

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1416

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 27.11.2019

Vacant Posts in Courts

1416. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:
SHRI FEROUZE VARUN GANDHI:
SHRI UTTAM KUMAR REDDY NALAMADA:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU:

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

- (a) the sanctioned strength of Judges in the Supreme Court and various High Courts at present in the country, court-wise along with the total number of judges appointed in these courts during each of the last three years and current year;
- (b) whether number of posts of judges are lying vacant in different High Courts and Supreme Court across the country, State-wise and bench-wise;
- (c) if so, the time since when these posts are lying vacant along with the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government promised to fill up all vacant posts within a time-frame and if so, the reason behind not fulfilling the commitment and the present status of vacancies therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has set any time-frame to appoint adequate number of judges at the earliest in all the courts of the country to provide speedy justice to the citizen and reduce the number of pending cases?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (e): A Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges and total number of Judges appointed during 2016 to 2019 (till 20.11.2019) in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is at **Annexure**.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court who may initiate the proposal for appointment of a Judge in the High Court at least six months prior to the occurrence of vacancies. However, this timeline is rarely adhered to. Filling up of vacancies in the Supreme Court and the High courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process, between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. Hence, time frame to appoint Judges cannot be indicated.

While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies in High Courts do keep on arising on account of

retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and increase in Judge Strength.

As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of Judges in subordinate Courts is the responsibility of the concerned High Courts and State Governments.

Annexure

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) in Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1416 to be answered on 27.11.2019 regarding 'Vacant posts in Courts'.

(Position as on 20.11.2019)

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies	Total number of Judges appointed during			
					2016	2017	2018	2019 (20.11.2019)
A.	Supreme Court of India	34	33	01	04	05	08	10
B.	High Court							
1	Allahabad	160	100	60	20	31	28	01
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	15	22	01	10	-	02
3	Bombay	94	65	29	06	14	04	05
4	Calcutta	72	40	32	01	06	11	06
5	Chhattisgarh	22	15	07	03	03	4	--
6	Delhi	60	37	23	05	04	5	04
7	Gauhati	24	18	06	05	02	2	01
8	Gujarat	52	28	24	05	--	4	03
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	10	03	04	--	-	02
10	Jammu & Kashmir	17	08	09	--	03	2	-
11	Jharkhand	25	19	06	04	02	3	02
12	Karnataka	62	39	23	05	02	12	09
13	Kerala	47	32	15	05	03	4	01
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	31	22	18	--	8	02
15	Madras	75	54	21	25	12	8	01
16	Manipur	05	04	01	01	--	-	-
17	Meghalaya	04	03	01	--	--	1	01
18	Orissa	27	14	13	--	--	1	-
19	Patna	53	27	26	06	06	-	05
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	49	36	01	08	7	03
21	Rajasthan	50	21	29	11	05	-	03
22	Sikkim	03	03	0	--	01	-	-
23	Telangana	24	13	11	--	--	1	03
24	Tripura	04	03	01	--	03	3	-
25	Uttarakhand	11	10	01				01
	Total	1079	658	421	126	115	108	55

