

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1232
ANSWERED ON 01/08/2024

VACANCIES OF JUDGES

1232. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

- (a) the total number of judicial vacancies existing across Indian judiciary in terms of Judges;
- (b) the Court-wise and State/UT-wise details thereof;
- (c) the reasons behind not filling up of such vacancies;
- (d) whether Government is taking measures to fill these vacancies in order to ensure speedy delivery of justice; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The status of vacancies of Judges across the country is as under:

S. No.	Name of Court	Vacancy as on date
1.	Supreme Court	0
2.	High Courts	359
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	5,238

Further, the details of existing vacancies in Supreme Court of India & in all High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts across India are at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II* respectively.

(c) to (e): Appointment of Judges in Supreme Court and 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. 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.

The filling up of vacant positions in the District Courts of the country is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. 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. In some States, the respective High Court undertakes the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Court does it in consultation with the State Public Service Commission. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide judicial order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has stipulated certain timelines which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts for initiating the recruitment process of judges in subordinate courts.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1232 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCIES OF JUDGES'.

Vacant Positions of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as on 26.07.2024

A.	Supreme Court	0
B.	High Court	
1	Allahabad	076
2	Andhra Pradesh	9
3	Bombay	28
4	Calcutta	28
5	Chhattisgarh	7
6	Delhi	21
7	Gauhati	6
8	Gujarat	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	2
11	Jharkhand	7
12	Karnataka	12
13	Kerala	8
14	Madhya Pradesh	17
15	Madras	12
16	Manipur	1
17	Meghalaya	0
18	Orissa	13
19	Patna	19
20	Punjab & Haryana	30
21	Rajasthan	17
22	Sikkim	0
23	Telangana	14
24	Tripura	0
25	Uttarakhand	4
	Total	359

Annexure-II**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1232 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCIES OF JUDGES'.****Vacant Positions of Judicial Officers in District & Subordinate Court as on 26.07.2024**

Sl. No.	State & UT	Total Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11
3.	Assam	25
4.	Bihar	483
5.	Chandigarh	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	195
7.	D & N Haveli	1
8.	Daman & Diu	0
9.	Delhi	81
10.	Goa	10
11.	Gujarat	535
12.	Haryana	217
13.	Himachal Pradesh	19
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	100
15.	Jharkhand	203
16.	Karnataka	244
17.	Kerala	66
18.	Ladakh	8
19.	Lakshadweep	2
20.	Madhya Pradesh	319
21.	Maharashtra	250
22.	Manipur	13
23.	Meghalaya	43
24.	Mizoram	29
25.	Nagaland	10
26.	Odisha	167
27.	Puducherry	19
28.	Punjab	73
29.	Rajasthan	320
30.	Sikkim	12
31.	Tamil Nadu	339
32.	Telangana	115
33.	Tripura	24
34.	Uttar Pradesh	973
35.	Uttarakhand	28
36.	Andaman and Nicobar*	242
37.	West Bengal*	
TOTAL		5238

*Combined vacancy of UT Andaman & Nicobar Island and State of WB as shown against State of West Bengal