

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1593
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH JULY, 2023**

VACANCY AND CASES IN COURTS

1593. SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA:

SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

SHRI GUMAN SINGH DAMOR:

DR. SANGHMITRA MAURYA:

SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:

SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

SHRI OMPRAKASH BHUPALSINH ALIAS PAWAN AJENIMBALKAR:

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:

SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:

SHRI SANJAY JADHAV:

SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S.:

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

- (a) whether the pendency of cases in courts has increased due to vacancy of judges in different courts and tribunals and if so, the details thereof, court-wise;**
- (b) the details of sanctioned, actual strength and vacancy of judges in Supreme Court, High Courts, district courts and tribunals during the last three years and the current year, court/tribunal-wise and State/UT-wise;**
- (c) the steps taken to fill up the vacant posts within a fixed time limit in all these courts;**
- (d) whether a number of cases are pending for 10 and 15 years or more therein, if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken for their speedy disposal;**
- (e) whether there is a proposal for reservation in Higher judiciary, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the same; and**
- (f) whether the Government has a provision to make court judgements/correspondence online, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The vacancy of judges is not the sole reason for the increased pendency of cases in courts. Pendency of cases in courts can be contributed to several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

The information regarding pendency of cases in the Tribunals is not maintained by the Department. A detailed court-wise statement of pendency of cases in Supreme Court, High Courts, and District courts are at *ANNEXURE I, II* and *III* respectively.

(b): The information regarding sanctioned, working strength and vacancy in the Tribunals is not maintained by the Department. A detailed statement showing the sanctioned, actual/working strength and vacancy position of judges in Supreme Court, High Court and District Courts during the last three years and the current year are at *ANNEXURE-IV* and *V* respectively.

(c): Filling up of vacancies in 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 both at state and central level. Hence, the time for filling up of vacancies of the Judges in the higher Judiciary cannot be indicated. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of Judges in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

In case of the District/Subordinate judiciary, The Central Government has no role under the Constitution in the selection, recruitment and appointment of judicial officers at the District/Subordinate judiciary level. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government in consultation with the High Court frames the rules and regulations regarding the issues of appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. Thus, the selection and appointment of judicial officers in the Subordinate/District Courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In some States, the respective High Courts undertake the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Courts does it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions.

(d): As per the information provided by the Supreme Court of India, as on 21.03.2023, cases pending for more than 30 to 50, 30 to 40, 40 to 50 and more than 50 years is 22, 20, 2, 0 respectively. There are no cases pending for 10 and 15 years in the Supreme Court. In case of the High Courts and District Courts, as per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) on 24th July, 2023, the number of cases pending for 10 and 15 years or more is as follows:-

Details of Pendency as on 24.07.2023*					
S. No.	Name of Court	Cases pending for 10 years	Cases pending for 15 years	Cases pending for more than 15 years	
				Cases pending for 20 to 30 years	Cases pending for more than 30 years
1	High Courts	1,83,146	1,11,847	2,17,010	71,204
2	District and Subordinate Courts	8,73,587	3,09,792	5,20,588	1,01,837

*Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

The disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts.

(e): Appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. However, the Government is committed to social diversity in the appointment of

Judges in the in the Higher Judiciary and has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in appointment of Judges in High Courts.

(f): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for ICT development of the Indian Judiciary based on the “National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary”. eCourts project is being implemented in association with e-Committee Supreme Court of India and Department of Justice. Its vision is to transform the judicial system of the country by ICT enablement of courts and to enhance the judicial productivity, both qualitatively & quantitatively, making the justice delivery system accessible, cost effective, reliable, and transparent. Under Phase II of the project that was implemented from 2015 to 2023. 18,735 District & Subordinate courts computerized. All stakeholders can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 03.07.2023, Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 23.34 crore cases and more than 22.21 crore orders / judgments. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments are available for litigants and advocates on the eCourts web portal at https://ecourts.gov.in/ecourts_home/ as well as the eCourts services mobile app.

Judgments of the High Court can be retrieved from the ‘Judgment & Order Search’ portal. The ‘Judgment Search’ segment can be reached at <https://judgments.ecourts.gov.in>, which encapsulates the features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. The most important feature of this portal is using a free text search engine, which finds out judgments based on a given keyword or combination of keywords.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1593 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023
REGARDING 'VACANCY AND CASES IN COURTS'.**

Supreme Court Pendency as on 01.07.2023	69,766
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Source:- Supreme Court website

Annexure-II**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1593 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING 'VACANCY AND CASES IN COURTS'.**

High Court Pendency as on 26.07.2023*		
S. No.	Name of High Court	Total Pendency of cases
1	Allahabad	1039879
2	Bombay	700214
3	Rajasthan	652093
4	Madras	551953
5	Madhya Pradesh	445498
6	Punjab and Haryana	442805
7	Karnataka	278405
8	Andhra Pradesh	247095
9	Telangana	252901
10	Patna	203291
11	Calcutta	203637
12	Kerala	189728
13	Gujarat	165487
14	Orissa	145908
15	Delhi	110951
16	Himachal Pradesh	95184
17	Chhattisgarh	91332
18	Jharkhand	85840
19	Guwahati	60635
20	Uttarakhand	48000
21	Jammu and Kashmir	45150
22	Manipur	5034
23	Tripura	1174
24	Meghalaya	1148
25	Sikkim	157
	Total	6063499

*Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

Annexure-III

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1593 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING 'VACANCY AND CASES IN COURTS'.

Pendency of cases in District and Subordinate Court as on 24.07.2023*		
S. No.	State	Total Pendency of Cases
1	Uttar Pradesh	11635286
2	Maharashtra	5121209
3	Bihar	3508123
4	West Bengal	2908921
5	Rajasthan	2273368
6	Madhya Pradesh	2012302
7	Karnataka	1926412
8	Kerala	1885878
9	Gujarat	1697326
10	Haryana	1532073
11	Odisha	1531155
12	Tamil Nadu	1474434
13	Delhi	1229741
14	Punjab	914800
15	Telangana	909793
16	Andhra Pradesh	852215
17	Himachal Pradesh	543461
18	Jharkhand	526160
19	Assam	467874
20	Chhattisgarh	410118
21	Uttarakhand	336583
22	Jammu and Kashmir	317884
23	Chandigarh	82417
24	Goa	56545
25	Tripura	45856
26	Puducherry	34084
27	Meghalaya	15930
28	Manipur	12641
29	Andaman and Nicobar	8786
30	Mizoram	5851
31	DNH at Silvassa	4075
32	Nagaland	3316
33	Diu and Daman	3091
34	Sikkim	1816
35	Arunachal Pradesh	1387
36	Ladakh	1225
	Total	4,42,92,136

*Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1593 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023
REGARDING 'VACANCY AND CASES IN COURTS'.**

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as on 24.07.2023

		Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
A.	Supreme Court	34			32			2		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	74	21	95	45	20	65
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	22	5	27	6	4	10
3	Bombay	71	23	94	40	26	66	31	-3	28
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	33	19	52	21	-1	20
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	10	5	15	7	0	7
6	Delhi	46	14	60	41	3	44	5	11	16
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	15	9	24	7	-1	6
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	29	0	29	10	13	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	9	0	9	4	4	8
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	4	17	12	4	16	1	0	1
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	19	1	20	1	4	5
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	37	13	50	10	2	12
13	Kerala	35	12	47	28	6	34	7	6	13
14	Madhya Pradesh	39	14	53	34	0	34	5	14	19
15	Madras	56	19	75	47	16	63	9	3	12
16	Manipur	4	1	5	3	0	3	1	1	2
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	3	0	3	0	1	1
18	Orissa	24	9	33	21	0	21	3	9	12
19	Patna	40	13	53	33	0	33	7	13	20
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	38	22	60	26	-1	25
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	34	0	34	4	12	16
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	25	2	27	7	8	15
24	Tripura	4	1	5	3	0	3	1	1	2
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	8	0	8	1	2	3
	Total	840	274	1114	621	152	773	219	122	341

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as on 17.01.2022

		Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
A.	Supreme Court	34			32			02		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	120	40	160	74	19	93	46	21	67
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	09	37	20	0	20	8	9	17
3	Bombay	71	23	94	52	08	60	19	15	34
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	30	09	39	24	09	33
5	Chhattisgarh	17	05	22	10	03	13	07	02	09
6	Delhi	45	15	60	30	0	30	15	15	30
7	Gauhati	18	06	24	17	06	23	01	0	01
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	32	0	32	07	13	20
9	Himachal Pradesh	10	03	13	08	01	09	02	02	04
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	04	17	13	0	13	0	04	04
11	Jharkhand	19	06	25	19	01	20	0	05	05
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	39	06	45	08	09	17
13	Kerala	35	12	47	27	12	39	08	0	08
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	29	0	29	11	13	24
15	Madras	56	19	75	45	15	60	11	04	15
16	Manipur	04	01	05	03	01	04	01	0	01
17	Meghalaya	03	01	04	03	0	03	0	01	01
18	Orissa	20	07	27	18	0	18	02	07	09
19	Patna	40	13	53	26	0	26	14	13	27
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	43	06	49	21	15	36
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	28	0	28	10	12	22
22	Sikkim	03	0	03	03	0	03	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	19	0	19	13	10	23
24	Tripura	04	01	05	05	0	05	-01	1	0
25	Uttarakhand	09	02	11	07	0	07	02	02	04
	Total	829	269	1098	600	87	687	229	182	411

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as on 01.01.2021

		Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
A.	Supreme Court	34			30			04		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	120	40	160	82	14	96	38	26	64
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	09	37	18	0	18	10	09	19
3	Bombay	71	23	94	49	15	64	22	08	30
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	32	02	34	22	16	38
5	Chhattisgarh	17	05	22	13	01	14	04	04	08
6	Delhi	45	15	60	30	0	30	15	15	30
7	Gauhati	18	06	24	17	03	20	01	03	04
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	29	0	29	10	13	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	10	03	13	09	0	09	01	03	04
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	04	17	11	0	11	02	04	06
11	Jharkhand	19	06	25	17	0	17	02	06	08
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	26	20	46	21	-05	16
13	Kerala	35	12	47	30	07	37	05	05	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	29	0	29	11	13	24
15	Madras	56	19	75	52	10	62	04	09	13
16	Manipur	04	01	05	04	01	05	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	03	01	04	04	0	04	-01	01	0
18	Orissa	20	07	27	15	0	15	05	07	12
19	Patna	40	13	53	22	0	22	18	13	31
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	42	11	53	22	10	32
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	23	0	23	15	12	27
22	Sikkim	03	0	03	03	0	03	0	0	0
23	Telangana	18	06	24	14	0	14	04	06	10
24	Tripura	04	0	04	04	0	04	0	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	09	02	11	08	01	09	01	01	02
	Total	815	264	1079	583	85	668	232	179	411

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as on 01.01.2020

		Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
A.	Supreme Court	34			33			01		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	76	84	160	67	40	107	09	44	53
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	09	37	15	0	15	13	09	22
3	Bombay	71	23	94	55	15	70	16	08	24
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	22	18	40	32	0	32
5	Chhattisgarh	17	05	22	11	04	15	06	01	07
6	Delhi	45	15	60	36	0	36	09	15	24
7	Gauhati	18	06	24	15	06	21	03	0	03
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	27	0	27	12	13	25
9	Himachal Pradesh	10	03	13	09	01	10	01	02	03
10	Jammu & Kashmir	13	04	17	08	0	08	05	04	09
11	Jharkhand	19	06	25	17	02	19	02	04	06
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	19	21	40	28	-06	22
13	Kerala	35	12	47	27	05	32	08	07	15
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	31	0	31	09	13	22
15	Madras	56	19	75	46	09	55	10	10	20
16	Manipur	04	01	05	04	0	04	0	01	01
17	Meghalaya	03	01	04	03	0	03	0	01	01
18	Orissa	20	07	27	14	0	14	06	07	13
19	Patna	40	13	53	26	0	26	14	13	27
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	38	17	55	26	04	30
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	21	0	21	17	12	29
22	Sikkim	03	0	03	03	0	03	0	0	0
23	Telangana	18	06	24	12	01	13	06	05	11
24	Tripura	04	0	04	03	0	03	01	0	01
25	Uttarakhand	09	02	11	09	01	10	0	01	01
	Total	771	308	1079	538	140	678	233	168	401

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1593 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING 'VACANCY AND CASES IN COURTS'.

Sanctioned Strength (SS), Working Strength(WS) and Vacancy (V) position of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Judiciary for last three years *

Name of State	As on 31.12.2020			As on 31.12.2021			As on 31.12.2022			As on 25.07.2023		
	SS	WS	V	SS	WS	V	SS	WS	V	SS	WS	V
Andaman and Nicobar	0	13	-13	0	13	-13	0	13	-13	0	13	-13
Andhra Pradesh	607	510	97	607	492	115	607	534	73	618	544	74
Arunachal Pradesh	41	32	9	41	32	9	41	33	8	42	33	9
Assam	466	412	54	467	436	31	485	425	60	485	443	42
Bihar	1936	1433	503	1954	1394	560	2016	1349	667	2016	1554	462
Chandigarh	30	26	4	30	30	0	30	30	0	30	29	1
Chhattisgarh	480	387	93	482	409	73	527	437	90	556	431	125
D & N Haveli	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Daman & Diu	4	4	0	4	4	0	4	4	0	4	4	0
Delhi	799	649	150	862	689	173	884	681	203	887	706	181
Goa	50	40	10	50	40	10	50	40	10	50	40	10
Gujarat	1521	1152	369	1523	1123	400	1582	1151	431	1582	1186	396
Haryana	772	493	279	772	482	290	772	464	308	772	576	196
Himachal Pradesh	175	161	14	175	160	15	179	163	16	179	160	19
Jammu and Kashmir	296	255	41	300	241	59	314	223	91	314	227	87
Jharkhand	675	544	131	675	523	152	694	508	186	694	503	191
Karnataka	1357	1071	286	1363	1077	286	1365	1132	233	1367	1125	242
Kerala	538	470	68	569	488	81	595	473	122	603	523	80
Ladakh	16	8	8	17	9	8	17	9	8	17	9	8
Lakshadweep	3	3	0	3	3	0	4	4	0	4	3	1
Madhya Pradesh	2021	1610	411	2021	1552	469	2021	1649	372	2028	1607	421

Maharashtra	2190	1940	250	2190	1940	250	2190	1940	250	2190	1940	250
Manipur	54	36	18	59	42	17	59	42	17	59	42	17
Meghalaya	97	49	48	97	49	48	99	57	42	99	57	42
Mizoram	64	43	21	65	42	23	74	41	33	74	41	33
Nagaland	33	26	7	34	24	10	34	24	10	34	24	10
Odisha	950	756	194	976	785	191	1001	767	234	1003	808	195
Puducherry	26	11	15	26	11	15	28	11	17	29	11	18
Punjab	692	593	99	692	607	85	797	589	208	797	587	210
Rajasthan	1489	1292	197	1548	1274	274	1587	1256	331	1616	1358	258
Sikkim	25	20	5	28	20	8	30	21	9	35	23	12
Tamil Nadu	1298	1049	249	1316	1082	234	1340	1068	272	1364	1046	318
Telangana	474	378	96	474	425	49	560	410	150	560	415	145
Tripura	120	97	23	122	97	25	128	108	20	128	109	19
Uttar Pradesh	3634	2581	1053	3634	2542	1092	3647	2474	1173	3694	2484	1210
Uttarakhand	297	255	42	299	271	28	299	269	30	299	277	22
West Bengal	1014	918	96	1014	918	96	1014	918	96	1014	918	96
TOTAL	24247	19319	4928	24492	19328	5164	25077	19319	5758	25246	19858	5388

*Source: MIS portal, Department of Justice