

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1705
ANSWERED ON 03/08/2023

VACANCIES IN DISTRICT COURTS IN THE COUNTRY

1705. DR. C.M. RAMESH:

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

- (a) **the number of vacancies in district courts under different High Courts in various States of the country during the last three years and the number of vacancies which have since been filled up, State-wise details thereof; and**
- (b) **whether due to these vacancies, it has increased the pendency of cases, if so, steps taken by Government in this regard, details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The number of vacancies in district courts under different High Courts in various states of the country during the last three years is given at *Annexure-I*.

As for filling up of vacancies in the District Courts/Subordinate judiciary is concerned, the Central Government has no direct role under the Constitution. 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 Governments in

consultation with the respective High Courts frame the rules and regulations regarding the issues of appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. Thus, the selection and appointment of judicial officers in the Subordinate/District Courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In some States, the respective High Courts undertake the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions.

Further, the vacancy of judges is not the sole reason for the increased pendency of cases in courts. Pendency of cases in courts can be attributed to several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that lead to increase in pendency of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

Annexure – I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1705 FOR ANSWER ON 03.08.2023 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN DISTRICT COURTS IN THE COUNTRY'.

Sanctioned Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts														
Sl. No	Name of the State/UTs under their High Courts		As on 31.12.2020			As on 31.12.2021			As on 31.12.2022			As on 28.07.2023		
			SS	WS	V	SS	WS	V	SS	WS	V	SS	WS	V
1	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	607	510	97	607	491	116	607	534	73	618	544	74
2	High Court for State of Telangana	Telangana	474	378	96	474	425	49	560	410	150	560	415	145
3	High Court of Guwahati	Auranchal Pradesh	41	32	9	41	32	9	41	33	8	42	33	9
4		Assam	466	412	54	467	436	31	485	425	60	485	443	42
5		Mizoram	64	43	21	65	42	23	74	41	33	74	41	33
6		Nagaland	33	26	7	34	24	10	34	24	10	34	24	10
7	High Court of Patna	Bihar	1936	1433	503	1954	1394	560	2016	1349	667	2016	1554	462
8	High Court of Haryana & Punjab	Chandigarh	30	26	4	30	30	0	30	30	0	30	29	1
9		Haryana	772	493	279	772	482	290	772	464	308	772	576	196
10		Punjab	692	593	99	692	607	85	797	589	208	797	587	210
11	High Court of Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	480	387	93	482	409	73	527	437	90	556	431	125
12	High Court of Mumbai	D & N Haveli	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
13		Daman & Diu	4	4	0	4	4	0	4	4	0	4	4	0
14		Goa	50	40	10	50	40	10	50	40	10	50	40	10
15		Maharashtra	2190	1940	250	2190	1940	250	2190	1940	250	2190	1940	250

Source-MIS portal of Department of Justice.

Note: - SS(Sanctioned Strength), WS(Working Strength), V(Vacancy).

16	High Court of Delhi	Delhi	799	648	151	884	692	192	884	681	203	887	706	181
17	High Court of Gujarat	Gujarat	1521	1152	369	1523	1123	400	1582	1151	431	1582	1186	396
18	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	175	161	14	175	160	15	179	163	16	179	160	19
19	High Court for UT Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir	296	255	41	300	241	59	314	223	91	314	227	87
20	Kashmir and Ladakh	Ladakh	16	8	8	17	9	8	17	9	8	17	9	8
21	High Court of Jharkhand	Jharkhand	675	544	131	675	523	152	694	508	186	694	503	191
22	High Court of Karnataka	Karnataka	1357	1071	286	1363	1087	276	1365	1132	233	1367	1125	242
23	High Court of Kerala	Kerela	538	470	68	569	488	81	595	473	122	603	523	80
24		Lakshadweep	3	3	0	3	3	0	4	4	0	4	3	1
25	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	2021	1610	411	2021	1552	469	2021	1649	372	2028	1607	421
26	High Court of Manipur	Manipur	54	36	18	59	42	17	59	42	17	59	42	17
27	High Court of Meghalaya	Meghalaya	97	49	48	97	49	48	99	51	48	99	57	42
28	High Court of Odisha	Odisha	950	756	194	976	785	191	1001	767	234	1003	808	195
29	High Court of Madras	Puducherry	26	11	15	26	11	15	28	11	17	29	11	18
30		Tamil Nadu	1298	1049	249	1316	1082	234	1340	1068	272	1364	1046	318
31	High Court of Rajasthan	Rajasthan	1489	1292	197	1549	1274	275	1587	1256	331	1616	1358	258

Source-MIS portal of Department of Justice.

Note: - SS(Sanctioned Strength), WS(Working Strength), V(Vacancy).

32	High Court of Sikkim	Sikkim	25	20	5	28	20	8	30	21	9	35	23	12
33	High Court of Tripura	Tripura	120	97	23	122	97	25	128	108	20	128	109	19
34	High Court of Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	3634	2581	1053	3634	2542	1092	3647	2474	1173	3694	2484	1210
35	High Court of Uttarakhand	Uttarkhand	297	255	42	299	271	28	299	269	30	299	277	22
36	High Court of Calcutta	West Bengal	1014	918	96	1014	918	96	1014	918	96	1014	918	96
37		A& N Island	0	13	-13	0	13	-13	0	13	-13	0	13	-13
Total			24247	19318	4929	24515	19340	5175	25077	19313	5764	25246	19858	5388

Source-MIS portal of Department of Justice.

Note: - SS(Sanctioned Strength), WS(Working Strength), V(Vacancy).