

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 416
ANSWERED ON 25/07/2024

SHORTAGE OF STAFF IN COURTS OF BIHAR

416 # SMT. DHARMSHILA GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether thousands of civil and criminal cases are pending in the High Court, District Courts and other subordinate courts of Bihar;
- (b) whether there is a shortage of staff, including judges, in the courts as required for prompt disposal of the said cases; and
- (c) whether there is any plan to resolve these issues, 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): Yes. As per information received from the High Court of Judicature at Patna, the pendency of civil and criminal cases in Bihar at the level of District and Subordinate Courts and the High Court is as under:-

Pendency of Cases (as on 30.06.2024)			
Sl. No	Nature of Cases	High Court	District & Subordinate Courts
1.	Civil Cases	107923	521750
2.	Criminal Cases	92191	3161289
3.	Total	200114	3683039

(b): The vacancy position of Judges in the High Court, District Courts and Subordinate courts of Bihar, is as under : -

Vacancy of Judges in High Court (as on 30.06.2024)	19 (34 working strength as against sanctioned strength of 53 Judges)
Vacancy of Judicial Officers in District & Subordinate Courts (as on 30.06.2024)	486 (as against sanctioned strength of 2019 Judicial Officers)*

*Source for Sanctioned Strength: MIS portal, Department of Justice

Further, the availability of manpower in the High Court, District Courts and Subordinate courts of Bihar, is as under : -

Manpower availability in High Court of Patna (as on 30.06.2024)	2325 (60.093% of manpower strength)
Manpower availability in District & Subordinate Courts of Bihar (as on 30.06.2024)	8165 (41.73% of manpower strength)

(c): It is stated that the following measures are being taken by the High Court to resolve the issues of pendency and manpower shortage:

(i) Filling up of vacancies of Judicial Officers in District & Subordinate Courts lies in the domain of respective High Courts and State Governments. As informed by the High Court, vacancies in the Bihar Superior Judicial Services, Civil Judge (Senior and Junior Divisions) are notified annually as per the schedule set by the Supreme Court in their Order passed on 4.01.2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case and in accordance with the relevant recruitment rules in force. Expeditious steps are taken from time to time to fill up vacancies by way of regular monitoring and follow up by the High Court in respect of recruitment of District Judges (Direct Entry) and Civil Judges (Junior Division).

(ii) Regular process of recruitment and filling up of vacancies in various grades of court staff is carried out on a timely basis. This includes the posts of Assistants, Clerks, Stenographers, Court Readers-cum-Deposition Writers, Translators, by way of direct recruitment. Similarly, regular promotional exercises are carried out for the posts of Joint Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Assistant Registrar and Section Officers to mitigate the shortage of manpower faced by courts at all levels.

(iii) Further, the following steps have been taken by Arrears Committee of the High Court to reduce the pendency in Subordinate Courts of Bihar: -

- a. Each Court at District level has been given a target to dispose of 15 oldest cases pending as shown on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) in every quarter.
- b. All the District & Sessions Judges have been directed to monitor the disposal of old cases of every Court under their respective jurisdiction on the clearance day of every month through District Arrear Committee.
- c. All the District & Sessions Judges have also been directed to ensure that every Court must prepare quarterly plan for disposal of old cases of their respective courts.
