

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2011  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST, 2024**

**VACANCIES IN JUDICIARY**

**2011. ADV DEAN KURIAKOSE:  
SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL:  
SHRI MURARI LAL MEENA:  
SHRI HIBI EDEN:  
SMT. JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:  
SHRI CHAMALA KIRAN KUMAR REDDY:  
SHRI SUKHDEO BHAGAT:  
SHRI RAJKUMAR ROAT:**

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

- (a) the total sanctioned strength and vacancies of judges in district/lower courts and high courts, court, State and district-wise including Rajasthan;**
- (b) the details of posts of judges filled up during the last five years in various courts, court, State, district and year-wise;**
- (c) the details of measures taken to expedite the recruitment process and ensure timely filling up these positions in the said courts;**
- (d) whether the Union Government has assessed the impact of vacancies on the huge pendency of cases in the country, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?**

**ANSWER**

**THE 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):** The status of sanctioned strength and vacancies of Judges across the country is as under:

S. No.	Name of Court	Sanctioned Strength as on date	Vacancy as on date
1	High Courts	1,114	359
2.	District and Subordinate Courts	25,609	5,238

Further, the details of State-wise Sanctioned strength and vacancies of Judges in High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts including in respect of Rajasthan are at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II* respectively.

**(b) to (e):** The statement showing posts of Judges filled up during the last five years in High Courts and Supreme Court is as under:

Sl No.	Name of the Court	Year					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (as on 29.07.2027)
1	Supreme Court	10	--	09	03	14	03
2	High Court	81	66	120	165	110	11

A statement of vacancies of Judges filled up during the last five years in High Courts is at *Annexure-III*.

Further, filling up of vacant positions in the in case of District & 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 issues of appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. In some States, the respective High Court undertakes the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Court does it in consultation with the State Public Service Commission. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide judicial order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, 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. A statement showing sanctioned strength and vacancies over the last five years in district and subordinate courts, State wise is at *Annexure-IV*.

The Judges of High Courts are appointed under Article 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in 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).

As per the MoP, 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. For appointments to the High Courts, under the MOP, the views of concerned State Government are also obtained. 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 are appointed as Judges of High Courts, whose names have been recommended by the SCC.

Appointment of the Judges of the Constitutional 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.

The Government is aware of the impact of the vacancies on the status of pendency in the country. However, the vacancy of judges is not the sole reason, affecting the disposal of cases in courts. The disposal of cases in courts is also affected by several other factors which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2011 FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN JUDICIARY'.**

**Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the High Courts as on 29.07.2024**

S. No	Name of High Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	75	9	84	44	32	76
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	22	6	28	6	3	9
3	Bombay	71	23	94	56	10	66	15	13	28
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	34	10	44	20	8	28
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	10	5	15	7	0	7
6	Delhi	45	15	60	37	2	39	8	13	21
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	19	5	24	3	3	6
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	29	0	29	10	13	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	12	0	12	1	4	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	4	17	12	3	15	1	1	2
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	18	0	18	2	5	7
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	43	7	50	4	8	12
13	Kerala	35	12	47	29	10	39	6	2	8
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	36	0	36	4	13	17
15	Madras	56	19	75	50	13	63	6	6	12
16	Manipur	4	1	5	4	0	4	0	1	1
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	3	1	4	0	0	0
18	Orissa	24	9	33	20	0	20	4	9	13
19	Patna	40	13	53	34	0	34	6	13	19
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	51	4	55	13	17	30
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	33	0	33	5	12	17
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	25	3	28	7	7	14
24	Tripura	4	1	5	4	1	5	0	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	7	0	7	2	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>1114</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>359</b>

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2011 FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2024  
REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN JUDICIARY'.**

**Vacant Positions of Judicial Officers in District & Subordinate Court as on 29.07.2024**

Sl. NO.	State/Uts	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	618	544	74
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44	33	11
3.	Assam	485	460	25
4.	Bihar	2019	1536	483
5.	Chandigarh	30	30	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	612	417	195
7.	D & N Haveli	3	2	1
8.	Daman & Diu	4	4	0
9.	Delhi	887	806	81
10.	Goa	50	40	10
11.	Gujarat	1720	1185	535
12.	Haryana	772	555	217
13.	Himachal Pradesh	179	160	19
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	317	217	100
15.	Jharkhand	703	500	203
16.	Karnataka	1375	1131	244
17.	Kerala	608	542	66
18.	Ladakh	17	9	8
19.	Lakshadweep	4	2	2
20.	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1709	319
21.	Maharashtra	2190	1940	250
22.	Manipur	62	49	13
23.	Meghalaya	99	56	43
24.	Mizoram	74	45	29
25.	Nagaland	34	24	10
26.	Odisha	1015	848	167
27.	Puducherry	29	10	19
28.	Punjab	797	724	73
29.	Rajasthan	1641	1321	320
30.	Sikkim	35	23	12
31.	Tamil Nadu	1364	1025	339
32.	Telangana	560	445	115
33.	Tripura	133	109	24
34.	Uttar Pradesh	3698	2725	973
35.	Uttarakhand	298	270	28
36.	Andaman and Nicobar	1105	875	230
37.	West Bengal			
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>25609</b>	<b>20371</b>	<b>5238</b>

\*Combined vacancy of UT Andaman & Nicobar Island and State of WB as shown against State of West Bengal

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2011 FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN JUDICIARY'.**

<b>Fresh Appointments of Judges in Various High Courts in Last 5 Years.</b>							
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>High Court</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
1	Allahabad	10	4	17	13	9	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	2	7	2	14	6	0
3	Bombay	11	4	6	19	9	0
4	Calcutta	6	1	8	16	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0	3	3	2	1
6	Delhi	4	0	2	17	5	0
7	Gauhati	4	0	6	2	5	0
8	Gujarat	3	7	7	0	8	1
9	Himachal Pradesh	2	0	1	2	3	0
10	J & K and Ladakh	0	5	2	4	0	1
11	Jharkhand	2	0	4	1	0	1
12	Karnataka	10	10	6	6	5	0
13	Kerala	1	6	12	1	3	7
14	Madhya Pradesh	2	0	8	6	14	0
15	Madras	1	10	5	4	13	0
16	Manipur	0	1	0	0	2	0
17	Meghalaya	1	0	0	0	1	0
18	Orissa	1	2	4	6	2	0
19	Patna	4	0	6	11	2	0
20	Punjab & Haryana	10	1	6	21	4	0
21	Rajasthan	3	6	8	2	9	0
22	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Telangana	3	1	7	17	3	0
24	Tripura	0	1	0	0	2	0
25	Uttarakhand	1	0	0	0	3	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>11</b>

## Annexure-IV

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2011 FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN JUDICIARY'.**

Sanctioned Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts for last five years													
Sl.No	Name of the State/UTs	As on 31.12.2018		As on 31.12.2019		As on 31.12.2020		As on 31.12.2021		As on 31.12.2022		As on 31.12.2023	
		Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies
1	Andhra Pradesh	494	49	597	68	607	97	607	116	607	73	618	83
2	Telangana	493	48	413	79	474	96	474	49	560	150	560	115
3	Auranchal Pradesh	30	5	41	14	41	9	41	9	41	8	44	10
4	Assam	430	47	441	29	466	54	467	31	485	60	485	46
5	Bihar	1845	640	1925	776	1936	503	1954	560	2016	667	2016	1550
6	Chandigarh	30	0	30	1	30	4	30	0	30	0	30	1
7	Chattisgarh	452	55	468	75	480	93	482	73	527	90	562	139
8	D & N Haveli	3	0	3	0	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1
9	Daman & Diu	4	0	4	1	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0
10	Delhi	799	258	799	118	799	151	884	192	884	203	887	89
11	Goa	50	8	50	7	50	10	50	10	50	10	50	10
12	Gujarat	1506	356	1521	336	1521	369	1523	400	1582	431	1720	545
13	Haryana	651	162	772	297	772	279	772	290	772	308	772	208
14	Himachal Pradesh	159	10	175	22	175	14	175	15	179	16	179	21
15	Jammu and Kashmir	310	86	290	58	296	41	300	59	314	91	317	94
16	Ladakh					16	8	17	8	17	8	17	7
17	Jharkhand	676	216	677	216	675	131	675	152	694	186	693	181
18	Karnataka	3972	725	2703	534	1357	286	1363	276	1365	233	1375	225
19	Kerela	496	63	536	79	538	68	569	81	595	122	605	91
20	Lakshadweep	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	4	0	4	1

<b>21</b>	Madhya Pradesh	1872	511	2021	401	2021	411	2021	469	2021	372	2028	298
<b>22</b>	Maharashtra	2011	167	2189	247	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250
<b>23</b>	Manipur	55	15	55	16	54	18	59	17	59	17	59	10
<b>24</b>	Meghalaya	97	58	97	48	97	48	97	48	99	48	99	42
<b>25</b>	Mizoram	67	21	64	18	64	21	65	23	74	33	74	33
<b>26</b>	Nagaland	33	7	33	8	33	7	34	10	34	10	34	10
<b>27</b>	Odisha	911	156	919	149	950	194	976	191	1001	234	1008	205
<b>28</b>	Puducherry	26	7	26	15	26	15	26	15	28	17	29	19
<b>29</b>	Punjab	674	144	675	96	692	99	692	85	797	208	797	212
<b>30</b>	Rajasthan	1337	229	1428	308	1489	197	1549	275	1587	331	1638	296
<b>31</b>	Sikkim	23	4	25	6	25	5	28	8	30	9	35	12
<b>32</b>	Tamil Nadu	1143	238	1255	175	1298	249	1316	234	1340	272	1371	331
<b>33</b>	Tripura	115	40	120	24	120	23	122	25	128	20	128	20
<b>34</b>	Uttar Pradesh	3225	1188	3416	838	3634	1053	3634	1092	3647	1173	3696	1247
<b>35</b>	Uttarkhand	293	59	294	66	297	42	299	28	299	30	298	27
<b>36</b>	West Bengal	1013	75	1014	96	1014	96	1014	96	1014	96	1014	96
<b>37</b>	A& N Island	11	0	0	-13	0	-13	0	-13	0	-13	0	-13
<b>Total</b>		<b>25309</b>	<b>5647</b>	<b>25079</b>	<b>5208</b>	<b>24247</b>	<b>4929</b>	<b>24515</b>	<b>5175</b>	<b>25077</b>	<b>5764</b>	<b>25439</b>	<b>5428</b>

