

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LAW AND JUSTICE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2665  
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2002  
VACANCIES OF JUDGES IN SUBORDINATE COURTS OF INDIA  
BALIRAM;SURESH KURUP

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

- (a) the number of existing vacancies of judges in the subordinate courts of India;
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to fill the vacancies;
- (c) if so, the details thereof
- (d) whether the Government plans to share the expenditure with the States in raising the funds for it; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

The MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI)

- (a) As per the available information, there are 2216 vacant posts of judges and magistrates in the Subordinate Courts in the country.
  - (b) & (c) Filling up of the vacant posts of judges/magistrates at the District and Subordinate Courts is the concern of the respective High Courts and the State Governments. Appointment of District Judges and other judges of the subordinate courts is made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State under the provisions of articles 233-234 of the Constitution of India.
- The Supreme Court, vide its judgement dated 21.3.2002, in All India Judges` Association & Ors Vs. Union of India & Ors, has directed that the existing vacancies in the Subordinate Courts at all levels should be filled, if possible latest by 31st March, 2003, in all the States.
- The Central Government have been periodically urging all the State Governments/Union Territories and the High Courts to accord utmost priority to filling up of vacant posts of judges and magistrates. The Minister of Law and Justice has written to the Chief Justices of all High Courts and Chief Ministers of all States on 26.4.2002 for ensuring compliance of the aforesaid order of the Supreme Court dated the 21st March, 2002.
- (d) No, Sir.
  - (e) Does not arise.