

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 418
ANSWERED ON 25/07/2024

PENDENCY OF CASES

418. DR. SASMIT PATRA:
SHRI SANJEEV ARORA:

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

(a) the total number of cases pending in the Indian Judiciary from the District and Sessions Courts to the High Courts and the Supreme Court for the last five years in a court-wise and year-wise format;

(b) the reasons for such pendency of cases;

(c) the steps being taken to resolve these cases along with details on a segmented format specific to District Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken to increase the induction/ appointment/ recruitment/ increase of Judges and Benches for the respective Courts where such pendency is continuing?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), total number of cases pending in the Indian Judiciary from the District Courts and Sessions Court to the High Courts and the Supreme Court for the last five years court-wise and year-wise is as under:-

Pendency in last 5 years					
Name of Courts	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Supreme Court	59,859	65,086	70,239	69,768	807,65
High Court	46,84,354	56,42,567	56,49,068	59,78,714	62,12,375
District Court and Sessions Court	3,22,96,224	3,66,39,436	4,05,79,062	4,32,09,164	4,44,09,480

(b): There are several reasons that lead to pendency of cases in courts 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

delay in disposal 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. Moreover, in case of pendency of criminal cases, the criminal justice system functions on assistance by various agencies viz. Police, Prosecution, Forensic Labs, Handwriting Experts and Medico-Legal Experts. Delay in providing assistance by allied agencies also entails delay in disposal of cases.

(c): The resolution of pending cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Government is committed towards facilitating an ecosystem for expeditious disposal of cases by judiciary and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. To this end, the Government setup the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves improved infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

(d): Due to consistent efforts on part of the Government and the Judiciary, there has been a marked increase in the judges' strength, with the sanctioned strength of Judges of Supreme Court increased from 31 in year 2014 to 34 Judges at present. Since May 2014, the Government has appointed 62 Supreme Court Judges. Further, in case of High Courts, the sanctioned strength of High Court Judges has increased from 906 in year 2014 to 1114 Judges, as on date, with a total of 208 new posts of High Court Judges created since year 2014. A total of 976 High Court Judges have been appointed since year 2014.

Presidential Order for constitution of High Court for the State of Andhra Pradesh with effect from 1st January, 2019 with the principal seat at Amaravati was issued on 26.12.2018. Presidential Order for establishment of Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri was issued on 07.02.2019.

High Court Benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P. (C) No. 379 of 2000 and after due consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government

consenting to provide necessary expenditure and infrastructural facilities along with the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court who is required to look after the day to day administration of the High Court. The proposal to be complete should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State.

In case of District and Subordinate Courts, the induction/ appointment/ recruitment/ increase of Judicial Officers in the District Courts of the country is the responsibility of the High Court and State Government concerned. The Central Government has no direct role in the said matter.
