

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:208

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2010

PENDING COURT CASES

Joshi Dr. Murli Manohar;Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan

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

(a) whether the actual strength of judges in each court is less than the sanctioned strength;

(b) if so, the break-up of the sanctioned and actual strength of judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and Sub-ordinate courts, court-wise during the last two years and the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to wipe out/minimize pendency of cases in the judiciary and also to increase the strength of judges in various courts?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a),(b) & (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) & (b) & (c) of the Starred Question No.208 for answer in Lok Sabha on 11.03.2010

A statement showing the sanctioned strength of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts, number of Judges in position during the last two years and the current year is annexed (Annexure-I).

The strength of the Judges of the Supreme Court was increased in the year 2009 from 26 to 31 including the Chief Justice of India. The strength of the High Court Judges is also revised based on triennial reviews.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the subordinate courts in the States vests with the concerned High Court. As such, the information on the number of Judges in position and the vacancies of Judges in the Subordinate Courts is not maintained centrally.

The following steps have been taken to minimise pendency of cases in the courts:

(1) The strength of Judges in Supreme Court and the High Courts has been increased.

(2) Establishment of Fast Track Courts

(3) Establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grass root level.

(4) Introduction of some legislative measures for improvement in judicial procedure and for expediting disposal of civil and criminal cases in courts. The Criminal Procedure Code has been amended and the concept of 'Plea-Bargaining' has been introduced.

(5) Alternative modes of disposal including mediation and conciliation have been encouraged.

(6) Other measures like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, setting up of special courts and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals have also been taken.

(7) Steps have also been taken for modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts.

(8) Capacity building of judges through the National Judicial Academy has been given high priority.

(9) Several reform measures for speeding up the disposal of cases such as operations of shift courts have been recommended by the 13th Finance Commission.