

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †206**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2018.**

**Review of Pending Cases**

**†206. SHRI TAMRADHWAJ SAHU:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has ordered any State-wise review of the pending files of cases in the courts during the last three years;**
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government is willing to accept that the pendency of cases is more in India compared to other countries;**
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and**
- (e) whether the shortage of judges exist in all the courts and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?**

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b): No, Madam. However, 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 facilitate 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) and (d) : Courts in various countries operate in varying conditions on account of differences in availability of infrastructure facilities, use of technology, number of judicial officers per million of population (judge-population ratio), docket ratio (population case filing ratio), provisions of substantive laws and procedures in courts *etc.* Therefore, in the absence of commonality between the circumstances in India and other countries, a comparison of pendency of cases in India *vis-à-vis* other countries may not be feasible.

(e) : The details of sanctioned and working strength of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts as on 12.07.2018 are given below:

Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength of Judges	Working Strength of Judges	Vacancy
Supreme Court	31	23	8
High Courts	1,079	662	417

Filling up of vacancies in the Supreme Court and 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 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.

As regards Judicial Officers in subordinate courts, State-wise details of sanctioned / working strength and vacancy position of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts are given in the Statement at ***Annexure***.

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 in other states, the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions.

Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India had written in March, 2018 to the Registrar Generals of High Courts as well as State Governments to share the action plan for 2018-19 to fill up vacancies in subordinate judiciary. All the High Courts have shared the action plan that 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.

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**Annexure**

Statement referred to in reply to part (e) Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 206 to be answered on 18.7.2018 regarding 'Vacancies in Judiciary'

**Sanctioned / Working Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts.****(As on 31.03.2018)**

Sr. No.	Name of State / UT	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	987	912	75
2	Arunachal Pradesh	28	17	11
3	Assam	430	350	80
4	Bihar	1837	1153	684
5	Chandigarh	30	30	0
6	Chhattisgarh	399	376	23
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveili and Daman and Diu	7	6	1
8	Delhi	799	518	281
9	Goa	55	44	11
10	Gujarat	1496	1116	380
11	Haryana	645	496	149
12	Himachal Pradesh	159	148	11
13	Jammu & Kashmir	261	224	37
14	Jharkhand	672	462	210
15	Karnataka	1303	1061	242
16	Kerala	536	479	57
17	Lakshadweep	3	2	1
18	Madhya Pradesh	2021	1315	706
19	Maharashtra	2097	1914	183
20	Manipur	50	39	11
21	Meghalaya	97	39	58
22	Mizoram	67	46	21
23	Nagaland	33	21	12
24	Orissa	862	649	213
25	Puducherry	26	12	14
26	Punjab	674	538	136
27	Rajasthan	1237	1121	116
28	Sikkim	23	19	4
29	Tamilnadu	1121	913	208
30	Tripura	107	75	32
31	Uttar Pradesh	3224	1864	1360
32	Uttarakhand	292	231	61
33	West Bengal & A & N	967	919	48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22545</b>	<b>17109</b>	<b>5436</b>

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