

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3153
ANSWERED ON – 19/03/2026

PENDENCY OF CASES IN HIGHER JUDICIARY

3153 SHRI A. A. RAHIM:

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

- (a) the number of pending cases in the Supreme Court and each High Court as on date, during the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the number of civil and criminal cases pending separately in each of these courts;
- (c) whether the Ministry has identified specific reasons for the rise in judicial pendency, including vacancies of judges; and
- (d) the measures being taken to reduce pendency and ensure timely disposal of cases in the higher judiciary?

ANSWER

THE 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 number of pending cases in the Supreme Court and each High Court as on 09.03.2026, during the last five years, year-wise is at **Annexure I**.

(b): The number of civil and criminal cases pending in Supreme Court and High Courts, as on 09.03.2026, is at **Annexure-II**.

(c) & (d): Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors besides availability of adequate number of Judges and Judicial officers. These inter alia, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders, viz., bar, investigation agencies, witness and litigants, besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, etc.

However, the Government is fully committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary which, inter-alia, includes amalgamation of latest technologies for increasing access to justice and greater transparency under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project and supplementing of the resources of the State Governments/UTs for providing suitable infrastructure facilities for the District and Subordinate Judiciary under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary.

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.

The Government has been filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts from time to time. From 01.05.2014 to 28.02.2026, 72 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1164 new Judges were appointed and 820 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till date.

ANNEXURE-I**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3153 FOR ANSWER ON 19.03.2026 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CASES IN HIGHER JUDICIARY'**

Number of cases pending in the Supreme Court and each High Court, during the last five years, year-wise							
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	As on 09.03.2026
Supreme Court		70,239	78,797	80,674	82,496	92,101	92,755
Sr No.	High Court						
1	Allahabad High Court	10,24,931	10,34,695	10,66,874	11,39,915	12,18,984	11,93,346
2	Bombay High Court	5,91,536	6,36,907	6,67,961	6,95,578	6,64,979	6,62,050
3	Calcutta High Court	2,29,563	2,14,903	2,01,489	2,03,782	2,05,591	204633
4	Gauhati High Court	55,281	57,977	60,471	61,685	63,886	64,509
5	High Court for State of Telangana	2,40,314	2,37,872	2,31,980	2,30,343	2,33,834	2,36,507
6	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	2,22,637	2,40,375	2,47,901	2,45,735	2,49,088	2,48,859
7	High Court Of Chhattisgarh	81,613	91,714	90,518	84,629	76,337	75,351
8	High Court of Delhi	1,02,025	1,06,050	1,13,368	1,18,662	1,24,951	1,25,962
9	High Court of Gujarat	1,54,698	1,61,422	1,67,273	1,71,238	1,75,605	1,74,540
10	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	76,218	82,660	88,326	93,881	1,02,361	1,04,118
11	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	47,371	43,575	42,934	43,296	43,039	43,190
12	High Court of Jharkhand	88,721	87,904	85,736	74,353	72,192	73,159
13	High Court of Karnataka	2,49,451	2,67,541	2,84,694	2,98,662	3,28,599	3,31,109
14	High Court of Kerala	2,28,019	2,41,902	2,54,878	2,51,150	2,50,602	2,47,718
15	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	4,11,909	4,33,447	4,49,347	4,66,125	4,80,537	4,78,761
16	High Court of Manipur	4,230	4,254	4,663	5,282	5,793	6,031
17	High Court of Meghalaya	1,581	1,183	1,124	1,252	1,739	1,783
18	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	4,52,548	4,49,860	4,44,200	4,34,641	4,23,466	4,21,054
19	High Court Of Rajasthan	5,42,658	5,93,601	6,00,434	6,16,341	6,82,725	6,71,842
20	High Court of Sikkim	180	164	180	207	272	296
21	High Court of Tripura	1,771	1,616	1,280	1,056	1,429	1,389
22	High Court of Uttarakhand	41,463	45,100	50,399	55,629	59,682	60,827
23	Madras High Court	5,99,825	5,86,964	5,74,292	5,59,584	5,46,285	5,53,144
24	Orissa High Court	1,93,123	1,59,578	1,46,540	1,45,205	1,58,915	1,63,527
25	Patna High Court	2,26,757	2,12,870	1,97,465	2,02,249	2,19,639	2,17,635
	Total	58,68,423	59,94,134	60,74,327	62,00,480	63,90,530	63,61,340

Source: National Judicial Data Grid

ANNEXURE-II**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3153 FOR ANSWER ON 19.03.2026 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CASES IN HIGHER JUDICIARY'**

No. of civil and criminal cases pending in Supreme Court of India and High Courts				
		Civil	Criminal	Total
Supreme Court of India		73,056	19,699	92,755
S. No.	Name of High Court			
1	Allahabad High Court	6,17,265	5,76,081	11,93,346
2	Bombay High Court	5,46,634	1,15,416	6,62,050
3	Calcutta High Court	172454	32179	204633
4	Gauhati High Court	47,555	16,954	64,509
5	High Court for State of Telangana	2,04,131	32,376	2,36,507
6	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	2,06,581	42,278	2,48,859
7	High Court Of Chhattisgarh	52,888	22,463	75,351
8	High Court of Delhi	93,069	32,893	1,25,962
9	High Court of Gujarat	1,16,691	57,849	1,74,540
10	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	90,576	13,542	1,04,118
11	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	33,869	9,321	43,190
12	High Court of Jharkhand	32,269	40,890	73,159
13	High Court of Karnataka	2,74,093	57,016	3,31,109
14	High Court of Kerala	2,00,587	47,131	2,47,718
15	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	2,83,994	1,94,767	4,78,761
16	High Court of Manipur	51,40	891	6,031
17	High Court of Meghalaya	1,351	432	1,783
18	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	2,55,401	1,65,653	4,21,054
19	High Court of Rajasthan	4,79,427	1,92,415	6,71,842
20	High Court of Sikkim	208	88	296
21	High Court of Tripura	1,106	283	1,389
22	High Court of Uttarakhand	33,735	27,092	60,827
23	Madras High Court	4,77,589	75,555	5,53,144
24	Orissa High Court	1,22,040	41,487	1,63,527
25	Patna High Court	1,14,535	1,03,100	2,17,635
	Total	44,63,188	18,98,152	63,61,340

Source: National Judicial Data Grid