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Title: Need to fill up the vacancies of Judges in various High Courts of Country.

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI (SULTANPUR) : Out of the sanctioned strength of 1079 judges in High Courts of India, 470 posts i.e. 45% of the total posts are vacant. Data on vacancies shows that eight High Courts in the country are functioning with acting Chief Justices.

India already has one of the poorest judges per million population ratios at 10.5 unlike 41.6 of Australia, 50.9 in England, 75.2 in Canada and 107 in United States. As per the Law Commission of India report, the ideal strength of judges should be 107 per million to handle the present case load. NCRB data reveals that 68 percent of inmates in Indian prisons are under trials with at least 40% remaining in jail for more than six months. 38 lakh cases are pending in 24 High Courts with more than 2 crore cases pending at various levels of courts.

Justice delayed is justice denied and with the present overburdened judiciary, the number of pending cases is bound to increase with a possible impact on the quality of judgment. This pending results in the infringement of right of judicial remedy. Thus, it is my humble request to the Law Ministry to finalize the Memorandum on Procedure (MOP) expeditiously for appointment of judges so that vacancies can be filled and there is no violation of constitutional rights of citizens to seek justice.