

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 51**  
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025

**Strength and vacancies of Judges in Courts**

\*51. DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

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

- (a) the sanctioned strength and vacancies of judges in High Courts and Supreme Court as on date;
- (b) the number of proposals currently pending with Supreme Court Collegium or Government;
- (c) the vacancies of judges in High Courts which are yet to be recommended by High Court Collegiums to Government;
- (d) the number of women judges and judges hailing from SC, ST and OBC communities in Supreme Court and High Courts as on date, State-wise and category-wise details thereof; and
- (e) the details of current representation of SC, ST and OBCs in the non-judicial staff of Supreme Court and High Courts as on date, category-wise?

**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. 51 FOR ANSWER ON 24.07.2025 REGARDING 'STRENGTH  
AND VACANCIES OF JUDGES IN COURTS'**

(a) to (e): As on 21.07.2025, against the sanctioned strength of 34, 33 Judges are working in the Supreme Court of India. In High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 1122 Judges, 751 Judges are working and 371 posts of Judges are vacant in various High Courts. Against these vacancies, 175 proposals for appointment of High Court Judges are at various stages of processing between the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium. The recommendations against 196 vacancies are yet to be received from the High Court Collegiums.

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 is not centrally available. However, the Government is committed to enhancing Social Diversity and since 2018, the recommendees for the post of High Court Judges are required to provide the details of their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). Based on the information provided by the recommendees, out of 743 High Court Judges appointed since 2018 till 21.07.2025, 23 belong to SC category, 17 belong to ST category and 93 belong to OBC category. As on 21.07.2025, one women Judge is working in the Supreme Court and 105 women Judges are working in various High Courts.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. However, the Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in the appointment of Judges in High Courts. Only those persons who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, are appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

The information regarding non-judicial staff in the Supreme Court and High Courts is not maintained centrally. However, information received from 7 High Courts regarding representation in non-Judicial staff is at **Annexure**.

**Annexure**

<b>High Court</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>ST</b>	<b>OBC(BC/EBC/EWS/DQ)</b>
Uttarakhand	98	19	3	15
Madhya Pradesh	-	191	111	446
Patna	650	175	12	402
Shillong	31	-	88	-
Karnataka	-	439	101	1642
Orissa	-	184	107	*
Rajasthan	-	72	72	203
<b>Total</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>1080</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>2708</b>

**\* According to the High Court of Orissa (Appointments of Staff and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2019, there is no provision for reservation in respect of OBC candidates. However, the Rules provide reservation in favour of the candidates belonging to the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC).**

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