

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1198**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2018.**

**Delivery of Speedy Justice**

**1198. SHRI D. K. SURESH:**

**SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:**

**SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:**

**DR. BHARATIBEN D. SHYAL:**

**SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN:**

**SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA:**

**SHRI B.N. CHANDRAPPA:**

**SHRI K.R.P. PRABAKARAN:**

**SHRI ALOK SANJAR:**

**SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:**

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

- (a) the details of the number of civil and criminal cases pending in various courts as on date, State, court and category-wise;**
- (b) whether the Government has made any arrangements or plans to expedite their disposal and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the total number of judges appointed during the last three years, year and court-wise;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to stipulate a time period for the disposal of criminal and civil cases in the High Court and various other courts of the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether the process of dispensing justice in time is getting affected due to the shortage of judges and infrastructural facilities in the country and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far; and**
- (f) whether the Government has set up any task force to deal with huge pendency of cases or fixed the accountability on someone in this regard and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS  
(SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY)**

**(a):** Data on pendency of cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts respectively. As per latest information available on the website of Supreme Court of India, the total

number of pending cases in the Supreme Court is 54,013. As per information available on the web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), 43.48 lakh cases are pending in various High Courts as on date. High Court-wise details of pending cases are given in a Statement at **Annexure – I**. 2.75 crore cases are pending in various District and Subordinate courts of the country (excluding State / Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Lakshadweep and Puducherry) as on date. State / UT – wise details of pending cases are given in a Statement at **Annexure -II**.

(b): Disposal of cases pending in various courts is within the domain of judiciary. In pursuance of resolution passed in the Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, all the High Courts have set up Arrears Committees to take necessary steps for clearing the backlog of pending cases. The Arrears Committees have chalked out Action Plans to reduce pendencies in their respective jurisdictions. The Supreme Court has also constituted an Arrears Committee to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts. At district level, the District Judge holds monthly meeting of all judicial officers to monitor progress made in reduction of long pending cases. Further, the Central Government has taken several steps to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The Government has set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms to achieve this objective. The Mission has adopted a coordinated approach for improving the working condition of the district and subordinate judiciary through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure for

courts, leveraging information, communication and technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, and filling up of vacant positions of judges in High Courts and Supreme Court.

(c): The details regarding total number of judges appointed during the last three years, year and court-wise in the Supreme Court and High Courts are given in a Statement at ***Annexure -III***.

(d): Disposal of cases pending in various courts is within the domain of judiciary.

(e): Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, *inter-alia*, include availability of adequate number of judges, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures.

Filling up of vacancies in the Supreme Court and the High courts is a continuous and collaborative process, between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. Initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also the increase in the strength of Judges. The total number of judges appointed

during the last three years, year and court-wise in the Supreme Court and High Courts is given in reply to part (c) above.

As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In so far as recruitment of judicial officers in the States is concerned, respective High Courts do it in certain States, whereas the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions in other States. Department of Justice had written in March, 2018 to the Registrar General of High courts as well as State Governments to share the action plan for 2018-19 to fill up vacancies in subordinate judiciary. All High Courts have shared the action plan they propose to follow to fill up vacancies in subordinate judiciary in 2018-19. Sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased from 19,518 as on 31.12.2013 to 22,545 as on 31.03.2018. Working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased from 15,115 as on 31.12.2013 to 17,109 as on 31.03.2018.

Further, in order to strengthen judicial infrastructure in districts, the Central Government has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary, being implemented since 1993-94, beyond the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan period *i.e.* from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with an estimated outlay of Rs.3,320 crore. Under this scheme, a total of Rs. 6292.44 crore has been released since 1993-94, out of which Rs. 2848.14 crore (45.26%) has been released since April, 2014.

18,444 Court Halls and 15,853 Residential Accommodations have been made available for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts as on date. In addition, 2,709 Court Halls and 1,472 Residential Accommodations are under construction.

(f): In pursuance of resolution passed in the Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, all the High Courts have set up Arrears Committees to take necessary steps for clearing the backlog of pending cases. The Arrears Committees have chalked out Action Plans to reduce pendencies in their respective jurisdictions. The Supreme Court has also constituted an Arrears Committee to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts. At district level, the District Judge holds monthly meeting of all judicial officers to monitor progress made in reduction of long pending cases.

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## Annexure - I

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Un-starred Question No. 1198 for reply on 25.07.2018

## Details of cases pending in High Courts

S. No.	High Court Name	Civil	Criminal	Writs	Total
1	Allahabad High Court	155237	308292	247945	711474
2	Calcutta High Court	107960	42241	84634	234835
3	Gauhati High Court	14019	7374	16005	37398
4	High Court of Bombay	302656	50704	110714	464074
5	High Court of Chhattisgarh	18033	24354	20178	62565
6	High Court of Delhi	30442	19591	22733	72766
7	High Court of Gujarat	36136	35012	38270	109418
8	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	25758	6426	5853	38037
9	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	76638	8452	0	85090
10	High Court of Jharkhand	15220	43832	29975	89027
11	High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad	131580	50826	171229	353635
12	High Court of Karnataka	122764	31970	69925	224659
13	High Court of Kerala	81427	39963	68150	189540
14	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	107763	122293	91763	321819
15	High Court of Manipur	14183	1552	0	15735
16	High Court of Meghalaya	323	48	655	1026
17	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	201456	125485	75341	402282
18	High Court of Rajasthan	86479	72261	106138	264878
19	High Court of Sikkim	59	64	117	240
20	High Court of Tripura	939	450	1625	3014
21	High Court of Uttarakhand	10027	10618	14776	35421
22	Madras High Court	128196	42105	144044	314345
23	Orissa High Court	42926	41403	83059	167388
24	Patna High Court	30658	57640	61556	149854
	<b>Total Pending Cases</b>	<b>1740879</b>	<b>1142956</b>	<b>1464685</b>	<b>4348520</b>

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Source : National Judicial Data Grid.

## Annexure - II

**Statement referred to Lok Sabha Un-starred Question No. 1198 for reply on 25.07.2018**  
**Details of cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts**

	State	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	Andaman and Nicobar	3296	7889	11185
2	Andhra Pradesh	287927	223174	511101
3	Assam	61284	209067	270351
4	Bihar	259069	1477027	1736096
5	Chandigarh	16579	24521	41100
6	Chhattisgarh	57137	208654	265791
7	Delhi	186821	494501	681322
8	Diu and Daman	1042	867	1909
9	Dadra & Nagar Haveli t Silvassa	1451	2045	3496
10	Goa	21673	20827	42500
11	Gujarat	508751	1099682	1608433
12	Haryana	273527	395403	668930
13	Himachal Pradesh	112327	127024	239351
14	Jammu and Kashmir	62822	75147	137969
15	Jharkhand	57626	288891	346517
16	Karnataka	690758	775626	1466384
17	Kerala	385566	869204	1254770
18	Madhya Pradesh	310405	1059926	1370331
19	Maharashtra	1152230	2272750	3424980
20	Manipur	5831	4218	10049
21	Meghalaya	2040	4840	6880
22	Mizoram	1569	2464	4033
23	Orissa	246773	828347	1075120
24	Punjab	255658	354444	610102
25	Rajasthan	397705	1053170	1450875
26	Sikkim	592	880	1472
27	Tamil Nadu	610667	462119	1072786
28	Telangana	215779	270064	485843
29	Tripura	7890	16257	24147
30	Uttar Pradesh	1618730	4997036	6615766
31	Uttarakhand	33641	191652	225293
32	West Bengal	484068	1389169	1873237
	<b>Total Pending Cases</b>	<b>8331234</b>	<b>19206885</b>	<b>27538119</b>

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Source : National Judicial Data Grid.

**Statement referred to Lok Sabha Un-starred Question No. 1198 for reply on 25.07.2018**  
**Details of number of judges appointed during the last three years, year and court-wise in the Supreme Court and High Courts**

**A. Supreme Court:**

<b>Fresh appointment made during 01.01.2016 to 31.12.2016</b>	<b>Fresh appointment made during 01.01.2017 to 31.12.2017</b>	<b>Fresh appointment made during 01.01.2018 to 20.07.2018</b>
04	05	01

**B. High Courts:**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the High Court</b>	<b>Fresh appointment made during 1.1.2016 to 31.12.2016</b>	<b>Fresh appointment made during 1.1.2017 to 31.12.2017</b>	<b>Fresh appointment made during 1.1.2018 to 20.07.2018</b>
1	Allahabad	20	31	--
2	Telangana & Andhra Pradesh	01	10	--
3	Bombay	06	14	--
4	Calcutta	01	06	07
5	Chhattisgarh	03	03	04
6	Delhi	05	04	--
7	Gauhati	05	02	--
8	Gujarat	05	--	--
9	Himachal Pradesh	04	--	--
10	Jammu & Kashmir	--	03	--
11	Jharkhand	04	02	03
12	Karnataka	05	02	07
13	Kerala	05	03	--
14	Madhya Pradesh	18	--	05
15	Madras	25	12	07
16	Manipur	01	--	--
17	Meghalaya	--	--	--
18	Orissa	--	--	--
19	Patna	06	06	--
20	Punjab & Haryana	01	08	--
21	Rajasthan	11	05	--
22	Sikkim	--	01	--
23	Tripura	--	--	01
24	Uttarakhand	--	03	--
<b>Total</b>		<b>126</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>34</b>

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