

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2987
ANSWERED ON – 13/08/2026

VACANCIES IN JUDICIARY

2987 DR. V. SIVADASAN:

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

(a) the number of sanctioned posts and its current strength in Judicial service, institution-wise, year-wise and social category-wise during the last five years; and

(b) the number of judges in High Courts and the Supreme Court, year-wise and social category-wise during those years?

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) & (b): As per data available on the Nyaya Vikas Portal, the numbers of sanctioned posts and working strength of Judges and Judicial Officers in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts, during the last five years, year-wise, are as under:

Sr. No.	Year	SUPREME COURT		HIGH COURTS		DISTRICT AND SUBORDINATE COURTS	
		Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
1	2021	34	33	1,098	687	24,492	19,328
2	2022	34	28	1,108	769	25,077	19,319
3	2023	34	33	1,114	784	25,345	20,018
4	2024	34	33	1,122	751	25,753	20,694
5	2025	34	33	1,122	818	25,900	21,093
6	2026 (as on 04.08.2026)	38	35	1,122	780	30,868	23,558

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 the High Courts are not centrally available. Further, appointment of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts is the responsibility of the State Governments and High Courts 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 recruitment and appointment of Judicial Officers.

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 High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. However, the Government is committed to social diversity in judiciary. 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.
