	Goa	50	8	50	7	50	10	50	10	50	10	50	10
12	Gujarat	1506	356	1521	336	1521	369	1523	400	1582	431	1720	545
13	Haryana	651	162	772	297	772	279	772	290	772	308	772	208
14	Himachal Pradesh	159	10	175	22	175	14	175	15	179	16	179	21
15	Jammu and Kashmir	310	86	290	58	296	41	300	59	314	91	317	94
16	Ladakh					16	8	17	8	17	8	17	7
17	Jharkhand	676	216	677	216	675	131	675	152	694	186	693	181
18	Karnataka	3972	725	2703	534	1357	286	1363	276	1365	233	1375	225
19	Kerela	496	63	536	79	538	68	569	81	595	122	605	91

20	Lakshadweep	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	4	0	4	1
21	Madhya Pradesh	1872	511	2021	401	2021	411	2021	469	2021	372	2028	298
22	Maharashtra	2011	167	2189	247	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250
23	Manipur	55	15	55	16	54	18	59	17	59	17	59	10
24	Meghalaya	97	58	97	48	97	48	97	48	99	48	99	42
25	Mizoram	67	21	64	18	64	21	65	23	74	33	74	33
26	Nagaland	33	7	33	8	33	7	34	10	34	10	34	10
27	Odisha	911	156	919	149	950	194	976	191	1001	234	1008	205
28	Puducherry	26	7	26	15	26	15	26	15	28	17	29	19
29	Punjab	674	144	675	96	692	99	692	85	797	208	797	212
30	Rajasthan	1337	229	1428	308	1489	197	1549	275	1587	331	1638	296
31	Sikkim	23	4	25	6	25	5	28	8	30	9	35	12
32	Tamil Nadu	1143	238	1255	175	1298	249	1316	234	1340	272	1371	331
33	Tripura	115	40	120	24	120	23	122	25	128	20	128	20
34	Uttar Pradesh	3225	1188	3416	838	3634	1053	3634	1092	3647	1173	3696	1247
35	Uttarkhand	293	59	294	66	297	42	299	28	299	30	298	27
36	West Bengal	1013	75	1014	96	1014	96	1014	96	1014	96	1014	96
37	A& N Island	11	0	0	-13	0	-13	0	-13	0	-13	0	-13
Total		25309	5647	25079	5208	24247	4929	24515	5175	25077	5764	25439	5428