

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1335
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

NUMBER OF JUDGES PER MILLION POPULATION

1335. SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY:

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

- (a) the number of Judges per million of population in the country, State-wise;**
(b) the number of Judges per million as suggested by the Supreme Court; and
(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to comply with the order passed by the Supreme Court including the funds required for the purpose?

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): At present, the judge - population ratio in the country works out to be approximately 21 Judges per million population. In order to calculate the judge-population ratio for per million population in a particular year, the Ministry of Law and Justice uses the criterion based on the population data as per Census 2011 (1210.19 million) and the sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Court and District & Subordinate Courts in the year 2023.

However, the State-wise list of Judges per million population is not Centrally maintained.

(b): The Supreme Court of India, in the case of *Imtiyaz Ahmed versus State of Uttar Pradesh* [(2017) 3 SCC 658], had observed that its judgement delivered on 21.03.2022 in *All India Judges' Assn.(3)v. Union of India* while endorsing the

views of the Law Commissions 120th Report directed that a Judge to Population ratio of fifty Judges per million be achieved. Similar observations were made in cases such as P. Ramachandra Rao vs. State of Karnataka (2002) 4SCC 478 and Brij Mohal Lal vs. Union of India (2002) 5 SCC 1.

(c): In so far as suggested increase in number of Judges per million and funds required for this purpose are concerned, the appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary is a continuous and collaborative exercise between the Executive and Judiciary. Further, in case of District and Subordinate courts, the need for appropriate number of judges and the consequent requirement for filling up of the vacancies lies in the domain of respective High Courts and the State Governments.

However, due to consistent efforts, there has been a marked increase in the judges' strength with the sanctioned strength of Judges of Supreme Court being increased from 31 in year 2014 to 34 Judges with no vacancy at present. Since May 2014, the Government has appointed 62 Supreme Court Judges which comes to around 6 Judges in a year.

In case of High Courts, the sanctioned strength of High Court Judges has increased from 906 in year 2014 to 1114 Judges, as on 31.12.2023, with a total of 208 new posts of High Court Judges being created since year 2014. A total of 968 High Court Judges have been appointed since year 2014 which comes to around 103 Judges a year.

The District Judiciary's sanctioned strength has increased from 19,518 judicial officers in the year 2014 to 25,439 judicial officers, as on 31.12.2023. Similarly, the working strength of Judges has also increased from 15,115 in year 2014 to 20,011 judicial officers as on 31.12.2023.
