

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 185
ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

VACANCY IN COURTS

*185. SHRI VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that district courts in the country have a total vacancy of over 5000 judges;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of vacant posts of judges in district courts during the last three years, court-wise, year-wise, State-wise and district-wise for Punjab;
- (d) by when Government is planning to fill vacant positions of judges in district courts in the country, especially in the courts of Punjab including district courts; and
- (e) the details of the number of pending cases in various courts during the last three years, court-wise including district courts, year-wise, State-wise and district-wise for Punjab?

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) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *185 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING
'VACANCY IN COURTS.'**

(a) to (d): Filling up of vacant positions in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. 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 Government in consultation with the High Court frames the rules and regulations regarding the appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has inter-alia, stipulated certain timelines, which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts including the State of Punjab for recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts.

Further, the district-wise vacant position is not centrally maintained. However, the number of vacant posts of judges in District Courts during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise are at ***Annexure-I***.

(e): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the pendency of cases in Supreme Court of India during the last three years is as under:

S. No.	Name of Court	Pendency in Supreme Court			
		2021	2022	2023	As on 30.11.2024
1.	Supreme Court	70,239	69,768	80,765	82,171

The details of the number of pending cases in High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts during the last three years, court-wise including district courts, year-wise, State-wise is at ***Annexure-II*** and ***Annexure-III*** respectively.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *185 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCY IN COURTS.

Sanctioned Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts for last three years and current year.

Sl.No	Name of the State/UTs	As on 31.12.2021		As on 31.12.2022		As on 31.12.2023		As on 01.12.2024	
		Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies
1	Andhra Pradesh	607	116	607	73	618	83	618	74
2	Telangana	474	49	560	150	560	115	560	115
3	Auranchal Pradesh	41	9	41	8	44	10	44	11
4	Assam	467	31	485	60	485	46	485	24
5	Bihar	1954	560	2016	667	2016	1550	2019	483
6	Chandigarh	30	0	30	0	30	1	30	0
7	Chattisgarh	482	73	527	90	562	139	663	198
8	D & N Haveli and Daman & Diu	3	1	7	1	7	1	7	1
9	Delhi	884	192	884	203	887	89	897	94
10	Goa	50	10	50	10	50	10	50	10
11	Gujarat	1523	400	1582	431	1720	545	1720	535
12	Haryana	772	290	772	308	772	208	781	229
13	Himachal Pradesh	175	15	179	16	179	21	179	19
14	Jammu and Kashmir	300	59	314	91	317	94	322	45
15	Ladakh	17	8	17	8	17	7	17	6
16	Jharkhand	675	152	694	186	693	181	705	199
17	Karnataka	1363	276	1365	233	1375	225	1375	218
18	Kerela	569	81	595	122	605	91	611	77
19	Lakshadweep	3	0	4	0	4	1	4	0
20	Madhya Pardesh	2021	469	2021	372	2028	298	2028	336
21	Maharashtra	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250
22	Manipur	59	17	59	17	59	10	62	13
23	Meghalaya	97	48	99	48	99	42	99	43
24	Mizoram	65	23	74	33	74	33	74	29
25	Nagaland	34	10	34	10	34	10	34	10
26	Odisha	976	191	1001	234	1008	205	1041	200
27	Puducherry	26	15	28	17	29	19	36	10
28	Punjab	692	85	797	208	797	212	804	81
29	Rajasthan	1549	275	1587	331	1638	296	1641	327
30	Sikkim	28	8	30	9	35	12	35	12
31	Tamil Nadu	1316	234	1340	272	1371	331	1369	346
32	Tripura	122	25	128	20	128	20	133	24
33	Uttar Pradesh	3634	1092	3647	1173	3696	1247	3700	983
34	Uttarkhand	299	28	299	30	298	27	298	28
35	West Bengal *	1014	83	1014	83	1014	83	1105	230
36	A& N Island*								
Total		24515	5175	25077	5764	25439	5428	25736	5260

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (E) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *185 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCY IN COURTS.

Details of Pending Cases in High Courts during the last three years and current year.

Sl. No	High Court	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2021	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2022	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2023	Pendency of Cases as on 30.11.2024
1	Allahabad	384693	1032228	1076554	837086
2	Bombay	96438	610734	712430	650688
3	Calcutta	34837	207898	195379	205822
4	Gauhati	10863	58501	62441	64215
5	Telangana	35713	254089	248387	243784
6	Andhra Pradesh	32908	240238	249643	246882
7	Chhattisgarh	29505	91184	90463	84187
8	Delhi	26936	105271	128122	127142
9	Gujarat	50665	161929	169048	170958
10	Himachal Pradesh	10154	91210	99545	93587
11	Jammu& Kashmir and Ladakh	6779	44526	44243	45464
12	Jharkhand	46071	87992	85790	74753
13	Karnataka	40253	304444	288889	301375
14	Kerala	42998	197314	255278	250548
15	Madhya Pradesh	156748	429743	446348	465241
16	Manipur	490	4865	4631	5252
17	Meghalaya	211	1188	1125	1172
18	Punjab and Haryana	164839	447886	441070	339461
19	Rajasthan	151498	633787	672193	656840
20	Sikkim	34	165	179	207
21	Tripura	187	1601	1275	963
22	Uttarakhand	17667	45023	50532	55021
23	Madras	58351	550083	542700	515935
24	Orissa	52340	164709	148447	145639
25	Patna	112456	212106	197663	200564
Total		1563634	5978714	6212375	5782786

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (E) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *185 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCY IN COURTS.

Detail of pending cases in District and Subordinate Courts during last three years and current year.

Sl. No	States/UTs	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2021	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2022	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2023	Pendency of Cases as on 30.11.2024
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	11886	8767	8087
2	Andhra Pradesh	773952	829147	864945	891416
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	4149	10255
4	Assam	417788	488800	453536	501148
5	Bihar	3379229	3445159	3588892	3610483
6	Chandigarh	69502	79526	148414	106457
7	Chhattisgarh	376220	411599	410579	427410
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	6559	6671	7324	7706
9	Delhi	1082415	1293571	1224273	1516979
10	Goa	59370	56375	57178	58978
11	Gujarat	1951550	1743723	1589468	1599914
12	Haryana	1281697	1458270	1433041	1423179
13	Himachal Pradesh	455949	476137	573610	656141
14	Jammu and Kashmir	243026	299716	290206	332802
15	Jharkhand	495108	519156	542976	547601
16	Karnataka	1823103	1893265	1941571	2150897
17	Kerala	1943255	1933363	1830917	1739937
18	Ladakh	824	1154	1328	1456
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	525
20	Madhya Pradesh	1876194	2000268	2004570	2018231
21	Maharashtra	4881718	4982911	5200315	5447792
22	Manipur	12802	12269	13070	12587
23	Meghalaya	14622	16135	16214	15230
24	Mizoram	5882	5142	5566	5479
25	Nagaland	2603	2966	2834	2718
26	Orissa	1519106	1559338	1612195	1651671
27	Puducherry	34029	29831	34079	35349
28	Punjab	918858	922360	851182	859743
29	Rajasthan	2029814	2123475	2310988	2316457
30	Sikkim	1926	1843	1664	1680
31	Tamil Nadu	1363917	1432575	1449005	1522270
32	Telangana	805622	1059401	917595	928418
33	Tripura	39204	40012	45379	48724
34	Uttar Pradesh	9822224	10973480	11626796	11595720
35	Uttarakhand	301001	327350	358032	361126
36	West Bengal	2589993	2772290	2988822	3246435
Total		40579062	43209164	44409480	45661001

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

