

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 587
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025**

VACANCIES IN COURTS

587. DR. VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:

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

- (a) whether District Courts in the country have a total vacancy of over 5,000 judges and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of vacant posts of judges in District Courts, High Courts and Supreme Court during the last five years, year-wise, State-wise, court-wise and district-wise for Punjab;
- (c) by when Government is planning to fill vacant positions of judges in various Courts in the country, especially in the District Courts of Punjab; and
- (d) the details of pending cases in Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts during the last five years, year-wise, court-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 (c): Total number of vacant posts of judges in District Courts in the country as on 01.12.2025 is 4855. The number of vacant posts of judges in District Courts, High Courts and Supreme court during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise, is at *Annexure-I & Annexure-II*. Further, the district-wise vacant position is not centrally maintained.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per the 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, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges of the High Court.

Filling up of the vacancy in the higher Judiciary 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 which are obtained in accordance with the MoP. The recommendations also have to be considered in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in respect of the names under consideration. The recommendations of the High Court Collegium, the State Governments and the Government of India are then forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Only those persons whose names have been recommended by the SCC are appointed as Judges of the High Courts.

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

(d): The details of pending cases in the Supreme Court of India during the last five years are as under:

S. No.	Name of Court	Pendency in Supreme Court				
		2021	2022	2023	2024	As on 01.12.2025
1.	Supreme Court	70,239	69,768	80,765	82,496	90694

The details of pending cases in High Courts and District Courts during the last five years, year-wise, court-wise, and State-wise are at *Annexure-III* and *Annexure-IV* respectively and district-wise for Punjab is at *Annexure-V*.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 587 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN COURTS'.**Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts for last five years state-wise**

Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts						
Sl. No	State/UTs	As on 31.12.2021	As on 31.12.2022	As on 31.12.2023	As on 13.12.2024	As on 01.12.2025
		Vacancies	Vacancies	Vacancies	Vacancies	Vacancies
1	Andhra Pradesh	116	73	83	59	68
2	Telangana	49	150	115	115	115
3	Arunachal Pradesh	9	8	10	11	14
4	Assam	31	60	46	24	24
5	Bihar	560	667	1550	483	357
6	Chandigarh	0	0	1	0	-1
7	Chhattisgarh	73	90	139	198	198
8	D & N Haveli and Daman and Diu	1	1	1	1	1
9	Delhi	192	203	89	94	57
10	Goa	10	10	10	10	10
11	Gujarat	400	431	545	535	535
12	Haryana	290	308	208	229	131
13	Himachal Pradesh	15	16	21	19	19
14	Jammu and Kashmir	59	91	94	46	53
15	Ladakh	8	8	7	6	7
16	Jharkhand	152	186	181	199	210
17	Karnataka	276	233	225	219	266
18	Kerala	81	122	91	77	40
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	1	0	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	469	372	298	337	384
21	Maharashtra	250	250	250	250	250
22	Manipur	17	17	10	13	13
23	Meghalaya	48	48	42	43	42
24	Mizoram	23	33	33	29	29
25	Nagaland	10	10	10	10	10
26	Odisha	191	234	205	200	211
27	Puducherry	15	17	19	10	12
28	Punjab	85	208	212	81	106
29	Rajasthan	275	331	296	328	206
30	Sikkim	8	9	12	12	12
31	Tamil Nadu	234	272	331	346	148
32	Tripura	25	20	20	24	14
33	Uttar Pradesh	1092	1173	1247	996	1055
34	Uttarakhand	28	30	27	28	28
35	West Bengal					
36	A& N Island	83	83	83	230	242
	Total	5175	5764	5428	5262	4,855

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 587 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN COURTS'.

Vacancies in High Courts for last five years						
Sl. No	High Courts	As on January,2021	As on January.2022	As on January.2023	As on January,2024	As on 01.12.2025
		Vacancies	Vacancies	Vacancies	Vacancies	Vacancies
1.	Allahabad	64	67	62	70	50
2.	Bombay	30	34	29	25	12
3.	Calcutta	38	33	18	21	28
4.	Gauhati	04	0	0	07	05
5.	Telangana	10	23	10	16	14
6.	Andhra Pradesh	19	17	07	07	04
7.	Chhattisgarh	08	09	08	07	06
8.	Delhi	30	30	15	18	16
9.	Gujarat	23	20	25	21	16
10.	Himachal Pradesh	04	04	07	05	04
11.	Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh	06	04	03	02	10
12.	Jharkhand	08	05	05	07	10
13.	Karnataka	16	17	13	10	13
14.	Kerala	10	08	10	11	06
15.	Madhya Pradesh	24	24	22	13	10
16.	Manipur	0	01	02	01	02
17.	Meghalaya	0	01	01	01	0
18.	Punjab and Haryana	32	36	19	28	26
19.	Rajasthan	27	22	24	16	11
20.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Tripura	0	0	03	0	01
22.	Uttarakhand	02	04	04	05	02
23.	Madras	13	15	22	08	20
24.	Orissa	12	09	11	13	13
25.	Patna	31	27	19	18	18
	Total	411	410	339	330	297

Vacancies in the Supreme court for last five years.

Name of the Court	As on 01.01.2021	As on 01.01.2022	As on 01.01.2023	As on 01.01.2024	As on 01.12.2025
Supreme court of India	04	01	06	01	01

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 587 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN COURTS'.**Details of Pending Cases in High Courts for the last five years.**

Sl. No	Name of 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 31.12.2024	*Pendency of Cases as on 01.12.2025
1	Allahabad	1031587	1033621	1066111	1144553	1166971
2	Bombay	353143	380469	400461	414919	665027
3	Calcutta	234909	220734	206437	208421	199281
4	Gauhati	44356	47516	49236	52341	63539
5	Telangana	240029	233682	231575	229221	233079
6	Andhra Pradesh	223783	243629	251924	250051	249462
7	Chhattisgarh	81001	91184	90240	84305	76681
8	Delhi	101685	105625	112891	116616	122839
9	Gujarat	155006	161922	167825	171948	175092
10	Himachal Pradesh	82354	91210	99465	93942	101475
11	Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh	48318	47521	49293	50422	45106
12	Jharkhand	88364	87977	86000	74513	72017
13	Karnataka	246413	264234	282039	297609	324974
14	Kerala	226494	240437	253190	247545	258085
15	Madhya Pradesh	408527	429567	445382	464092	472401
16	Manipur	3218	3230	3473	3651	5772
17	Meghalaya	1201	920	841	950	1441
18	Punjab and Haryana	451985	446068	436630	422295	420540
19	Rajasthan	560062	604868	601278	610027	685845
20	Sikkim	179	163	178	208	273
21	Tripura	1736	1602	1269	1038	1438
22	Uttarakhand	40963	44512	49846	55323	58854
23	Madras	259980	234545	212921	198110	557945
24	Orissa	196483	164622	146884	146293	157676
25	Patna	226071	212173	197158	202289	215316
Total		5307847	5392031	5442547	5540682	6,331,129

Source: National Judicial Data Grid

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 587 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN COURTS'.

Detail of pending cases in District and Subordinate Courts for last five years.

Sl.No	States	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 31.12.2024	Pendency of Cases as on 01.12.2025
1	Andhra Pradesh	785379	841998	876689	893993	927899
2	Telangana	790360	841405	873848	907392	970564
3	Andaman & Nicobar	9321	9234	9950	10407	8341
4	Arunachal Pradesh	14318	15923	16556	15335	10978
5	Assam	415024	485455	445759	491720	556704
6	Bihar	3276696	3464725	3609527	3716100	3697562
7	Chandigarh	72384	89254	104116	120210	102179
8	Chattisgarh	381984	414839	414463	417325	467584
9	Delhi	1231373	1440549	1359103	1527969	1577791
10	Diu and Daman	6523	6733	7305	3255	
11	DNH at Silvassa				4485	8392
12	Goa	59414	56319	57195	59190	61080
13	Gujarat	1952262	1725939	1547276	1528794	1947262
14	Haryana	1313881	1496883	1533521	1489585	1520278
15	Himachal Pradesh	464892	483642	578246	631442	626485
16	Jammu & Kashmir	216245	272543	247244	266146	341931
17	Ladakh					1567
18	Jharkhand	490905	504697	524241	521274	563223
19	Karnataka	1780802	1864827	1925330	2060206	2368066
20	Kerala	2089147	1991193	1851414	1750373	1788266
21	Madhya Pradesh	1920613	2008566	2023950	2052363	2075550
22	Maharashtra	4800895	4953521	5131895	5510544	5939992
23	Manipur	8183	7590	8125	7615	16278
24	Meghalaya	16010	15014	14136	13227	16166
25	Mizoram	6304	5620	6113	6480	6947
26	Nagaland	4569	4443	3923	3881	3788
27	Orissa	1789677	1826100	1873312	1920825	1759257
28	Puducherry	32998	31868	32086	33352	36332
29	Punjab	945609	923581	875009	863867	920876
30	Rajasthan	2162774	2272463	2422125	2455623	2527713
31	Sikkim	1616	1696	1523	1659	1934
32	Tamil Nadu	1331944	1387919	1375098	1386582	1733556
33	Tripura	43096	40661	43526	43098	72186
34	U.T of Lakshadweep	470	540	512	535	581
35	Uttar Pradesh	9966606	10986875	11147755	11486655	11305841
36	Uttarakhand	287204	308694	331002	328911	316979
37	West Bengal	2384020	2512418	2698188	2923585	3762592
	Total	41053498	43293727	43970061	45454003	48,042,720

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 587 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN COURTS'.

District-wise pending cases for the State of Punjab as on 01.12.2025

District	Pending cases
Ludhiana	185311
Jalandhar	82608
Rupnagar	24729
Fatehgarh Sahib	18564
Patiala	72960
Ferozpur	25755
Amritsar	81437
Faridkot	17012
Gurdaspur	35299
Kapurthala	23941
Moga	21772
Mansa	19291
Sri Muktsar Sahib	24203
SBS Nagar	13867
Barnala	15849
Bathinda	49553
Hoshiarpur	38061
Sangrur	48603
Pathankot	20678
Tarn Taran	20146
SAS Nagar	51117
Fazilka	30120
TOTAL	920,876

Source: National Judicial Data Grid

