

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 908
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 07TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

PENDING CASES IN COURTS

908. SHRI ANIL YESHWANT DESAI:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps particularly to fill the vacant posts of judicial officers and staff in courts in order to reduce huge pendency of cases and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
(b) whether Supreme Court and High Courts have also taken cognizance of such pendency and taken any remedial steps like reduction of holidays, increase of working hours, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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): As per the Department's MIS Portal, there are 5292 vacancies of Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts of the Country as on 03.02.2025.

Filling up of vacant positions in the case of 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 in the respective State Judicial Service. 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. A statement showing sanctioned strength and vacancies over the last five years in district and subordinate courts, State-wise is at *Annexure-I*.

(b): The Law Commission in its 230th Report on “Reforms in the Judiciary – Some Suggestions” had *inter-alia* suggested that considering the staggering arrears, the vacations in the higher judiciary must be curtailed by at least 10 to 15 days and the court working hours be extended by at least half an hour. The Report was forwarded to the Chief Justices of all High Courts to consider the suggestions for adoption.

As per the Supreme Court (Second Amendment) Rules, 2024, which amended the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, “The length of the partial Court working days and the number of holidays for the Court and the offices of the Court shall be such as may be fixed by the Chief Justice and notified in the Official Gazette so as not to exceed ninety-five days excluding Sundays.”

Working days in the High Courts are regulated by the rules framed by the respective High Courts. The working days as well as working hours of the district/subordinate courts are also regulated by the respective high courts.

Annexure-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 908 FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2025 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES IN COURTS'.

Sanctioned Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts for last five years													
Sl.	State/UTs	As on 31.12.2020		As on 31.12.2021		As on 31.12.2022		As on 31.12.2023		As on 31.12.2024		As on 03.02.2025	
No		Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies
1	Andhra Pradesh	607	97	607	116	607	73	618	83	623	59	639	75
2	Telangana	474	96	474	49	560	150	560	115	560	115	560	115
3	Arunachal Pradesh	41	9	41	9	41	8	44	10	44	11	44	11
4	Assam	466	54	467	31	485	60	485	46	485	24	485	24
5	Bihar	1936	503	1954	560	2016	667	2016	1550	2019	483	2019	483
6	Chandigarh	30	4	30	0	30	0	30	1	30	0	30	0
7	Chhattisgarh	480	93	482	73	527	90	562	139	663	198	663	198
8	D & N Haveli and Daman and Diu	7	1	3	1	7	1	7	1	7	1	7	1
9	Delhi	799	151	884	192	884	203	887	89	897	94	897	94
10	Goa	50	10	50	10	50	10	50	10	50	10	50	10
11	Gujarat	1521	369	1523	400	1582	431	1720	545	1720	535	1720	535
12	Haryana	772	279	772	290	772	308	772	208	781	229	781	230
13	Himachal Pradesh	175	14	175	15	179	16	179	21	179	19	179	19
14	Jammu and Kashmir	296	41	300	59	314	91	317	94	322	46	322	43
15	Ladakh	16	8	17	8	17	8	17	7	17	6	17	6
16	Jharkhand	675	131	675	152	694	186	693	181	705	199	705	199
17	Karnataka	1357	286	1363	276	1365	233	1375	225	1375	219	1375	221
18	Kerala	538	68	569	81	595	122	605	91	611	77	612	79
19	Lakshadweep	3	0	3	0	4	0	4	1	4	0	4	0

20	Madhya Pradesh	2021	411	2021	469	2021	372	2028	298	2028	337	2028	336
21	Maharashtra	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250
22	Manipur	54	18	59	17	59	17	59	10	62	13	62	13
23	Meghalaya	97	48	97	48	99	48	99	42	99	43	99	42
24	Mizoram	64	21	65	23	74	33	74	33	74	29	74	29
25	Nagaland	33	7	34	10	34	10	34	10	34	10	34	10
26	Odisha	950	194	976	191	1001	234	1008	205	1041	200	1041	200
27	Puducherry	26	15	26	15	28	17	29	19	36	10	36	10
28	Punjab	692	99	692	85	797	208	797	212	804	81	804	81
29	Rajasthan	1489	197	1549	275	1587	331	1638	296	1641	328	1654	342
30	Sikkim	25	5	28	8	30	9	35	12	35	12	35	12
31	Tamil Nadu	1298	249	1316	234	1340	272	1371	331	1369	346	1369	346
32	Tripura	120	23	122	25	128	20	128	20	133	24	133	24
33	Uttar Pradesh	3634	1053	3634	1092	3647	1173	3696	1247	3700	996	3700	996
34	Uttarakhand	297	42	299	28	299	30	298	27	298	28	298	28
35	West Bengal	1014	83	1014	83	1014	83	1014	83	1105	230	1105	230
36	A& N Island												
Total		24247	4929	24515	5175	25077	5764	25439	5428	25741	5262	25771	5292