

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2815

ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

SHORTAGE OF JUDGES

2815. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

- (a) the current sanctioned strength and the actual number of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts as of September 2024;
- (b) the State-wise breakdown of the shortage of judges in district courts, including the number of vacancies and the impact thereof on case pendency;
- (c) whether Government considered any alternative measures; such as increasing the number of Judges per court or improving case management systems, to mitigate the effects of the judicial vacancy crisis and the criteria for deciding number of Judges in courts; and
- (d) 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) to (d): The sanctioned strength and working strength of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts is at **Annexure-I**. The State-wise sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies in the district courts is at **Annexure-II**.

The sanctioned strength of Supreme Court Judges has been increased from 30 to 33 (excluding CJI) w.e.f. 03.08.2019. Since 2014, the strength of Judges in the High Courts has been increased from 906 in 2014 to 1122 as on date.

Disposal of cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. Timely disposal of cases is contingent upon several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, cooperation of stake-holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures as also frequent adjournments. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms established by the Government has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency of judicial administration through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure for courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology for better justice delivery, and filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court.

Sanctioned strength and working strength of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts (As on 30.09.2024)

Sl. No.	Supreme Court/ High Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
	Supreme Court	34	33
1	Allahabad	160	84
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	26
3	Bombay	94	64
4	Calcutta	72	44
5	Chhattisgarh	22	17
6	Delhi	60	37
7	Gauhati	30	24
8	Gujarat	52	29
9	Himachal Pradesh	17	12
10	J & K and Ladakh	25	15
11	Jharkhand	25	19
12	Karnataka	62	50
13	Kerala	47	40
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	35
15	Madras	75	66
16	Manipur	5	4
17	Meghalaya	4	3
18	Orissa	33	20
19	Patna	53	33
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	54
21	Rajasthan	50	33
22	Sikkim	3	3
23	Telangana	42	27
24	Tripura	5	5
25	Uttarakhand	11	7

Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy statement in District and Subordinate Court (As on 30.09.2024):

Sl. No.	States & Uts	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	618	560	58
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44	33	11
3.	Assam	485	461	24
4.	Bihar	2019	1536	483
5.	Chandigarh	30	30	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	663	465	198
7.	D & N Haveli	3	2	1
8.	Daman & Diu	4	4	0
9.	Delhi	897	803	94
10.	Goa	50	40	10
11.	Gujarat	1720	1185	535
12.	Haryana	773	555	218
13.	Himachal Pradesh	179	160	19
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	322	273	49
15.	Jharkhand	705	506	199
16.	Karnataka	1375	1125	250
17.	Kerala	610	539	71
18.	Ladakh	17	11	6
19.	Lakshadweep	4	4	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1697	331
21.	Maharashtra	2190	1940	250
22.	Manipur	62	49	13
23.	Meghalaya	99	56	43
24.	Mizoram	74	45	29
25.	Nagaland	34	24	10
26.	Odisha	1041	843	198
27.	Puducherry	36	26	10
28.	Punjab	804	723	81
29.	Rajasthan	1641	1315	326
30.	Sikkim	35	23	12
31.	Tamil Nadu	1369	1023	346
32.	Telangana	560	445	115
33.	Tripura	133	109	24
34.	Uttar Pradesh	3698	2717	981
35.	Uttarakhand	298	270	28
36.	Andaman and Nicobar	1105	875	230
37.	West Bengal			

Source: - MIS portal of Department of Justice.
*Combined vacancy of UT Andaman & Nicobar Island and State of WB as shown against State of West Bengal