

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2510
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2003
PENDING COURT CASES
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

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

- (a) the number of constitutional (full bench), civil and criminal cases pending before the Supreme Court of India as on date, separately;
- (b) the number of them which are more than three years, five years old and more than five years old;
- (c) the number of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court at present alongwith dates from when they fell vacant;
- (d) the number of vacancies filled up during each of the last three years; and
- (e) the steps have been taken to dispose of the old cases?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

- (a) The Supreme Court has informed that there are 487 civil and 9 criminal Constitution Bench cases pending for hearing in the Supreme Court of India as on 28.2.2003, as per the statistics furnished by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- (b) The number of Constitution Bench cases pending before the Supreme Court of India as on 28th February, 2003, for more than three years/five years as per the statistics furnished by the NIC is detailed below:

Actual number of files

	Civil	Criminal	Total
More than three years old cases	145	01	146
More than five years old cases	88	01	89

- (c) Against the approved strength of 26 Judges in the Supreme Court, 25 Judges are in position as on date leaving one vacancy to be filled up. The post fell vacant on 19.12.2002 with the retirement of the Chief Justice of India.
- (d) The number of vacancies filled up in the Supreme Court of India during 2000, 2001 and 2002 are as follows:

Year No.of vacancies
filled up

2000	08
2001	04
2002	07

- (e) The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court has shown a downward trend. The pendency of cases which was 1,04,936 as on 31.12.1991 has come down to 24,381 as on 1.11.2002. This steep decrease is due to various steps taken by the Supreme Court viz. more practical categorisation and grouping of cases, non-accumulation of defective matters reservation of more time for old pending cases etc. The other measures include the use of information technology for better Court Management, Case Management and better Docket Management, with the result, the pendency of old cases has been brought down considerably.