

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 116
ANSWERED ON-29/01/2026**

Representation of SCs/STs and OBCs in judiciary

116. Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts against the sanctioned strength, State-wise;
- (b) the number of SC/ST/OBC judges in the Supreme Court and the percentage of representation of SCs/STs and OBCs;
- (c) the number of SC/ST/OBC judges in High Courts across the country, State-wise along with the percentage of representation of SCs/STs and OBCs;
- (d) the details of criteria for sanctioning the number of posts in a district; and
- (e) the year in which population was considered for sanctioning existing number of sanctioned posts?

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): The information is at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II*.

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 any caste or class of persons among the Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts is not centrally available. 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). As per the information provided by the recommendees, out of 847 Judges appointed from 2018

till 23.01.2026, 33 belong to SC category, 17 belong to ST category, 104 belong to OBC category and 46 belong to the minority category. 130 women were appointed as Judges in various High Courts during the same period.

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 is committed to enhancing social diversity in judiciary and 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.

In so far as the District and subordinate judiciary is 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 State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts frame the rules and regulations regarding appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. The issues relating to fixation of strength, selection and appointment of Judicial Officers in the Subordinate/District Courts is in the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned.

ANNEXURE-I

Sanctioned strength, working strength, vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts (As on 27.01.2026)

		Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
A.	Supreme Court	34	33	1
B.	High Court			
1	Allahabad	160	110	50
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	32	5
3	Bombay	94	80	14
4	Calcutta	72	43	29
5	Chhattisgarh	22	15	7
6	Delhi	60	44	16
7	Gauhati	30	25	5
8	Gujarat	52	35	17
9	Himachal Pradesh	17	12	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	25	14	11
11	Jharkhand	25	14	11
12	Karnataka	62	46	16
13	Kerala	47	40	7
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	42	11
15	Madras	75	53	22
16	Manipur	5	3	2
17	Meghalaya	4	4	0
18	Orissa	33	19	14
19	Patna	53	38	15
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	61	24
21	Rajasthan	50	39	11
22	Sikkim	3	3	0
23	Telangana	42	28	14
24	Tripura	5	4	1
25	Uttarakhand	11	10	1
	Total	1122	814	308

Annexure -II

Working Strength of SC/ST/OBC in District and Subordinate Court as on 21.01.2026

Sl. No.	States & UT	Civil Judge (Junior Division)			Civil Judge (Senior Division)			District Judge/DJ			Total SC/ST/OBC	Total Working Strength	% of SC/ST/OBC of total Working Strength
		SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC			
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	53	18	122	19	9	46	36	5	55	363	572	63.46
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	13	0	0	15	0	0	10	1	39	39	100
4	Assam	16	23	0	12	21	0	6	7	0	85	461	18.44
5	Bihar	134	5	299	66	5	105	53	4	75	746	1665	44.8
6	Chandigarh	9	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	14	29	48.28
7	Chhattisgarh	26	57	27	17	45	26	30	26	37	291	465	62.58
8	D & N Haveli	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	100
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	25
10	Delhi	41	33	0	17	2	0	12	3	0	108	837	12.9
11	Goa	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	40	10
12	Gujarat	59	1	34	50	4	151	8	0	33	340	1185	28.69
13	Haryana	42	0	57	41	0	18	21	0	21	200	649	30.82
14	Himachal Pradesh	11	5	7	8	4	6	5	1	2	49	172	28.49
15	Jammu and Kashmir	13	11	3	6	7	1	9	5	2	57	270	21.11
16	Jharkhand	15	31	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	497	12.47
17	Karnataka	73	18	269	93	21	265	60	8	189	996	1129	88.22
18	Kerala	22	3	120	11	1	49	10	1	123	340	577	58.93
19	Ladakh	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	1	1	8	9	88.89
20	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	4	75
21	Madhya Pradesh	101	29	115	80	113	81	82	90	112	803	1639	48.99
22	Maharashtra	140	2	266	43	3	128	44	2	106	734	1940	37.84
23	Manipur	0	6	3	0	4	2	0	4	0	19	49	38.78
24	Meghalaya	0	15	0	0	21	0	0	18	0	54	57	94.74
25	Mizoram	0	13	0	0	17	0	0	15	0	45	45	100
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0
27	Odisha	33	5	75	0	0	5	0	0	0	118	649	18.18
28	Puducherry	3	0	12	0	0	4	0	0	4	23	26	88.46
29	Punjab	100	0	53	49	0	25	33	0	20	280	702	39.89
30	Rajasthan	100	66	129	59	54	87	58	24	92	669	1490	44.9
31	Sikkim	0	1	3	0	2	3	0	5	9	23	23	100
32	Tamil Nadu	132	9	426	80	5	274	43	1	235	1205	1234	97.65
33	Telangana	38	20	96	15	7	48	15	13	55	307	445	68.99
34	Tripura	5	6	0	5	10	0	5	6	0	37	119	31.09
35	Uttar Pradesh	212	16	298	135	15	189	187	7	355	1414	2640	53.56
36	Uttarakhand	16	3	13	12	4	15	18	5	9	95	270	35.19
37	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	863	0
TOTAL		1,395	413	2,446	818	394	1,532	736	261	1,539	9534	20,833	45.76

Source: MIS Portal of Department of Justice