

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 227**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 18.07.2018**

**Vacancies in Judiciary**

227. SHRI GANESH SINGH:  
SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI BHARAT SINGH:  
SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI:  
SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV:  
SHRI DHARAMBIR:  
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:

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

- (a) the details of the vacancies in the Supreme Court and all the High Courts and district courts of the country, court-wise;
- (b) the details of steps taken/being taken to fill these vacancies at the earliest;
- (c) the details of the cases pending in all the courts across the country, State and court-wise;
- (d) the details of steps taken/being taken to dispose off all the pending cases at the earliest;
- (e) whether the Government has planned that recruitments are made in advance against posts that are likely to fall vacant and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether any time limit has been fixed/will be fixed or policy framed by the Government to take further action on the panel of judges approved by the collegium and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the number of such recommendations of the collegium regarding appointments/transfers in the Supreme Court or High Courts on which no further action has been taken or which have been withheld for more than one month along with the details and the names thereof?

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

**(a) to (g):** A Statement showing the Sanctioned Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies in the Supreme Court and the High Courts as on 12.07.2018, is at **Annexure-I**. A Statement showing the Sanctioned Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts under all the High Courts, as on 31.03.2018 is at **Annexure-II**.

A Statement showing pending cases, High Court-wise, is at **Annexure-III**, and Statement showing pending cases in District and Subordinate Courts in various states is at **Annexure-IV**.

The proposals received from the various High Courts for appointment as Judges of the High Court are examined and acted upon in accordance with the Memorandum of Procedure. 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. As per the existing Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judge of High Courts, the Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposals for filling up of vacancies of a Judge in a High Court six months prior to the occurrence of vacancies.

While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of Judges in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

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.

In pursuance of resolution passed in the Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, all 24 High Courts have set up Arrears Committees to clear 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 undertaken several steps to improve the working conditions and infrastructure of the courts which plays an important role in reduction of arrears and pendency in judicial administration. These initiatives, include improving infrastructure for courts, leveraging information, communication and technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, and focus on filling up of vacant positions in High Courts and Supreme Court.

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Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (g) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 227 to be answered on 18.07.2018 regarding 'Vacancies in Judiciary'.

**Sanctioned / Working Strength and Vacancies of Supreme Court and High Courts**

(As on 12.07.2018)

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies as per Sanctioned Strength
<b>A</b>	<b>Supreme Court of India</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>High Court</b>			
1	Allahabad	160	91	69
2	Telangana & Andhra Pradesh	61	29	32
3	Bombay	94	69	25
4	Calcutta	72	37	35
5	Chhattisgarh	22	16	06
6	Delhi	60	35	25
7	Gauhati	24	17	07
8	Gujarat	52	29	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	08	05
10	Jammu & Kashmir	17	08	09
11	Jharkhand	25	17	08
12	Karnataka	62	30	32
13	Kerala	47	35	12
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	35	18
15	Madras	75	63	12
16	Manipur	05	03	02
17	Meghalaya	04	02	02
18	Orissa	27	14	13
19	Patna	53	30	23
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	50	35
21	Rajasthan	50	31	19
22	Sikkim	03	02	01
23	Tripura	04	03	01
24	Uttarakhand	11	08	03
<b>Total</b>		<b>1079</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>417</b>

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (g) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 227 to be answered on 18.07.2018 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>

**Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (g) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 227 to be answered on 18.07.2018. Regarding Vacancies in Judiciary.**

High Court-wise Pending Cases.

High Court Name	Civil	Criminal	Writs	Total
ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT	155175	308030	248290	711495
CALCUTTA HIGH COURT	107960	42241	84634	234835
GAUHATI HIGH COURT	13926	7353	15932	37211
HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY	302656	50704	110714	464074
HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH	18009	24392	20503	62904
HIGH COURT OF DELHI	30400	19786	22688	72874
HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT	43069	32527	34113	109709
HIGH COURT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH	25772	6386	5842	38000
HIGH COURT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR	76638	8452	0	85090
HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND	15206	43929	30041	89176
HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT HYDERABAD	131580	50826	171229	353635
HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA	122717	31806	69726	224249
HIGH COURT OF KERALA	81407	39947	68049	189403
HIGH COURT OF MADHYA PRADESH	108333	122175	91696	322204
HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR	14191	1551	0	15742
HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA	321	51	653	1025
HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA	201384	125375	75199	401958
HIGH COURT OF RAJASTHAN	86479	72261	106138	264878
HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM	60	66	117	243
HIGH COURT OF TRIPURA	954	461	1625	3040
HIGH COURT OF UTTARAKHAND	9979	10494	14854	35327
MADRAS HIGH COURT	128196	42105	144044	314345
ORISSA HIGH COURT	42854	41782	83354	167990
PATNA HIGH COURT	30708	58045	61602	150355
<b>Total Pending Cases</b>	<b>1747974</b>	<b>1140745</b>	<b>1461043</b>	<b>4349762</b>

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (g) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 227 to be answered on 18.07.2018 regarding 'Vacancies in Judiciary'.

**State –wise Pending Cases in the District and Subordinate Courts.**

<b>State</b>	<b>Civil</b>	<b>Criminal</b>	<b>Total</b>
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR	3296	7889	11185
ANDHRA PRADESH	289785	231904	521689
ASSAM	61406	211692	273098
BIHAR	246201	1498919	1745120
CHANDIGARH	16795	25346	42141
CHHATTISGARH	57721	210780	268501
DELHI	187070	495472	682542
DIU AND DAMAN	1031	861	1892
DNH AT SILVASA	1467	2102	3569
GOA	21696	20948	42644
GUJARAT	509230	1091859	1601089
HARYANA	273954	399123	673077
HIMACHAL PRADESH	113572	127804	241376
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	62580	74296	136876
JHARKHAND	57597	290301	347898
KARNATAKA	690232	780757	1470989
KERALA	387455	869319	1256774
MADHYA PRADESH	315837	1075014	1390851
MAHARASHTRA	1148280	2281699	3429979
MANIPUR	5814	4203	10017
MEGHALAYA	2047	4896	6943
MIZORAM	1570	2464	4034
ORISSA	248021	826421	1074442
PUNJAB	257525	351267	608792
RAJASTHAN	402686	1066311	1468997
SIKKIM	599	865	1464
TAMIL NADU	601619	464346	1065965
TELANGANA	216083	274496	490579
TRIPURA	7902	16301	24203
UTTAR PRADESH	1616710	5037700	6654410
UTTARAKHAND	33188	190940	224128
WEST BENGAL	483791	1386349	1870140
<b>Total Pending Cases</b>	<b>8322760</b>	<b>19322644</b>	<b>27645404</b>