

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:903

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2015

Appointment of Judges

Adityanath Shri Yogi;Chaudhury Shri Jitendra;Chavan Shri Harishchandra Deoram;Malyadri Shri Sriram;Patel Smt. Jayshreeben ;Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite;Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Sampath Shri Anirudhan;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao;Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh;Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand;Sundaram Shri P.R.

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

- (a) the total sanctioned strength of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts in the country along with the number of posts lying vacant at present, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of High Courts functioning without regular/permanent Chief Justice State/UT-wise;
- (c) the total number of Judges appointed during the current year in the country, State/UT/Court-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to fill up the vacancies of judges in various courts across the country at the earliest?

**Answer**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a) : A statement showing the Approved Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts as on 27.11.2015 is given in the Statement at Annexure. I . The appointment of judicial officers/ judges in the District/ Subordinate Courts is in the domain of the State Governments and High Courts concerned. The data on ..2/-

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sanctioned strength and working strength of judicial officers/ judges in District and Subordinate Courts as on 31-12-2014 is given in the statement at Annexure-II.

(b) : A statement showing the details of High Courts functioning without regular/permanent Chief Justice as on 27.11.2015 is given in the Statement at Annexure. III.

(c) : A statement showing the number of Judges appointed during the current year in the Supreme Court and the High Courts as on 27.11.2015 is given in the Statement at Annexure. IV.

(d) : Filling up of the vacancies in the High Courts is a time consuming process, as it requires consultation and approval from various 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 and increase in the Judge strength of High Courts. The Collegium system of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts ceased to exist consequent upon the coming into force of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 w.e.f 13.04.2015. The Constitutional validity of both the Acts was challenged in Supreme Court. During the period only those Additional Judges whose terms were expiring were given extensions of three months as per the Supreme Court Orders dated 12.05.2015 and 15.07.2015. The Supreme Court pronounced its judgment on 16.10.2015 and declared both the Acts as unconstitutional and void. The Collegium system as existing prior to the enforcement of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 was declared to be operative. The Supreme Court however asked for suggestions to improve the Collegium system and on 19.11.2015 reserved its judgment on that issue. All proposals for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are now being processed through the Collegium system.

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Annexure. I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.903 for answer on 3.11.2015

Sl. No. Name of the Court Approved Strength Working Strength Vacancies as per

Approved Strength

I Supreme Court of India 31 28 03

II High Court

1 Allahabad 160 75 85

2 High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad 49 27 22

3 Bombay 94 60 34

4 Calcutta 58 42 16

5 Chhattisgarh 22 09 13

6 Delhi 60 39 21

7 Gauhati 24 16 08

8 Gujarat 52 28 24

9 Himachal Pradesh 13 07 06  
10 Jammu & Kashmir 17 10 07  
11 Jharkhand 25 14 11  
12 Karnataka 62 31 31  
13 Kerala 38 35 03  
14 Madhya Pradesh 53 30 23  
15 Madras 60 37 23  
16 Manipur 04 03 01  
17 Meghalaya 03 03 0  
18 Orissa 27 22 05  
19 Patna 43 29 14  
20 Punjab & Haryana 85 50 35  
21 Rajasthan 50 25 25  
22 Sikkim 03 02 01  
23 Tripura 04 04 0  
24 Uttarakhand 11 06 05  
Total 1017 604 413

Annexure – II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha unstarred Question No.903 for answer on 3.12.2015  
Sanctioned Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges / Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2014

S. No. State / Union Territory Sanctioned Strength Working Strength Vacancies

1 Andhra Pradesh and Telangana 1034 884 150  
2 Arunachal Pradesh 16 15 1  
3 Assam 403 312 91  
4 Bihar 1670 1027 643  
5 Chandigarh 30 30 0  
6 Chhattisgarh 354 302 52  
7 Delhi 793 476 317  
8 Diu and Daman & Silvassa 7 6 1  
9 Goa 52 40 12  
10 Gujarat 1963 1216 747  
11 Haryana 644 485 159  
12 Himachal Pradesh 146 128 18  
13 Jammu and Kashmir 244 221 23  
14 Jharkhand 578 382 196  
15 Karnataka 1085 832 253  
16 Kerala and Lakshadweep 447 431 16  
17 Madhya Pradesh 1460 1243 217  
18 Maharashtra 2072 1784 288  
19 Manipur 40 30 10  
20 Meghalaya 55 30 25  
21 Mizoram 67 31 36  
22 Nagaland 27 25 2  
23 Orissa 690 569 121  
24 Puducherry 21 10 11  
25 Punjab 672 505 167  
26 Rajasthan 1145 831 314  
27 Sikkim 18 15 3  
28 Tamil Nadu 997 876 121  
29 Tripura 104 78 26  
30 Uttar Pradesh 2097 1761 336  
31 Uttarakhand 289 191 98  
32 West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar 994 868 126  
Total 20214 15634 4580  
Data provisional  
Source : High Courts

Annexure. III

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.903 for answer on 3.12.2015

LIST OF ACTING CHIEF JUSTICES OF THE HIGH COURTS (As on 27/11/2015)

SL.  
NO. NAME OF THE HIGH COURT  
NAME OF THE

ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE

S/SHRI JUSTICE REMARKS

- 1 HIGH COURT OF JUDICIATURE AT HYDERABAD D.B.BHOSALE ACJ 07/05/2015
- 2 BOMBAY SMT.V.K.TAHILRAMANI ACJ 09/09/2015
- 3 GAUHATI TINLIANTHANG VAIPHEI ACJ 21/10/2015
- 4 GUJARAT JAYANT MANGANLAL PATEL ACJ 13/08/2015
- 5 KARNATAKA S.K.MUKHERJEE ACJ 01/06/2015
- 6 PATNA IQBAL AHMED ANSARI ACJ 01/08/2015
- 7 PUNJAB & HARYANA S.J. VAZIFDAR ACJ 15/12/2014
- 8 RAJASTHAN AJIT SINGH ACJ 23/08/2015

Annexure. IV

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.903 for answer on 3.12.2015

FRESH APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES MADE IN THE SUPREME COURT AND HIGH COURTS (AS ON 27.11.2015)

Sl. No Name of the Court No. of fresh appointments made

- A. Supreme Court of India 01
  
- B. HIGH COURT
1. GAUHATI 05
2. ALLAHABAD 07
3. CALCUTTA 08
4. KERALA 07
5. SIKKIM 01
6. ORISSA 03
7. JHARKHAND 01
8. PATNA 02
9. PUNJAB & HARYANA 01
- TOTAL 35