

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1239

ANSWERED ON 01/08/2024

VACANCIES IN COURTS

1239. DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the sanctioned strength and vacancies of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court as on date;
- (b) the number of proposals for appointments in High Courts which are pending with Supreme Court Collegium or Government as on date;
- (c) the vacancies in High Courts which are yet to be recommended by the High Court Collegiums to Government as per the extant Supreme Court instructions in this regard;
- (d) the number of women Judges and Judges hailing from SC, ST and OBC communities in the Supreme Court and High Courts as on date; and
- (e) the State-wise and category-wise 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) to (e): As on 25.07.2024, the Supreme Court is functioning at its full strength of 34 Judges (including the CJI). As regards the High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 1114 Judges, 755 Judges are working and 359 posts of Judges are vacant in various High Courts. 205 proposals for appointment of High Court Judges are at various stages of processing between the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium. The recommendations against 154 vacancies are yet to be received from the High Court Collegiums.

2. At present, 03 women Judges are working in the Supreme Court and 106 women Judges are working in various High Courts.

3. Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of SCs, STs and OBCs among the Judges of High Courts are not centrally maintained. However, since 2018, the recommendees for the post of High Court Judges are required to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). Hence, since 2018 the data on appointees to that extent is available. Out of 661 High Court Judges appointed since 2018, 21 belong to SC category, 12 belong to ST category and 78 belong to OBC category
(till 25.07.2024).
