

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2354

ANSWERED ON 20/03/2025

REPRESENTATION OF SC, ST AND OBC COMMUNITIES IN THE JUDICIARY

2354. **SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:**

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

- (a) the number of judges currently serving in the Supreme Court, High Courts and Lower Courts, along with the representation of SC, ST and OBC judges. Court-wise details thereof;
- (b) the details of SC, ST and OBC appointments in these Courts over the last five years, year-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to improve their representation in the judiciary; and
- (d) whether there is a mechanism to track and publish social diversity in judicial appointments, if not, whether Government has any plans to introduce one?

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): Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of SCs, STs and OBCs among the Judges of Supreme Court and the High Courts is not centrally available. However, the Government is committed to enhancing Social Diversity and since 2018, the recommendees for the post of High Court Judges are required to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). Based on the information provided by the recommendees, out of 715 High Court Judges appointed since 2018, 22 belong to SC category, 16 belong to ST category, 89 belong to OBC category and 37 belong to Minorities.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. However, the Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in the appointment of Judges in High Courts. Only those persons who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, are appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

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.

The details of sanctioned strength and working strength of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts are at **Annexure-I**. Further, the details of State/UT-wise sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies in the district courts as available in MIS of the Department of Justice are at **Annexure-II**.

Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts (As on 17.03.2025)

A.	Supreme Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		34			33			1		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	79	0	79	40	41	81
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	21	9	30	7	0	7
3	Bombay	71	23	94	53	13	66	18	10	28
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	32	14	46	22	4	26
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	9	7	16	8	-2	6
6	Delhi	45	15	60	39	0	39	6	15	21
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	21	4	25	1	4	5
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	32	0	32	7	13	20
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	12	0	12	1	4	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	19	6	25	12	3	15	7	3	10
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	16	0	16	4	5	9
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	47	3	50	0	12	12
13	Kerala	35	12	47	29	15	44	6	-3	3
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	34	0	34	6	13	19
15	Madras	56	19	75	56	9	65	0	10	10
16	Manipur	4	1	5	4	0	4	0	1	1
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	3	1	4	0	0	0
18	Orissa	24	9	33	18	0	18	6	9	15
19	Patna	40	13	53	37	0	37	3	13	16
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	48	5	53	16	16	32
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	34	0	34	4	12	16
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	26	4	30	6	6	12
24	Tripura	4	1	5	4	1	5	0	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	9	0	9	0	2	2
	Total	846	276	1122	678	88	766	168	188	356

ANNEXURE-II

Working Strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate courts as on 28.02.2025.

	States &Uts	Civil Judge(Junior Division)	Civil Judge(Junior Division)	Civil Judge(Junior Division)	Civil Judge(Junior Division)	Civil Judge(Junior Division)	Civil Judge(Junior Division)	Civil Judge(Junior Division)	Civil Judge(Senior Division)	Civil Judge(Senior Division)	Civil Judge(Senior Division)	Civil Judge(Senior Division)	Civil Judge(Senior Division)	Civil Judge(Senior Division)	Civil Judge(Senior Division)	District Judge/DJ	District Judge/DJ	District Judge/DJ	District Judge/DJ	District Judge/DJ	District Judge/DJ	GRAND TOTAL	
		SC	ST	OBC	OTHERS	TOTAL(SC+ST+OBC+OTHER)	SPECIALLY ABLED	WOMEN	SC	ST	OBC	OTHERS	TOTAL(SC+ST+OBC+OTHER)	SPECIALLY ABLED	WOMEN	SC	ST	OBC	OTHERS	TOTAL(SC+ST+OBC+OTHER)	SPECIALLY ABLED	WOMEN	
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	12
2	Andhra Pradesh	53	19	121	86	279	1	160	23	10	43	59	135	0	65	30	3	56	61	150	0	62	564
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	9	0	0	9	0	3	0	16	0	0	16	0	7	0	7	1	0	8	0	1	33
4	Assam	16	23	0	166	205	1	127	12	21	0	106	139	0	64	6	7	0	104	117	0	35	461
5	Bihar	129	9	306	329	773	5	337	63	5	42	165	275	0	34	48	3	54	383	488	1	38	1536
6	Chandigarh	7	0	3	8	18	0	8	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	8	10	0	5	30
7	Chhattisgarh	26	57	27	54	164	6	99	17	45	26	44	132	4	63	30	26	37	76	169	0	41	465
8	D & N Haveli	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
10	Delhi	46	21	0	242	309	5	181	12	1	0	97	110	6	63	10	1	0	373	384	1	114	803
11	Goa	0	2	0	17	19	0	15	0	0	1	11	12	0	8	0	0	1	8	9	0	5	40
12	Gujarat	59	1	34	347	441	0	116	50	4	151	277	482	0	79	8	0	33	221	262	0	51	1185
13	Haryana	31	0	46	132	209	2	101	42	0	18	72	132	0	61	21	0	21	168	210	0	62	551
14	Himachal Pradesh	8	2	6	47	63	2	35	8	4	6	30	48	0	17	6	1	1	41	49	0	8	160
15	Jammu and Kashmir	13	11	3	83	110	0	57	6	7	1	66	80	0	27	9	8	2	70	89	0	18	279
16	Jharkhand	15	31	16	80	142	6	69	0	0	0	154	154	0	47	0	0	0	210	210	0	18	506
17	Karnataka	77	19	273	26	395	3	192	90	20	263	34	407	0	131	60	9	204	77	350	0	104	1152
18	Kerala	20	0	97	99	216	1	140	11	1	48	33	93	0	52	11	1	128	87	227	0	68	536
19	Ladakh	1	2	0	1	4	1	1	0	4	0	0	4	0	1	0	1	1	1	3	0	1	11
20	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4

21	Madhya Pradesh	122	55	141	306	624	4	373	78	106	64	179	427	4	205	71	77	113	422	683	4	109	1734
22	Maharashtra	140	2	266	512	920	0	346	43	3	128	336	510	0	139	44	2	106	358	510	0	112	1940
23	Manipur	0	6	3	9	18	0	7	0	4	2	7	13	0	8	0	4	0	14	18	0	6	49
24	Meghalaya	0	15	0	0	15	0	7	0	21	0	0	21	0	15	0	18	0	3	21	0	12	57
25	Mizoram	0	13	0	0	13	0	8	0	17	0	0	17	0	8	0	15	0	0	15	0	7	45
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	7	7	0	6	0	0	0	5	5	0	2	0	0	0	12	12	0	7	24
27	Odisha	30	4	68	248	350	2	211	0	0	5	264	269	0	134	0	0	0	221	221	0	56	840
28	Puducherry	3	0	12	0	15	1	3	0	0	4	1	5	0	2	0	0	4	2	6	0	3	26
29	Punjab	118	0	58	220	396	12	244	34	0	22	80	136	1	73	33	0	20	138	191	1	58	723
30	Rajasthan	64	47	86	166	363	4	215	60	52	84	180	376	5	180	59	24	93	393	569	3	161	1308
31	Sikkim	0	1	3	0	4	0	0	0	2	3	0	5	0	0	0	5	9	0	14	0	0	23
32	Tamil Nadu	119	5	358	6	488	14	215	57	4	197	4	262	6	90	35	1	219	18	273	3	112	1023
33	Telangana	38	20	96	64	218	1	142	15	7	48	22	92	0	45	15	13	55	52	135	1	59	445
34	Tripura	5	9	0	25	39	0	19	4	7	0	21	32	0	15	4	6	0	28	38	0	5	109
35	Uttar Pradesh	214	17	306	358	895	23	467	134	15	189	238	576	0	243	191	7	367	662	1227	2	249	2698
36	Uttarakhand	16	3	13	59	91	0	48	12	4	15	52	83	0	37	18	5	9	64	96	0	25	270
37	West Bengal	0	0	0	350	350	0	197	0	0	0	243	243	0	110	0	0	0	270	270	0	64	863
TOTAL		1371	403	2343	4052	8169	94	4150	771	381	1363	2786	5301	26	2026	710	244	1537	4550	7041	16	1676	20511