

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 675**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 06<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019.**

**Judge Population Ratio**

**675. SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:  
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Judge Population Ratio has deteriorated in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;**
- (b) whether there is a huge gap between sanctioned and actual strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts of the country, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with its impact on the functioning of the judiciary in the country;**
- (c) the number of Judges appointed in the said courts during the said period, State/UT-wise; and**
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the Judge Population Ratio in the country?**

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

(a) to (d): Based on the population as per Census 2011 and as per available information regarding sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts in the year 2018, the judge - population ratio in the country works out to be 19.78 Judges per million population in comparison to 17.48 Judges per million population in the year 2014. The sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has increased from 906 judges in June 2014 to 1079 judges in December, 2018 and the sanctioned strength of Judges of District / Subordinate Courts has increased from 20,214 in the year 2014 to 22,833 in the year 2018. The sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court is 31.

The High Court – wise details of sanctioned / working strength and vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts are given in a Statement at ***Annexure – I***.

The State / UT-wise details of sanctioned / working strength and vacancies of Judges in District and Subordinate Courts are given in a Statement at ***Annexure – II***.

As per the Constitution, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of State Governments and the High Courts concerned. As per information made available by the High Courts and respective State Governments, sanctioned strength of Judges of District / Subordinate Courts has increased from 20,214 in the year 2014 to 22,833 in the year 2018. The working strength of Judges of District and Subordinate Courts is increased from 15,634 in the year 2014 to 17,701 in the year 2018. The State / UT-wise details of sanctioned / working strength of Judges of District / Subordinate Courts in the years 2014 and 2018 are given in a Statement at ***Annexure-III***.

The appointment of Judges and Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts falls within the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned in which the Central Government has no role. However, in order to facilitate regular filling up of these vacancies in a smooth and time-bound manner, the Department of Justice *vide* its letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 suggested certain options to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for creation of a Central Selection Mechanism. The Hon'ble Supreme Court *suo motu* converted the Government's suggestions into a writ petition on 09<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 and directed all State Governments (including Union Territories) to file their responses and suggestions by way of affidavits. The above matter is *subjudice* at present.

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Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.675 for reply on 06.02.2019  
Statement showing the approved strength, working strength and vacancies of  
Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts as on 31.01.2019.

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Approved Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies as per Approved Strength
<b>A.</b>	<b>Supreme Court of India</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>High Court</b>			
1	Allahabad	160	108	52
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	13	24
3	Bombay	94	70	24
4	Calcutta	72	36	36
5	Chhattisgarh	22	15	07
6	Delhi	60	38	22
7	Gauhati	24	20	04
8	Gujarat	52	28	24
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	08	05
10	Jammu & Kashmir	17	09	08
11	Jharkhand	25	18	07
12	Karnataka	62	31	31
13	Kerala	47	37	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	34	19
15	Madras	75	60	15
16	Manipur	05	03	02
17	Meghalaya	04	03	01
18	Orissa	27	15	12
19	Patna	53	27	26
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	53	32
21	Rajasthan	50	25	25
22	Sikkim	03	03	0
23	Telengana	24	13	11
24	Tripura	04	03	01
25	Uttarakhand	11	09	02
<b>Total</b>		<b>1079</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>400</b>

**Annexure – II**

**Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.675 for reply on 06.02.2019  
Sanctioned Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers of  
District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2018.**

Sr. No.	Name of State / UT	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	11	11	0
2	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	987	902	85
3	Arunachal Pradesh	30	25	5
4	Assam	430	356	74
5	Bihar	1845	1223	622
6	Chandigarh	30	30	0
7	Chhattisgarh	452	394	58
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	3	0
9	Daman and Diu	3	3	0
10	Delhi	758	542	216
11	Goa	50	47	3
12	Gujarat	1506	1146	360
13	Haryana	658	486	172
14	Himachal Pradesh	164	149	15
15	Jammu & Kashmir	310	224	86
16	Jharkhand	676	458	218
17	Karnataka	1307	1105	202
18	Kerala	535	467	68
19	Lakshadweep	3	3	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	1872	1430	442
21	Maharashtra	2141	1965	176
22	Manipur	55	40	15
23	Meghalaya	97	39	58
24	Mizoram	64	46	18
25	Nagaland	33	26	7
26	Orissa	912	748	164
27	Puducherry	26	12	14
28	Punjab	675	527	148
29	Rajasthan	1372	1101	271
30	Sikkim	23	19	4
31	Tamilnadu	1159	896	263
32	Tripura	115	75	40
33	Uttar Pradesh	3225	2017	1208
34	Uttarakhand	293	230	63
35	West Bengal	1013	956	57
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22,833</b>	<b>17,701</b>	<b>5,132</b>

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## Annexure-III

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.675 for reply on 06.02.2019  
State-UT wise comparative Statement of Sanctioned / Working Strength of Judges 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 31.12.2018	Working Strength as on 31.12.2014	Working Strength as on 31.12.2018
1	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	1034	987	884	902
2	Arunachal Pradesh	16	30	15	25
3	Assam	403	430	312	356
4	Bihar	1670	1845	1027	1223
5	Chhattisgarh	354	452	302	394
6	Goa	52	50	40	47
7	Gujarat	1963	1506	1216	1146
8	Haryana	644	658	485	486
9	Himachal Pradesh	146	164	128	149
10	Jammu & Kashmir	244	310	221	224
11	Jharkhand	578	676	382	458
12	Karnataka	1085	1307	832	1105
13	Kerala & Lakshadweep	447	538	431	470
14	Madhya Pradesh	1460	1872	1243	1430
15	Maharashtra	2072	2141	1784	1965
16	Manipur	40	55	30	40
17	Meghalaya	55	97	30	39
18	Mizoram	67	64	31	46
19	Nagaland	27	33	25	26
20	Orissa	690	912	569	748
21	Punjab	672	675	505	527
22	Rajasthan	1145	1372	831	1101
23	Sikkim	18	23	15	19
24	Tamil Nadu	997	1159	876	896
25	Tripura	104	115	78	75
26	Uttar Pradesh	2097	3225	1761	2017
27	Uttarakhand	289	293	191	230
28	West Bengal and A & N Island	994	1024	868	967
29	Chandigarh	30	30	30	30
30	D & N Haveli and Daman & Diu	7	6	6	6
31	Delhi	793	758	476	542
32	Pondicherry	21	26	10	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>20,214</b>	<b>22,833</b>	<b>15,634</b>	<b>17,701</b>

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