

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2111  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

**VACANT SANCTIONED POSTS IN COURTS**

**2111. SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:  
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:  
DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:  
SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:**

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

- (a) whether a large number of sanctioned posts of judges are laying vacant in the courts of the country including Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate courts;**
- (b) if so, the details of sanctioned and vacant posts of judges at present indicating the time since when they are lying vacant and the reasons therefor, court-wise and State-wise;**
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to fill the vacant posts of judges timely given the delay in delivering justice to the victims for lack of judges;**
- (d) whether the Government contemplates to increase the number of judges in the High courts to avoid tendency of cases pending there; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, thereasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

**(a) to (c):** As on 11.12.2023, against the sanctioned strength of 34 Judges in the Supreme Court of India (including Chief Justice of India), 34 Judges are working and there is no vacancy of Judges in the Supreme Court.

As regards the High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 1114 Judges, 790 Judges are working and 324 post of Judges are vacant in the various High Courts. A detailed statement showing High Court wise vacancy position as on 11.12.2023 is at *Annexure-I*.

Further, there are 5,443 vacancies of judicial officers in the District and Subordinate Judiciary as on 11.12.2023. A detailed statement showing State-wise vacancy position in District and Subordinate Judiciary as on 11.12.2023 is at *Annexure-II*.

Appointment of the Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at State and Central level. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of Judges in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

In case of recruitment and appointment of judicial officers in District Courts/Subordinate judiciary, the Central Government has no role under the Constitution. The filling up vacant posts of judicial officers in the District and Subordinate Courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In some States, the respective High Courts undertake the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions. Vide judicial order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has stipulated certain timelines which are to be followed by the states and the respective High Courts for initiating the recruitment process of judges in subordinate courts.

**(d) & (e):** The Government is committed towards speedy delivery of Justice. As a result of the collaborative process between the Executive and Judiciary, during the year 2022, 165 Judges were appointed in various High Courts which is a significant number

of appointments in one year. 110 Judges have been appointed in various High Courts in the year 2023 as on 11.12.2023. Also, from 2014 till 11.12.2023, the sanctioned strength of High Court judges has increased from 906 to 1114. For the District and Subordinate Courts, the sanctioned strength of judicial officers has also increased from 19,518 in year 2014 to the present 25,439 as on 11.12.2023. Similarly the working strength at the district and subordinate judiciary level has been increased from 15115 in the year 2014 to the present 20017 as on 11.12.2023

The pendency of cases in courts is not only due to shortage of judges in various Courts but also a result of several other factors like increase in number of state and central legislations, accumulation of first appeals, continuation of ordinary civil jurisdiction in some of the High Courts, appeals against the orders of quasi-judicial forums going to High Courts, number of revisions/appeals, frequent adjournments, indiscriminate use of the writ jurisdiction, lack of adequate arrangements to monitor, tracking and bunching of cases for hearing, vacation period of Courts, assigning of work of administrative nature to the Judges, etc.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2111 FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2023 REGARDING 'VACANT SANCTIONED POSTS IN COURTS'.**

Sanction and Working Strength of Judicial Officers in High Courts as on 11.12.2023.

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>High Court</b>	<b>Sanctioned strength</b>	<b>Working strength</b>	<b>Vacancies</b>
1.	Allahabad	160	91	69
2.	Andhra Pradesh	37	30	07
3.	Bombay	94	69	25
4.	Calcutta	72	52	20
5.	Chhattisgarh	22	15	07
6.	Delhi	60	43	17
7.	Gauhati	30	24	06
8.	Gujarat	52	31	21
9.	Himachal Pradesh	17	12	05
10.	J&K & Ladakh	17	15	02
11.	Jharkhand	25	19	06
12.	Karnataka	62	52	10
13.	Kerala	47	36	11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	53	40	13
15.	Madras	75	67	08
16.	Manipur	5	04	01
17.	Meghalaya	4	03	01
18.	Orissa	33	20	13
19.	Patna	53	35	18
20.	Punjab & Haryana	85	57	28
21.	Rajasthan	50	34	16
22.	Sikkim	3	03	00
23.	Telangana	42	26	16
24.	Tripura	5	05	00
25.	Uttarakhand	11	07	04
<b>Total</b>		<b>1114</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>324</b>

**Annexure-II****STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2111 FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2023 REGARDING 'VACANT SANCTIONED POSTS IN COURTS'.**

Sanction and Working Strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Judiciary as on 11.12.2023.

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	618	535	83
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44	34	10
3.	Assam	485	439	46
4.	Bihar	2016	1543	473
5.	Chandigarh	30	29	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	562	423	139
7.	D & N Haveli	3	2	1
8.	Daman & Diu	4	4	0
9.	Delhi	887	798	89
10.	Goa	50	40	10
11.	Gujarat	1720	1175	545
12.	Haryana	772	564	208
13.	Himachal Pradesh	179	158	21
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	317	223	94
15.	Jharkhand	693	500	193
16.	Karnataka	1375	1150	225
17.	Kerala	605	514	91
18.	Ladakh	17	10	7
19.	Lakshadweep	4	3	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1734	294
21.	Maharashtra	2190	1940	250
22.	Manipur	59	49	10
23.	Meghalaya	99	57	42
24.	Mizoram	74	41	33
25.	Nagaland	34	24	10
26.	Odisha	1008	803	205
27.	Puducherry	29	10	19
28.	Punjab	797	585	212
29.	Rajasthan	1638	1342	296
30.	Sikkim	35	23	12
31.	Tamil Nadu	1371	1040	331
32.	Telangana	560	445	115
33.	Tripura	128	108	20
34.	Uttar Pradesh	3696	2449	1247
35.	Uttarakhand	298	271	27
36.	West Bengal		931*	83*
37.	Andaman and Nicobar	1014*		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>25439</b>	<b>19996</b>	<b>5443</b>

Source:- MIS portal of Department of Justice.

\*No separate sanctioned strength exists in respect of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the same is included in the total Sanctioned Strength, appearing in the designated column coming under the heading West Bengal.