

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.899
ANSWERED ON 27/07/2023

STRENGTH OF JUDGES

899 # SHRI NARHARI AMIN:

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

- (a) **the current ratio between the number of judges to the number of cases in the country;**
- (b) **whether it is a fact that the present strength of judges is less than the average;**
- (c) **if so, the efforts being made by Government to increase the number of judges in the courts, the details thereof; and**
- (d) **the ratio between the present strength of judges in district courts and State High Courts to the number of cases pending with the respective courts in the State of Gujarat, the 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): The current ratio between the number of judges to the number of cases pending in the various courts of the country is calculated as follows :

S.no.	Name of Court	Sanctioned Strength of Judges***	No. of pending cases	Ratio
1.	Supreme Court	34	69,766**	1:2052
2.	High Courts	1,114	60,64,939*	1:5444
3.	District & Subordinate Courts	25,246	4,42,63,161*	1:1753

*Source : As on 21.07.2023, NJDG. **Source: Supreme Court of India. ***Source : Department of Justice MIS portal

(b): The information is not maintained in the manner sought. However, at present the working strength of judges in the courts as against the sanctioned strength is as under:-

S.no.	Name of Court	Sanctioned Strength of Judges	Working Strength
1.	Supreme Court	34	32
2.	High Courts	1,114	775
3.	District & Subordinate Courts	25,246	19,858

Source: Department of Justice MIS portal.

(c): In case of the Supreme Court, The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 was amended to increase the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court of India from 30 to 33 (excluding CJI). The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019 came into force w.e.f. 09.08.2019.

For the High Courts , 208 new posts of Judges in the High Courts were created during the period from 01.07.2014 till 19.07.2023, thus increasing the Judge Strength of the High Courts from 906 to 1114.

However, in case of the District and Subordinate Court judiciary, increase in strength of judicial officers in Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the concerned State Governments and High Courts.

(d): The ratio between the present strength of judges in district courts and State High Courts to the number of cases pending with the respective courts in the State of Gujarat is as follows:

S.no.	Name of Court	*Sanctioned Strength of Judges	**No. of pending cases	Ratio
2.	High Court of Gujarat	52	1,65,332	1:3179
3.	District & Subordinate Courts in Gujarat	1582	16,95,638	1:1072

*Source:-Department of Justice, MIS portal. ** National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)
