

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2491

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 26th DECEMBER, 2018.

Number of Courts in the Country

†2491. SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL:

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

- (a) whether the Government is committed to double the number of courts in the country;**
- (b) if so, the number of new courts set up in the country during the last three years, State-wise;**
- (c) the time by which the Government proposes to fill up the vacant posts of new judicial officials / judges in the newly set up courts; and**
- (d) the number of such courts proposed to be set up in Maharashtra?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : The new courts at District and below District / Subordinate (Tehsil / Taluka) level are established by the respective State Governments in consultation with the concerned High Courts. As per information made available by High Courts and State Governments, sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers of District / Subordinate Courts has increased from 20,214 in the year 2014 to 22,644 in the year, 2018. The State-wise details of sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers of District / Subordinate Courts in the years 2014 and 2018 are given in a Statement at ***Annexure-I***.

Judges of Supreme Court of India are appointed under Article 124 (2) of the Constitution of India and the Judges of High Courts are appointed under Articles 217 (1) and 224 of the Constitution of India. As per the provision in the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts, the proposals are initiated by the Chief Justice of India after consultation with the Collegium of Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of the High Court after consultation with the Collegium of the High Court respectively, for filling up of vacancies of Judges in the

Supreme Court and related High Courts. The details of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts are given in ***Annexure-II***.

(c) : As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of State Governments and the High Courts 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. 0

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 keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges (to the Supreme Court) and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

(d) : As per the information made available by Bombay High Court, the number of new Courts proposed to be established in the State of Maharashtra is 867.

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Un-Starred Question No. 2491 dated 26th December, 2018 regarding Number of Courts in the Country.

Sanctioned Strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts in the years 2014 and 2018.

Sl. No	States	Sanctioned Strength as on 31.12.2014	Sanctioned Strength as on 30.09.2018
1	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	1034	987
2	Arunachal Pradesh	16	30
3	Assam	403	430
4	Bihar	1670	1845
5	Chhattisgarh	354	452
6	Goa	52	50
7	Gujarat	1963	1506
8	Haryana	644	651
9	Himachal Pradesh	146	159
10	Jammu & Kashmir	244	310
11	Jharkhand	578	676
12	Karnataka	1085	1307
13	Kerala & Lakshadweep	447	*499
14	Madhya Pradesh	1460	1872
15	Maharashtra	2072	**2141
16	Manipur	40	55
17	Meghalaya	55	97
18	Mizoram	67	67
19	Nagaland	27	33
20	Orissa	690	911
21	Punjab	672	674
22	Rajasthan	1145	1337
23	Sikkim	18	23
24	Tamil Nadu	997	*1143
25	Tripura	104	115
26	Uttar Pradesh	2097	3225
27	Uttarakhand	289	293
28	West Bengal and A & N Island	994	1024
29	Chandigarh	30	30
30	D & N Haveli and Daman & Diu	7	7
31	Delhi	793	799
32	Pondicherry	21	26
Total		20,214	22,774

* as on 30.06.2018

** as on 07.12.2018

Annexure – II

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Un-Starred Question No. 2491 dated 26th December, 2018 regarding Number of Courts in the Country.

Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and various High Courts as on 17.12.2018

Sr. No.	Name of the Court	Vacancies of Judges as on 17.12.2018.
1.	Supreme Court of India	4

Sr. No.	Name of the High Court	Vacancies of Judges as on 17.12.2018.
1.	Allahabad High Court	51
2.	Calcutta High Court	35
3.	Karnataka High Court	29
4.	Punjab & Haryana High Court	30
5.	High Court of Telengana and Andhra Pradesh	34
6.	Bombay High Court	23
7.	Delhi High Court	21
8.	Gujarat High Court	23
9.	Patna High Court	25
10.	Madhya Pradesh High Court	18
11.	Madras High Court	14
12.	Rajasthan High Court	25
13.	Kerala High Court	09
14.	Orissa High Court	13
15.	Chhattisgarh High Court	07
16.	Jharkhand High Court	06
17.	Guahati High Court	05
18.	Jammu and Kashmir High Court	08
19.	Himachal Pradesh High Court	05
20.	Manipur High Court	02
21.	Tripura High Court	01
22.	Meghalaya High Court	01
23.	Uttarakhand High Court	02
24.	Sikkim High Court	00
Total		387
