

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 113**

**ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023**

**Recommendation of collegium for appointment of Judges**

**113. Shri Raghav Chadha:**

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

- a) whether it is a fact that Government has received several recommendations from Supreme Court collegium for appointment to the post of judges in the country including the Supreme Court which are still lying vacant;
- b) if so, total number of proposals that have been received during the last four years from the collegium and the number of recommendations that have been accepted/decided so far on the said recommendations; and
- c) present status of recommendations of the collegium since January, 2019 and the time by which the vacancies in the Supreme Court and High Courts are likely to be filled up?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (c): 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. As per the Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts, the Government appoints only those persons who are recommended by Supreme Court Collegium (SCC).

As on 30.01.2023, against the sanctioned strength of 34 Judges, 27 Judges are working in the Supreme Court leaving 07 vacancies. Out of these 7 vacancies, proposal for appointment of 5 judges in the Supreme Court is under consideration with Government and in the meantime proposal for remaining 02 (two) vacancies has been received on 31.01.2023 from the Supreme Court Collegium.

As on 30.01.2023, against the sanctioned strength of 1108 judges in various High Courts, 775 judges are working and 333 post of Judges are vacant in the High Courts. Against these vacancies 142 proposals recommended by the High Court Collegiums (HCC) are at various stages of processing with the Government. The details are as follows:-

Total Number of proposals received from High Court Collegium (HCC)	142
Number of proposals recommended by HCC and in the process of being sent to SCC	67
Number of HCC recommendations sent to SCC and recommended by SCC and under various stages of processing	64
Proposals deferred by SCC	11

As per records, from 2019 to January, 2023, 22 judges were appointed in the Supreme Court and 446 judges were appointed in various High Courts. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of judges do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in strength of Judges. Government is committed to filling up the post of judges in the higher judiciary expeditiously.

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