

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:55

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2014

PENDING COURT CASES

Adityanath Shri Yogi;Ajmal Maulana Badruddin;Girri Shri Maheish;Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Mishra Shri Bhairon Prasad;Singh Shri Ravneet;Udasi Shri Shivkumar Chanabasappa;Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

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

- (a) whether a large number of cases are pending in various courts across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the number of cases pending and disposed of in Supreme Court, various High Courts and subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts during each of the last three years and the current year, court-wise;
- (c) the sanctioned strength and vacancies of judges in these courts and the action taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies at the earliest;
- (d) whether the Government has taken note of delay in the delivery of justice to the litigants for various reasons; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the remedial steps taken by the Government for expeditious disposal of the pending cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE {SHRID. V. SADANANDA GOWDA}

(a) to (e): The data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts. As per the information available, number of cases pending and disposed of in Supreme Court during the last three years and the current year are given below:-

Year	Cases Pending	Cases Disposed of
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2011	58,519	73,133
2012	66,692	68,744
2013	66,349	77,085
2014	65,970	45,108

(As on 30.06.2014)

Details of cases pending and disposed of in the High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts including Fast Track Courts during the last three years are given in Statements at Annex - and Annex -11.

Increasing number of state and central legislations, accumulation of first appeals, continuation of ordinary civil jurisdiction in some of the High Courts, vacancies of Judges, appeals against orders of quasi-judicial forums going to High Courts, number of revisions / appeals, adjournments, indiscriminate use of writ jurisdiction, lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing are some of the main factors responsible for pendency of cases in courts.

Details of sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position of Judges in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts are given in Statements at Annex-lit and Annex - IV.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure, initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges of a High Court rests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court and for appointment of a Judge in the Supreme Court, it rests with the Chief Justice of India. The Government is periodically reminding the Chief Justices of the High Courts to initiate proposals in time for filling up the existing vacancies as well as the vacancies anticipated in the next six months in the High Courts. The filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies

expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges. For filling of vacancies in District and Subordinate Courts, the matter is regularly pursued with High Courts / State Governments.

Disposal of pending cases in various courts is within the domain of the Judiciary. In order to create an enabling environment for judiciary, the Government has set up National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms. The major initiative under the National Mission relate to Infrastructure Development for Subordinate Judiciary and Computerization of Courts. The Central Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 2,198 crores to State Governments and Union Territories for upgradation / construction of court complexes and residential units for judicial officers in the last three years. Under the eCourts Project 13,323 courts have been computerized by 31st October, 2014. Computerization of courts would enable the courts to exercise greater control over management of cases in the docket. It will also provide designated services to the litigants and the lawyers. In order to reduce government litigation in courts the Central Government has encouraged the States to notify their litigation policies which contain provisions for weeding out infructuous cases and promote dispute resolution through alternative mechanisms. The Government is also looking into the areas prone to excessive litigation for adopting suitable policy and legislative measures to curb such litigation.