

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2820
ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

VACANCIES OF JUDGES IN VARIOUS COURTS

2820 # SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

- (a) the details of vacancies of Judges in the lower courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court of the country at present;
- (b) the number of Judges retired and the number of Judges appointed against those vacancies during the last five years; and
- (c) whether Government would consider expediting the process of appointment of Judges in view of the pendency of cases in the country?

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 details of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and the District and Subordinate Courts of the country at present are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Vacancy
1.	Supreme Court	01
2.	High Courts	368
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	5262

(b): 32 Judges from the Supreme Court and 455 Judges from the High Court have retired during 01.01.2019 -12.12.2024. During the same period, 40 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court and 576 Judges have been appointed in the High Courts.

Further, the number of Judges retired and the number of Judges appointed against those vacancies in District and Subordinate Courts are not centrally maintained. However, a statement showing sanctioned strength and vacancies over the last five years in district and subordinate courts, State-wise is at *Annexure-I*.

(c): Filling up of vacant positions in the case of District and Subordinate courts 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 appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has inter-alia, stipulated certain timelines, which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts for recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts.

Appointment of the Judges of the Constitutional Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at state and central level. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of Judges in High Courts keep arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2820 FOR ANSWER ON 19.12.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCIES OF JUDGES IN VARIOUS COURT'.

Sanctioned Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts for last five years													
Sl. No	State/UTs	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		As on 13.12.2024	
		Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies										
1	Andhra Pradesh	597	68	607	97	607	116	607	73	618	83	623	59
2	Telangana	413	79	474	96	474	49	560	150	560	115	560	115
3	Arunachal Pradesh	41	14	41	9	41	9	41	8	44	10	44	11
4	Assam	441	29	466	54	467	31	485	60	485	46	485	24
5	Bihar	1925	776	1936	503	1954	560	2016	667	2016	1550	2019	483
6	Chandigarh	30	1	30	4	30	0	30	0	30	1	30	0
7	Chhattisgarh	468	75	480	93	482	73	527	90	562	139	663	198
8	D & N Haveli and Daman and Diu	7	1	7	1	3	1	7	1	7	1	7	1
9	Delhi	799	118	799	151	884	192	884	203	887	89	897	94
10	Goa	50	7	50	10	50	10	50	10	50	10	50	10
11	Gujarat	1521	336	1521	369	1523	400	1582	431	1720	545	1720	535
12	Haryana	772	297	772	279	772	290	772	308	772	208	781	229
13	Himachal Pradesh	175	22	175	14	175	15	179	16	179	21	179	19
14	Jammu and Kashmir	290	58	296	41	300	59	314	91	317	94	322	46
15	Ladakh			16	8	17	8	17	8	17	7	17	6
16	Jharkhand	677	216	675	131	675	152	694	186	693	181	705	199
17	Karnataka	2703	534	1357	286	1363	276	1365	233	1375	225	1375	219
18	Kerala	536	79	538	68	569	81	595	122	605	91	611	77
19	Lakshadweep	3	0	3	0	3	0	4	0	4	1	4	0
20	Madhya	2021	401	2021	411	2021	469	2021	372	2028	298	2028	337

	Pradesh												
21	Maharashtra	2189	247	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250
22	Manipur	55	16	54	18	59	17	59	17	59	10	62	13
23	Meghalaya	97	48	97	48	97	48	99	48	99	42	99	43
24	Mizoram	64	18	64	21	65	23	74	33	74	33	74	29
25	Nagaland	33	8	33	7	34	10	34	10	34	10	34	10
26	Odisha	919	149	950	194	976	191	1001	234	1008	205	1041	200
27	Puducherry	26	15	26	15	26	15	28	17	29	19	36	10
28	Punjab	675	96	692	99	692	85	797	208	797	212	804	81
29	Rajasthan	1428	308	1489	197	1549	275	1587	331	1638	296	1641	328
30	Sikkim	25	6	25	5	28	8	30	9	35	12	35	12
31	Tamil Nadu	1255	175	1298	249	1316	234	1340	272	1371	331	1369	346
32	Tripura	120	24	120	23	122	25	128	20	128	20	133	24
33	Uttar Pradesh	3416	838	3634	1053	3634	1092	3647	1173	3696	1247	3700	996
34	Uttarakhand	294	66	297	42	299	28	299	30	298	27	298	28
35	West Bengal	1014	83	1014	83	1014	83	1014	83	1014	83	1105	230
36	A& N Island												
Total		25079	5208	24247	4929	24515	5175	25077	5764	25439	5428	25741	5262