

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1390**  
ANSWERED ON 31/07/2025

**VACANCY OF JUDGES IN HIGH COURTS AND DISTRICT COURTS**

1390 SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

- (a) the current number of sanctioned, working and vacant positions of judges in the High Courts and District Courts across the country, State-wise;
- (b) the reasons for the continued high number of vacancies in the judiciary despite repeated concerns raised by the judiciary and the public;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to expedite the process of filling these vacancies; and
- (d) whether any time-bound mechanism has been proposed for judicial appointments?

**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): The information in respect of High Courts and District Courts across the country is at **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II** respectively.

(b) to (d): Appointment of Judges of the Constitutional Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at state and central level.

Appointments of judges in High Courts is governed by Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution. As per the MoP, initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. Chief Justice of the High Court

is required to initiate the proposal for filling up of vacancy of a High Court Judge six months prior to the occurrence of vacancy. All the names recommended by High Court Collegium are sent with the views of the Government to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Only those persons, who are recommended by the SCC are appointed as Judges of High Courts. Since May 2014 till 25.07.2025, 1068 Judges have been appointed to various High Courts.

Further, filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers 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. 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 for recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts.

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**Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy of Judges in the High Courts as on  
25.07.2025**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>High Courts</b>	<b>Sanctioned Strength</b>	<b>Working Strength</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>
1	Allahabad	160	80	80
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	28	9
3	Bombay	94	67	27
4	Calcutta	72	48	24
5	Chhattisgarh	22	16	6
6	Delhi	60	43	17
7	Gauhati	30	21	9
8	Gujarat	52	39	13
9	Himachal Pradesh	17	11	6
10	J & K and Ladakh	25	15	10
11	Jharkhand	25	15	10
12	Karnataka	62	47	15
13	Kerala	47	43	4
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	33	20
15	Madras	75	57	18
16	Manipur	5	3	2
17	Meghalaya	4	4	0
18	Orissa	33	20	13
19	Patna	53	36	17
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	49	36
21	Rajasthan	50	43	7
22	Sikkim	3	3	0
23	Telangana	42	26	16
24	Tripura	5	4	1
25	Uttarakhand	11	9	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1122</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>362</b>

**Sanctioned, working, and vacant positions of Judicial Officers in the District Courts as on  
23.07.2025**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>State/UTs</b>	<b>Sanctioned Strength</b>	<b>Working Strength</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	639	574	65
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44	39	5
3.	Assam	485	461	24
4.	Bihar	2022	1679	343
5.	Chandigarh	30	30	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	663	465	198
7.	D & N Haveli and Daman & Diu	7	6	1
8.	Delhi	897	788	109
9.	Goa	50	40	10
10.	Gujarat	1720	1185	535
11.	Haryana	781	661	120
12.	Himachal Pradesh	179	160	19
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	322	272	50
14.	Jharkhand	707	501	206
15.	Karnataka	1394	1167	227
16.	Kerala	614	579	35
17.	Ladakh	17	10	7
18.	Lakshadweep	4	4	0
19.	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1669	359
20.	Maharashtra	2190	1940	250
21.	Manipur	62	49	13
22.	Meghalaya	99	57	42
23.	Mizoram	74	45	29
24.	Nagaland	34	24	10
25.	Odisha	1043	835	208
26.	Puducherry	38	26	12
27.	Punjab	811	716	95
28.	Rajasthan	1683	1506	177
29.	Sikkim	35	23	12
30.	Tamil Nadu	1375	1240	135
31.	Telangana	560	445	115
32.	Tripura	133	106	27
33.	Uttar Pradesh	3700	2675	1025
34.	Uttarakhand	298	270	28
35.	West Bengal	1105	875	230
36.	Andaman and Nicobar			
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>25,843</b>	<b>21,122</b>	<b>4,721</b>

Source: MIS portal of Department of Justice (DoJ)