

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 439
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

PENDING CASES IN COURTS

439. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

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

- (a) whether large number of cases are still pending despite several steps like setting up fast track courts;
- (b) if so, the number of pending cases at district courts, High Courts and Supreme Court as on date;
- (c) whether Government proposes to set up more courts and appoint more judges in the existing courts to dispose the pending cases at the earliest; and
- (d) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to dispose the pending cases in time bound manner?

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) & (b): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the number of pending cases in courts across the country, as on 25.11.2024, is as under:

S. No.	Name of court	No. of pending cases
1.	Supreme Court of India	82,511
2.	High Courts	61,11,028
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,54,79,245

(c) & (d): In case of Supreme Court of India, Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint. The Eleventh Law Commission in its 125th Report titled “The Supreme Court – A Fresh Look”, submitted in 1988, reiterated the

recommendations made by Tenth Law Commission in its 95th Report for splitting the Supreme Court into two namely (i) Constitutional Court at Delhi and (ii) Court of Appeal or Federal Court sitting in North, South, East, West and Central India. The Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229th Report had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, Eastern region at Kolkata and Western region at Mumbai. The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who informed that after consideration of the matter, the Full Court in its meeting held on 18th February, 2010, found no justification for setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi. In Writ Petition WP(C) No. 36/2016 on establishment of National Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 13.07.2016 deemed it proper to refer the aforementioned issue to the Constitutional Bench for authoritative pronouncement. **The matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court.**

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 was amended to increase the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court of India from 30 to 33 (excluding CJI). The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019 came into force w.e.f. 09.08.2019.

In case of High Court, Benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No.379 of 2000 and after due consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government which has to provide necessary expenditure and infrastructural facilities and the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court who is required to look after the day today administration of the High Court. To be complete, the proposal should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State. At present, there is no complete proposal pending with the Government for setting up of Bench(es) in any High Court.

During the period from 01.05.2014 to 21.11.2024 with the approval of the respective State Governments, concerned High Courts and the Chief Justice of India, the Government has increased the Judge strength of the High Courts from 906 to 1122 i.e. by 216 posts.

In case of District and Subordinate courts, the setting up of more courts is within the domain of the concerned High Court and respective State Government.

As far as appointment of more judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts is concerned, under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of district and subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court. In exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Governments, in consultation with the High Court, frame the Rules and Regulations regarding the issue of appointment, promotion, reservations and retirement of Judicial Officers in the State Judicial Service. The sanctioned strength of judicial officers has increased from 19,518 in the year 2014 to 25,725 as on 22.11.2024. The state-wise sanctioned strength and working strength in respect of judges of the District and Subordinate Courts during past 5 years is at *Annexure-I*.

(e): The disposal of pending cases in time bound manner is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Government is committed towards facilitating an ecosystem for expeditious disposal of cases by judiciary and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. To this end, the Government set up the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves improved infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (C) & (D) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 439 FOR ANSWER ON 28.11.2024 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES IN COURTS'.

Sl.No	Name of the State/Uts	As on 31.12.2020		As on 31.12.2021		As on 31.12.2022		As on 31.12.2023		As on 22.11.2024	
		Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength								
1	Andhra Pradesh	607	510	607	491	607	534	618	535	618	544
2	Telangana	474	378	474	425	560	410	560	445	560	445
3	Auranchal Pradesh	41	32	41	32	41	33	44	34	44	33
4	Assam	466	412	467	436	485	425	485	439	485	461
5	Bihar	1936	1433	1954	1394	2016	1349	2016	1550	2019	1536
6	Chandigarh	30	26	30	30	30	30	30	29	30	30
7	Chattisgarh	480	387	482	409	527	437	562	423	663	465
8	D & N Haveli and Daman & Diu	D & N Haveli	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3
		Daman & Diu	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
9	Delhi	799	648	884	692	884	681	887	798	897	803
10	Goa	50	40	50	40	50	40	50	40	50	40
11	Gujarat	1521	1152	1523	1123	1582	1151	1720	1175	1720	1185
12	Haryana	772	493	772	482	772	464	772	564	773	555
13	Himachal Pradesh	175	161	175	160	179	163	179	158	179	160
14	Jammu and Kashmir	296	255	300	241	314	223	317	223	322	277
15	Ladakh	16	8	17	9	17	9	17	10	17	11
16	Jharkhand	675	544	675	523	694	508	693	512	705	506
17	Karnataka	1357	1071	1363	1087	1365	1132	1375	1150	1375	1157
18	Kerela	538	470	569	488	595	473	605	514	610	534

19	Lakshadweep	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	4
20	Madhya Pardesh	2021	1610	2021	1552	2021	1649	2028	1730	2028	1692
21	Maharashtra	2190	1940	2190	1940	2190	1940	2190	1940	2190	1940
22	Manipur	54	36	59	42	59	42	59	49	62	49
23	Meghalaya	97	49	97	49	99	51	99	57	99	56
24	Mizoram	64	43	65	42	74	41	74	41	74	45
25	Nagaland	33	26	34	24	34	24	34	24	34	24
26	Odisha	950	756	976	785	1001	767	1008	803	1041	842
27	Puducherry	26	11	26	11	28	11	29	10	36	26
28	Punjab	692	593	692	607	797	589	797	585	804	723
29	Rajasthan	1489	1292	1549	1274	1587	1256	1638	1342	1641	1314
30	Sikkim	25	20	28	20	30	21	35	23	35	23
31	Tamil Nadu	1298	1049	1316	1082	1340	1068	1371	1040	1369	1023
32	Tripura	120	97	122	97	128	108	128	108	133	109
33	Uttar Pradesh	3634	2581	3634	2542	3647	2474	3696	2449	3698	2717
34	Uttarkhand	297	255	299	271	299	269	298	271	298	270
35	West Bengal	1014	918	1014	918	1014	918	1014	918	1105	863
36	A& N Island	0	13	0	13	0	13	0	13	0	12
Total		24247	19318	24515	19340	25077	19313	25439	20011	25725	20480