

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.946
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08TH DECEMBER, 2023**

RATIO OF JUDGES PER MILLION POPULATION

946. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is lagging behind Law Commission's 1987 target of reaching 50 judges per million population in a decade;**
- (b) if so, the details of the current ratio of judges per million population and the timeline if any to bridge this gap;**
- (c) the current number of pending cases in the higher courts;**
- (d) whether cost incurred due to delay in disposal of pending cases has any impact on the GDP; and**
- (e) if so, the details of cost incurred due to delay in disposal of pending cost and its annual impact on GDP?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW
AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): As per the target recommended by Law Commission's 1987 Report recommending 50 judges per million population, presently the judge - population ratio in the country works out to be approximately 21 Judges per million population. In order to calculate the judge-population ratio for per million population in a particular year, the Ministry of Law and Justice uses the criterion based on the population data as per Census 2011 (1210.19 million) and the sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Court and District & Subordinate Courts in the year 2023.

In so far as timeline for bridging the gap in judges' strength is concerned, the increase of judges' strength in the higher judiciary is a continuous and collaborative exercise between the Executive and Judiciary. Further, in case of District and Subordinate courts, the need for appropriate number of judges and the consequent requirement for filling up of the vacancies lies in the domain of respective High Courts and the State Governments. It can be seen that over a period of time, the strength of Judiciary has seen a marked increase with District Judiciary's working strength of 15,115 judicial officers as against sanctioned strength of 19,518 in the year 2014 increasing to a working strength of 20,026 as against sanctioned strength of 25,423 in the year 2023. Similarly, from 2014 till present, 61 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 964 new Judges were appointed and 694 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of Supreme Court increased from 31 in 2014 to 34 now while sanctioned strength of High Court Judges has been increased from 906 in 2014 to 1114 at present.

(c): The current number of pending cases in the higher courts is given below:-

S. No.	Name of Court	Details of Pendency as on 04.12.2023*
1	Supreme Court of India	80,102
2	High Courts	61,79,185

*Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

(d) & (e): There is as such no data available on the cost incurred due to delay in disposal of pending cases and its impact on GDP. However, the Government is aware that early disposal of pending cases helps in improving the overall economic growth. Accordingly, the Economic Survey 2018-2019 had concluded that a well-functioning legal system has a profound impact on the economy. The Government's efforts of introducing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and the adoption of the Goods and Services Tax, have had a profound impact on improving Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) in India, with the country being one of the biggest 'improvers' in the World Bank's last Doing Business Report (DBR) 2020, with its latest rank jumping to 63 from the earlier 142 in the year 2014. Further, with a view to reduce pendency and unclogging

of the courts, the Government has recently amended various laws like the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.
