

various High Courts, court-wise and in Supreme Court of India;

(b) whether the Government propose to fill up these vacancies in view of the recent judgement of the Supreme Court on the appointment of Judges;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether an elaborate procedure for appointment of judges has been evolved and laid down;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which vacancies of judges are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (f) As on 1.12.1998, against the sanctioned strength of 587 Judges/Additional Judges of High Courts, 433 Judges/Additional Judges were in position, leaving 154 vacancies of Judges/Additional Judges to be filled up. As on 1.12.1998, against the sanctioned strength of 26 Judges, 18 Judges were in position in the Supreme Court of India, leaving 8 vacancies of Judges to be filled up. The details of vacancies are attached as statement.

The procedure for appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts involves consultations among several constitutional authorities.

Proposal for appointment of Judges in Supreme Court is initiated by Chief Justice of India whereas proposal for appointment of a Judge in a High Court has to be initiated by the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

Statement

S.No.	High Court	Vacancies of Judges as on 1.12.1998
1	2	3
1.	High Court	
1.	Allahabad	27
2.	Andhra Pradesh	13
3.	Bombay	13
4.	Calcutta	17
5.	Delhi	6
6.	Gauhati	3
7.	Gujarat	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3

1	2	3
10.	Karnataka	6
11.	Kerala	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8
13.	Madras	7
14.	Orissa	3
15.	Patna	8
16.	Punjab & Haryana	15
17.	Rajasthan	10
18.	Sikkim	2
Total		154
II. Supreme Court		8

Forest Wasteland for Captive Plantation

1311. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government offered forest wastelands to the industry for the purpose of captive plantation and afforestation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether environmental groups are opposing the proposal of the Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Literacy Schemes

1312. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of schemes going on at present to achieve the constitutional obligation of compulsory and free primary education;

(b) the details of grants provided during the last five years under various schemes, state-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) whether any review has been undertaken of these schemes in regard to bringing down the illiteracy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further steps taken in this regard?