

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3545
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 13TH MARCH, 2026**

APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES IN HIGH COURTS

3545. SHRI PUSHPENDRA SAROJ:

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

- (a) the sanctioned strength, working strength, and number of vacancies of judges in all High Courts and the duration of the vacancy, classified social category-wise, along with specific data for the Allahabad High Court;
- (b) the number of judicial appointment recommendations from the Collegium presently pending with the Government in respect of the Allahabad High Court, the duration for which each recommendation has been pending and the reasons for the delay;
- (c) the total pendency of cases before the Allahabad High Court during the said period and the correlation, if any, between judicial vacancies and the increase in pendency;
- (d) the number of appointments returned for reconsideration and the timeline followed for final decision thereafter; and
- (e) the institutional or coordination measures introduced to ensure time-bound processing of judicial appointments and reduction of vacancies?

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 (e): Appointment of Judges to High Courts is made under Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of any caste or class of persons among the Judges of the High Courts is not centrally available. Since 2018, the recommendees for the post of High Court Judges are required to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). As per the information provided by the recommendees, out of 849 Judges appointed from 2018 till 09.03.2026, 33 belong to SC category, 17 belong to ST category, 104 belong to OBC category and 46 belong to the minority category. The information relating to sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies in High Courts is at *Annexure-I*.

Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which inter alia, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders, viz., bar, investigation agencies, witness and litigants, the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, etc. besides the shortage of judges. The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary.

Filling up of the vacancy in the higher Judiciary is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the executive and the judiciary. As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case), the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges of the High Court. As per the MoP, the High Courts are required to make recommendations at least 06 months before the occurrence of a vacancy. However, this time limit is rarely observed. For appointments to the High Courts, the views of concerned State Government are obtained in accordance with the MoP. The recommendations also have to be considered in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in

respect of the names under consideration. The recommendations of the High Court Collegium, the State Governments and the Government of India are then forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Only those persons whose names have been recommended by the SCC are appointed as Judges of the High Courts. As on 06.03.2026, against the sanctioned strength of 1122 Judges, 810 Judges are working and 312 posts of Judges are vacant in various High Courts. Against these vacancies, 132 proposals for appointment of High Court Judges are at various stages of processing between the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium.

Through this continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the executive and the judiciary, 157 Judges were appointed in various High Courts during 2025.

Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy of Judges in High Courts as on 06.03.2026

Sl. No.	High Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies
1	Allahabad	160	109	51
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	33	4
3	Bombay	94	80	14
4	Calcutta	72	42	30
5	Chhattisgarh	22	15	7
6	Delhi	60	44	16
7	Gauhati	30	25	5
8	Gujarat	52	35	17
9	Himachal Pradesh	17	12	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	25	14	11
11	Jharkhand	25	14	11
12	Karnataka	62	46	16
13	Kerala	47	39	8
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	42	11
15	Madras	75	52	23
16	Manipur	5	3	2
17	Meghalaya	4	4	0
18	Orissa	33	19	14
19	Patna	53	37	16
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	61	24
21	Rajasthan	50	39	11
22	Sikkim	3	3	0
23	Telangana	42	28	14
24	Tripura	5	4	1
25	Uttarakhand	11	10	1
	Total	1122	810	312