

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 108
ANSWERED ON 02/02/2023**

JUDGE TO POPULATION RATIO IN SUBORDINATE COURTS

108 # SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:

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

- (a) the method of calculation that is being followed by Government while calculating the required number of judges for subordinate courts;
- (b) the details of the current judge to population ratio with respect to subordinate courts;
- (c) the details of the steps being taken by Government to reduce the gap between sanctioned strength and actual strength of judges in subordinate courts; and
- (d) the total number of vacancies, State-wise across subordinate courts in the country?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a)& (b): The need for appropriate number of judges and the consequent requirement for filling up of the vacancies at the district and subordinate level courts lies in the domain of respective High Courts and the State Governments. The assessment for required number of judges for subordinate courts is not undertaken by the Central Government nor data regarding the same is maintained by the Centre.

However, for calculating the judge-population ratio for per million population in a particular year, the Department uses the criterion of using the population as per Census 2011 and as per available information regarding sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Court and District & Subordinate Courts in the particular year

Based on the population as per Census 2011 which was 1210.19 million and as per available information regarding sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts in the year 2023, the judge - population ratio in the country works out to be approximately 21 Judges per million population.

(c): The appointment of Judges and Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts falls within the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, through a judicial order in January 2007 in *Malik Mazhar Sultan case*, stipulated that process for recruitment of judges in subordinate courts would commence on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year. In the said case, the Supreme Court, taking *suo-motu* cognisance of large number of judicial vacancies in lower courts, directed State Governments/UTs and Registrars General of jurisdictional High Courts to inform the position regarding filling up of judicial vacancies. The Supreme Court is monitoring the filling up of vacancies under the said judicial order.

(d): A statement showing the State-wise number of sanctioned, working and vacant position of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts as on 30.01.2023 is at *Annexure*.

However, the overall sanctioned and working strength and corresponding vacancy position is as below:

Judges in District and Subordinate Courts

	2014	2023*
Sanctioned Strength	19,518	25,077
Working Strength	15,115	19,310
Vacancies	4,403	5,767
Increase in sanctioned strength since 2014		5,559
Increase in working strength since 2014		4,195

Source: As per MIS portal, Department of Justice
*(as on 30.1.2023)

ANNEXURE

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	13	-13
2	Andhra Pradesh	607	531	76
3	Arunachal Pradesh	41	33	8
4	Assam	485	425	60
5	Bihar	2016	1349	667
6	Chandigarh	30	30	0
7	Chhattisgarh	527	437	90
8	D & N Haveli	3	2	1
9	Daman & Diu	4	4	0
10	Delhi	884	679	205
11	Goa	50	40	10
12	Gujarat	1582	1151	431
13	Haryana	772	464	308
14	Himachal Pradesh	179	163	16
15	Jammu and Kashmir	314	223	91
16	Jharkhand	694	508	186
17	Karnataka	1365	1131	234
18	Kerala	595	473	122
19	Ladakh	17	9	8
20	Lakshadweep	4	4	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	2021	1649	372
22	Maharashtra	2190	1940	250
23	Manipur	59	42	17
24	Meghalaya	99	51	48
25	Mizoram	74	41	33
26	Nagaland	34	24	10
27	Odisha	1001	767	234
28	Puducherry	28	11	17
29	Punjab	797	589	208
30	Rajasthan	1587	1256	331
31	Sikkim	30	23	7
32	Tamil Nadu	1340	1069	271
33	Telangana	560	410	150
34	Tripura	128	108	20
35	Uttar Pradesh	3647	2474	1173
36	Uttarakhand	299	269	30
37	West Bengal	1014	918	96
TOTAL		25077	19310	5767

Source: As per MIS portal, Department of Justice