

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *11
ANSWERED ON 02/02/2023**

Vacancies of Judges in High Court of Andhra Pradesh

***11.SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:**

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

- (a) the details of the sanctioned strength of Judges for the High Court of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the details of the vacancy(ies) that is existing as on date in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh against the sanctioned strength of Judges;
- (c) the reasons for the said vacancy(ies); and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to fill up the vacancy(ies) in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh in a time bound manner?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (d):A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. *11 due for answer on 02.02.2023 regarding “Vacancies of Judges in High Court of Andhra Pradesh”

(a) to (d): As on 30.01.2023, against the sanctioned strength of 37 Judges, 32 Judges are working in the Andhra Pradesh High Court, leaving vacancies of 05 Judges in the High Court. 01 proposal is presently with the Supreme Court Collegium, while the High Court is yet to make recommendations for remaining 4 vacancies. A total of 25 Judges have been appointed in the Andhra Pradesh High Court from 01.01.2020 to 30.01.2023.

Filling up of vacancies in the High 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. Hence, the time for filling up of vacancies of the Judges in the higher Judiciary cannot be indicated. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of Judges in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

As per the existing Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judges of High Courts, the Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposal for filling up of vacancies of a Judge in a High Court six months prior to the occurrence of vacancies. Government appoints only those persons as Judges of High Courts who are recommended by Supreme Court Collegium (SCC).
