

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.903

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 03.12.2015

Appointment of Judges

**903. SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY:
SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:
SHRI YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
DR. A. SAMPATH:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT**

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

- (a) the total sanctioned strength of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts in the country along with the number of posts lying vacant at present, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of High Courts functioning without regular/permanent Chief Justice State/UT-wise;
- (c) the total number of Judges appointed during the current year in the country, State/UT/Court-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to fill up the vacancies of judges in various courts across the country at the earliest?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)**

(a) : A statement showing the Approved Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts as on 27.11.2015 is given in the Statement at **Annexure. I** . The appointment of judicial officers/ judges in the District/ Subordinate Courts is in the domain of the State Governments and High Courts concerned. The data on

sanctioned strength and working strength of judicial officers/ judges in District and Subordinate Courts as on 31-12-2014 is given in the statement at **Annexure-II**.

(b) : A statement showing the details of High Courts functioning without regular/permanent Chief Justice as on 27.11.2015 is given in the Statement at **Annexure. III**.

(c) : A statement showing the number of Judges appointed during the current year in the Supreme Court and the High Courts as on 27.11.2015 is given in the Statement at **Annexure. IV**.

(d) : Filling up of the vacancies in the High Courts is a time consuming process, as it requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional authorities. 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 the Judge strength of High Courts. The Collegium system of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts ceased to exist consequent upon the coming into force of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 w.e.f 13.04.2015. The Constitutional validity of both the Acts was challenged in Supreme Court. During the period only those Additional Judges whose terms were expiring were given extensions of three months as per the Supreme Court Orders dated 12.05.2015 and 15.07.2015. The Supreme Court pronounced its judgment on 16.10.2015 and declared both the Acts as unconstitutional and void. The Collegium system as existing prior to the enforcement of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 was declared to be operative. The Supreme Court however asked for suggestions to improve the Collegium system and on 19.11.2015 reserved its judgment on that issue. All proposals for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are now being processed through the Collegium system.

Annexure. I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.903 for answer on 3.11.2015

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Approved Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies as per Approved Strength
I	Supreme Court of India	31	28	03
II	High Court			
1	Allahabad	160	75	85
2	High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad	49	27	22
3	Bombay	94	60	34
4	Calcutta	58	42	16
5	Chhattisgarh	22	09	13
6	Delhi	60	39	21
7	Gauhati	24	16	08
8	Gujarat	52	28	24
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	07	06
10	Jammu & Kashmir	17	10	07
11	Jharkhand	25	14	11
12	Karnataka	62	31	31
13	Kerala	38	35	03
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	30	23
15	Madras	60	37	23
16	Manipur	04	03	01
17	Meghalaya	03	03	0
18	Orissa	27	22	05
19	Patna	43	29	14
20	Punjab& Haryana	85	50	35
21	Rajasthan	50	25	25
22	Sikkim	03	02	01
23	Tripura	04	04	0
24	Uttarakhand	11	06	05
	Total	1017	604	413

Annexure – II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha unstarred Question No.903 for answer on 3.12.2015

Sanctioned Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges / Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2014

S. No.	State / Union Territory	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies
1	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	1034	884	150
2	Arunachal Pradesh	16	15	1
3	Assam	403	312	91
4	Bihar	1670	1027	643
5	Chandigarh	30	30	0
6	Chhattisgarh	354	302	52
7	Delhi	793	476	317
8	Diu and Daman & Silvassa	7	6	1
9	Goa	52	40	12
10	Gujarat	1963	1216	747
11	Haryana	644	485	159
12	Himachal Pradesh	146	128	18
13	Jammu and Kashmir	244	221	23
14	Jharkhand	578	382	196
15	Karnataka	1085	832	253
16	Kerala and Lakshadweep	447	431	16
17	Madhya Pradesh	1460	1243	217
18	Maharashtra	2072	1784	288
19	Manipur	40	30	10
20	Meghalaya	55	30	25
21	Mizoram	67	31	36
22	Nagaland	27	25	2
23	Orissa	690	569	121
24	Puducherry	21	10	11
25	Punjab	672	505	167
26	Rajasthan	1145	831	314
27	Sikkim	18	15	3
28	Tamil Nadu	997	876	121
29	Tripura	104	78	26
30	Uttar Pradesh	2097	1761	336
31	Uttarakhand	289	191	98
32	West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar	994	868	126
Total		20214	15634	4580

Data provisional

Source : High Courts

Annexure. III

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.903
for answer on 3.12.2015**

LIST OF ACTING CHIEF JUSTICES OF THE HIGH COURTS (As on 27/11/2015)

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE HIGH COURT	NAME OF THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE S/SHRI JUSTICE	REMARKS
1	HIGH COURT OF JUDICIATURE AT HYDERABAD	D.B.BHOSALE	ACJ 07/05/2015
2	BOMBAY	SMT.V.K.TAHILRAMANI	ACJ 09/09/2015
3	GAUHATI	TINLIANTHANG VAIPHEI	ACJ 21/10/2015
4	GUJARAT	JAYANT MANGANLAL PATEL	ACJ 13/08/2015
5	KARNATAKA	S.K.MUKHERJEE	ACJ 01/06/2015
6	PATNA	IQBAL AHMED ANSARI	ACJ 01/08/2015
7	PUNJAB & HARYANA	S.J. VAZIFDAR	ACJ 15/12/2014
8	RAJASTHAN	AJIT SINGH	ACJ 23/08/2015

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.903 for answer on 3.12.2015**FRESH APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES MADE IN THE SUPREME COURT AND HIGH COURTS
(AS ON 27.11.2015)**

Sl. No	Name of the Court	No. of fresh appointments made
A.	Supreme Court of India	01
B.	HIGH COURT	
1.	GAUHATI	05
2.	ALLAHABAD	07
3.	CALCUTTA	08
4.	KERALA	07
5.	SIKKIM	01
6.	ORISSA	03
7.	JHARKHAND	01
8.	PATNA	02
9.	PUNJAB &HARYANA	01
	TOTAL	35