

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2514
ANSWERED ON 10/08/2023

SANCTIONED STRENGTH AND VACANCY IN SUBORDINATE COURTS

2514. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

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

- (a) the details of sanctioned strength of judges in subordinate courts in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there were 19,192 judges in subordinate courts against the sanctioned strength of 25,042, while 5850 posts remained vacant;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of pendency of cases in subordinate courts in 2022, State-wise;
- (e) whether it is a fact that not filling the vacant position in subordinate judiciary is reason behind the rise of case pendency in the courts; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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): The details of sanctioned strength of judges in subordinate courts in the country, State-wise, is enclosed at *ANNEXURE-I*.

(b) & (c): As per the information available with the Department, as on 07.08.2023, there were 19,846 judges working in District and Subordinate courts against the sanctioned strength of 25,254 while 5408 posts remained vacant.

As far as the filling up of vacancies in the District Courts and Subordinate courts is concerned, the Central Government has no direct role in the matter. 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 their 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.

(d): The details of pendency of cases in subordinate courts in 2022, as on 31.12.2022, State-wise is at *ANNEXURE-II*.

(e) & (f): 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 multiple factors which, inter-alia, include lack of availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, non-cooperation of stake holders viz., bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that may lead to increase in pendency of cases include, lack of prescribed timeframes 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. 2514 FOR ANSWER ON 10.08.2023 REGARDING 'SANCTIONED STRENGTH AND VACANCY IN SUBORDINATE COURTS.

Sanctioned Strength of Judicial Officers in District & Subordinate Courts as on 07.08.2023

S. No.	States & UTs	Total Sanctioned Strength
1	Andaman and Nicobar*	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	618
3	Arunachal Pradesh	42
4	Assam	485
5	Bihar	2016
6	Chandigarh	30
7	Chhattisgarh	556
8	D & N Haveli	3
9	Daman & Diu	4
10	Delhi	887
11	Goa	50
12	Gujarat	1582
13	Haryana	772
14	Himachal Pradesh	179
15	Jammu and Kashmir	317
16	Jharkhand	694
17	Karnataka	1367
18	Kerala	603
19	Ladakh	17
20	Lakshadweep	4
21	Madhya Pradesh	2028
22	Maharashtra	2190
23	Manipur	59
24	Meghalaya	99
25	Mizoram	74
26	Nagaland	34
27	Odisha	1006
28	Puducherry	29
29	Punjab	797
30	Rajasthan	1616
31	Sikkim	35
32	Tamil Nadu	1366
33	Telangana	560
34	Tripura	128
35	Uttar Pradesh	3694
36	Uttarakhand	299
37	West Bengal	1014
TOTAL		25254

Source: MIS portal, Department of Justice

*Combined Sanctioned Strength of UT Andaman & Nicobar Island and State of WB as shown against State of West Bengal

Annexure – II

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2514 FOR ANSWER ON 10.08.2023
REGARDING 'SANCTIONED STRENGTH AND VACANCY IN SUBORDINATE
COURTS.**

Sl. No	States	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2022
1	Andhra Pradesh	829147
2	Telangana	1059401
3	Andman & Nicobar	11886
4	Auranchal Pradesh	
5	Assam	488800
6	Bihar	3445159
7	Chandigarh	79526
8	Chattisgarh	411599
9	Delhi	1293571
10	Diu and Daman	2901
11	DNH at Silvassa	3770
12	Goa	56375
13	Gujarat	1743723
14	Haryana	1458270
15	Himachal Pradesh	476137
16	Jammu & Kashmir	299716
17	Jharkhand	519156
18	Karnataka	1893265
19	Kerala	1933363
20	Ladakh	1154
21	Madhya Pradesh	2000268
22	Maharashtra	4982911
23	Manipur	12269
24	Meghalaya	16135
25	Mizoram	5142
26	Nagaland	2966
27	Orissa	1559338
28	Puducherry	29831
29	Punjab	922360
30	Rajasthan	2123475
31	Sikkim	1843
32	Tamil Nadu	1432575
33	Tripura	40012
34	U.T of Lakshadweep	
35	Uttar Pradesh	10973480
36	Uttrakhand	327350
37	West Bengal	2772290
Total		43209164

Source:- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).