

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 838**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 07.02.2025

Vacancies of Judicial Officers in Andhra Pradesh

838. Dr. C M Ramesh:

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the High Court and the Supreme Court to fill in six permanent and two additional judge posts lying vacant in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to persuade High Court of Andhra Pradesh to fill in 74 vacancies of Judicial Officers in district and subordinate courts since there are more than 8.8 lakh cases lying pending in the State; and
- (c) whether the Government is considering to give one time grant to the States since there are nearly 5,250 vacancies of judicial officers in various States?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): In the Andhra Pradesh High Court, against the sanctioned strength of 37 Judges, there are 33 Judges (including 05 Judges working in other High Courts). 02 Judges (including the Chief Justice) from other High Courts are working in the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government in consultation with the High Court frames the rules and regulations regarding the appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has inter-alia, stipulated certain timelines, which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts for recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts.

The vacancy of judges is not the sole reason, affecting the disposal of cases in courts. The disposal of cases in courts is also affected by several other factors which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.
