

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1124

ANSWERED ON:08.02.2017

Pending Court Cases

Birla Shri Om;Chautala Shri Dushyant;Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy;Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Dwivedi Shri Harish;Hazra Dr. Anupam;Joshi Shri Chandra Prakash;Kaswan Shri Rahul;Kataria Shri Rattan Lal;Misra Shri Ajay (Teni);Muddahanumegowda Shri S.P.;Patel Smt. Jayshreeben ;Rajesh Shri M. B.;Rajoria Dr. Manoj;Rao Shri Rayapati Sambasiva;Sahu Shri Chandu Lal;Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna;Shetty Shri Gopal Chinayya;Singh Shri Hukum;Tripathi Shri Sharad;Verma Shri Rajesh;Verma Smt. Rekha Arun

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

- (a) the details of the civil and criminal cases pending at various levels in the judiciary, State and district-wise;
- (b) the steps taken / being taken to address the high pendency of cases;
- (c) the details of the vacancies of judges at various levels in the judiciary;
- (d) the steps being taken to fill up these vacancies; and
- (e) the details of any other initiative taken by the Government to provide speedy justice to the citizens?

**Answer**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY)

(a): The data on pendency of cases is maintained by Supreme Court and High Courts. As per information made available by the Supreme Court of India 50,826 civil cases and 10,874 criminal cases were pending in Supreme Court of India as on 23.11.2016. The details of pendency of civil and criminal cases in each of the High Courts and District / Subordinate Courts as on 31.03.2016 are given in the Statements at Annexure – I and Annexure – II respectively.

(b): Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of judiciary. The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of judicial officers / judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development.

(c): The sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court is 31 and 8 posts of judges are vacant as on 01.02.2017. The sanctioned strength of judges in the High Courts is 1079 in January, 2017. 433 posts of judges in the High Courts are vacant as on 01.02.2017 which includes 173 newly created posts. The details of present strength and vacancy position of Judges in various High Courts are given at Annexure – III. The Appointment of Judges and Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts falls within the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned.

(d) : Filling up of the vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous process, as it requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and increase in Judge strength. In view of the large number of vacancies and the fact that the process of supplementing the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for improvement in the "Collegium System" as per Supreme Court Order dated 16.12.2015 was likely to take some time, on the initiative of Government, the matter was taken up with the Supreme Court and the process of appointment of judges has been resumed. During the year 2016, 126 fresh appointment of Judges in High Courts and 131 Additional Judges have been made permanent, which is the highest number of appointments made in the last 26 years. In addition, the tenure of 22 Additional Judges of High Courts was also extended. 4 Judges have also been appointed in Supreme Court in 2016. In 2017 (up to 31.01.2017), 4 fresh appointments of Judges have also been made in High Court. The subject matter relating to filling up of vacancies in the District and Subordinate Courts falls within the domain of the High Courts and the State Governments concerned. The Central Government has no role in appointment of Subordinate Judiciary.

(e): The 14th Finance Commission has endorsed the proposal to strengthen the judicial system in States which includes, inter-alia, establishing 1800 Fast Track Courts( FTCs) for a period of five years for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children, disabled and litigants affected with HIV AIDS and other terminal ailments; and civil disputes involving land acquisition and property/rent disputes pending for more than five years at a cost of Rs.4,144 crore. The 14th Finance Commission has urged State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements.

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Annexure - I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1124 FOR ANSWER ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2017.

Number of Civil and Criminal cases Pending in High Courts as on 31.03.2016

S. No. Name of the High Court Civil cases Criminal cases

1	Allahabad	554626	358412
2	Andhra Pradesh	234612	38359
3	Bombay	202893	47995
4	Calcutta	181385	39826
5	Delhi	46739	16350
6	Gujarat	51856	33175
7	Gauhati	22081	4932
8	Himachal Pradesh	26314	5603
9	Jammu & Kashmir	52860	4841
10	Karnataka	221857	20661
11	Kerala	122406	35604
12	Madras	255308	35515
13	Madhya Pradesh	175326	103176
14	Orissa	128940	40280
15	Patna	79334	49017
16	Punjab & Haryana	202058	83098
17	Rajasthan	184694	63797
18	Sikkim	83	45
19	Uttarakhand	19453	8268
20	Chhattisgarh	31773	19327
21	Jharkhand	42641	38853
22	Tripura	2342	505
23	Manipur	3123	126
24	Meghalaya	568	39
	Total	2843272	1047804

Source: Court News, January – March, 2016, published by Supreme Court of India.

Annexure - II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1124 FOR ANSWER ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2017.

Number of Civil and Criminal cases Pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.03.2016

S.No. Name of State/UTs Civil cases Criminal cases

1.	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	492248	536989
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1630	8014
3.	Assam	68240	185401
4.	Bihar	337642	1748622
5.	Chhattisgarh	64562	215223
6.	Goa	24403	16050
7.	Gujarat	656336	1473180
8.	Haryana	234223	296419
9.	Himachal Pradesh	96683	122735
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	47419	88676
11.	Jharkhand	64997	263525
12.	Karnataka	683139	607345
13.	Kerala	429061	973475
14.	Madhya Pradesh	272399	936261
15.	Maharashtra	1097351	1997420
16.	Manipur	3732	3406
17.	Meghalaya	3359	10732
18.	Mizoram	2232	2533
19.	Nagaland	1883	2397
20.	Orissa	267479	829248
21.	Punjab	245443	268265
22.	Rajasthan	479662	1036667
23.	Sikkim	400	933
24.	Tamil Nadu	649860	431916
25.	Tripura	9762	145645
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1491145	4245179
27.	Uttarakhand	31047	142392
28.	West Bengal	566216	2089506
29.	A & N Island	3286	5762
30.	Chandigarh	15449	22330
31.	Daman & Diu	963	753
32.	D & N Haveli	1549	2399
33.	Delhi	161181	411829
34.	Lakshadweep	140	215

35. Pondicherry 13805 12550

Total 8518926 19133992

Source: Court News, January – March, 2016, published by Supreme Court of India.

Annexure-III

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1124 FOR ANSWER ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2017.

Statement showing the Approved Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts.

Sl. No. Name of the Court Approved Strength Working Strength Vacancies as per Approved Strength

A. Supreme Court of India 31 23 08

B. High Court Pmt. Addl Total Pmt. Addl Total Pmt. Addl Total

1 Allahabad 76 84 160 71 12 83 05 72 77

2 High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad 46 15 61 27 0 27 19 15 34

3 Bombay 71 23 94 56 06 62 15 17 32

4 Calcutta 54 18 72 37 01 38 17 17 34

5 Chhattisgarh 17 05 22 08 03 11 09 02 11

6 Delhi 45 15 60 38 0 38 07 15 22

7 Gauhati 18 06 24 07 10 17 11 -04 07

8 Gujarat 39 13 52 25 06 31 14 07 21

9 Himachal Pradesh 10 03 13 07 02 09 03 01 04

10 Jammu & Kashmir 13 04 17 09 0 09 04 04 08

11 Jharkhand 19 06 25 08 05 13 11 01 12

12 Karnataka 47 15 62 24 06 30 23 09 32

13 Kerala 35 12 47 25 12 37 10 0 10

14 Madhya Pradesh 40 13 53 18 19 37 22 -06 16

15 Madras 56 19 75 54 03 57 02 16 18

16 Manipur 04 01 05 03 0 03 01 01 02

17 Meghalaya 03 01 04 03 0 03 0 01 01

18 Orissa 20 07 27 15 03 18 05 04 09

19 Patna 40 13 53 24 06 30 16 07 23

20 Punjab & Haryana 64 21 85 45 02 47 19 19 38

21 Rajasthan 38 12 50 23 11 34 15 01 16

22 Sikkim 03 0 03 02 0 02 01 0 01

23 Tripura 04 0 04 03 0 03 01 0 01

24 Uttarakhand 09 02 11 07 0 07 02 02 04

Total 771

308

1079

539

107

646

232

201

433\*

(As on 01.02.2017)

\*Vacancies include 173 newly created posts of Judges from 01.07.2014 to 10.05.2016.