

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)**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Supreme Court/ High Court</b>	<b>Sanctioned Strength</b>	<b>Working Strength</b>
	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):**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>States &amp;Uts</b>	<b>Total Sanctioned Strength</b>	<b>Total Working Strength</b>	<b>Total Vacancy</b>
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			
37	West Bengal	1105	875	230

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