

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:11

ANSWERED ON:07.07.2014

PENDING COURT CASES

Adityanath Shri Yogi;Singh Shri Sunil Kumar

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

- (a) whether a number of cases are pending in various courts across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of cases pending in Supreme Court and various High Courts during each of the last three years and the current year, court-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the sanctioned strength and vacancies of judges in such 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 corrective measures taken by the Government for expeditious disposal of the cases pending in various courts in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 11 FOR ANSWER ON 07TH JULY, 2014.

(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 in Supreme Court during the last three years and the current year are given below:-

2011	58,519
2012	66,692
2013	66,349
2014 (As on 01.05.2014)	63,843

Details of cases pending in the High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts during the last three years are given in Statements at Annex - I and Annex - II.

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 - III 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 13,227 courts have been computerized by 31st March, 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.