

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1101

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013

SHORTAGE OF COURTS AND JUDGES

Bhagora Shri Tarachand;Chanabasappa Shri Udasi Shivkumar;Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias;Kurup Shri N.Peethambara;Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa;Tandon Shri Lal Ji;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh;Vishwanath Shri Adagur H

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of judges in various courts in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the court-wise details of the sanctioned strength, actual strength and vacancies of judges in various courts including Supreme Court, various High Courts, Subordinate Courts and Session Courts of the country, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to establish more courts and appoint more judges in various courts while filling up the backlog;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the vacancies of judges in various courts of the country are likely to be filled up in proportion to the number of cases; and
- (e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in liquidating the pending cases in a time bound manner and check the delay in justice delivery system?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The sanctioned strength, actual strength and vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts as on 01.12.2013 are given in the Statement at Annexure I. The sanctioned strength, actual strength and vacancies of judges in the Subordinate Courts are given in the Statement at Annexure- II.

(c) & (d): The Judge strength of High Courts is reviewed periodically through a Triennial Review, taking into account the institution and pendency of cases. The Government of India has undertaken an exercise to project the requirement of Judges in various High Courts based on the data on institution, disposal and pendency of cases made available by the Supreme Court. Based on these projections, the Government has sought 'in principle' approval of the Chief Justice of India on 09.10.2013 for revising the strength of Judges in each High Court. As regards subordinate judiciary the primary responsibility for filling up vacancies vests with the respective State Governments and the High Courts.

Enhancement in the number of courts is also primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and High Courts. In the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 7 April 2013, it was inter alia decided that State Governments, in consultation with the respective High Courts, will take appropriate steps for creation of additional courts.

(e) : Disposal of cases in courts falls within the domain of the judiciary. However, in order to assist the Judiciary the Government has set up the National Mission for Legal Reforms and Justice Delivery to achieve the twin goals of (i) increasing access to justice by reducing delays and arrears, and (ii) enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and improving capacities.