

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2035
ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

PENDING COURT CASES

2035. SHRI SANJAY YADAV:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that criminal justice system in the country is facing a severe crisis with more than 55 million court cases pending in various courts;
- (b) whether in adequate judicial infrastructure, understaffed judicial system, lack of case management techniques and advanced technologies are main cause of pendency;
- (c) the ratio of judges to the population in the country;
- (d) details such as total number of judges belonging to SC/ST/OBC and minority communities in the High Courts and Supreme Court; and
- (e) details of total number of judges appointed each year in the High Courts and the Supreme Court since 2019?

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) & (b): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the details of cases pending in various courts as on 30.11.2024 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Pending cases
1.	Supreme Court	82,171
2.	High Courts	57,82,786
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,56,61,001

Pendency of cases in courts can be contributed 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 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.

(c): Based on the population as per Census 2011 which was 1210.19 million and as per available information regarding sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts in the year 2024, the judge - population ratio in the country works out to be approximately 21 Judges per million population.

(d): Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of SCs, STs and OBCs among the Judges of High Courts are not centrally maintained. However, since 2018, the recommendees for the post of High Court Judges are required to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). Based on the information provided by the recommendees, out of 684 High Court Judges appointed since 2018, 21 belong to SC category, 14 belong to ST category, 82 belong to OBC category and 37 belong to Minorities.

(e): The details of total number of judges appointed each year in the High Courts and the Supreme Court since 2019 are as under:

Year	APPOINTMENTS OF JUDGES MADE IN THE SUPREME COURT	APPOINTMENTS OF JUDGES MADE IN HIGH COURTS (Fresh Appointments)
2019	10	81
2020	--	66
2021	09	120
2022	03	165
2023	14	110
2024	04	34
