

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1070

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 03.12.2021

Vacancies of Judges in the High Courts and Supreme Court

1070. SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are over 407 vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and other High Courts of the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the recommendations of the collegium to fill up the posts for 233 permanent judges posts and 174 additional judges posts in the upper courts of the country have been implemented; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c) : As on 30.11.2021, there is 01 vacancy in the Supreme Court and 402 vacancies in the High Courts. 164 proposals are at various stages of processing with the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium. For remaining 238 vacancies, recommendations from High Court Collegiums are yet to be received. Government appoints only those persons as Judges of High Courts who are recommended by Supreme Court Collegium.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure, for the appointment of Judges of High Court, the Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposals in consultation with two senior-most Judges from amongst the eligible candidates from the Bar and concerned State Judicial Service six months prior to the occurrence of vacancies. Filling up of vacancies is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at the State and Centre level. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and increase in Judge Strength.

Appointment of 09 Supreme Court Judges and 118 High Court Judges have been notified by the Government in 2021 upto 30.11.2021.
