

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3251
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 7TH AUGUST, 2026**

VACANCIES IN THE JUDICIARY

3251. SHRI TANGELLA UDAY SRINIVAS:

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

- (a) the sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate courts, State-wise, as on date;
- (b) the number of judicial appointments made and vacancies filled during the last five years, year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any assessment of the impact of judicial vacancies on pendency of cases and, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to expedite judicial appointments and strengthen judicial capacity for timely disposal of cases?

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): The data on Sanctioned Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts, State-wise, as on 03.08.2026, are at **Annexure I** and **Annexure II**.

(b) to (d): Appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary 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. From 2014 (May) till 03.08.2026, 77 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court and 1178 Judges have been appointed in various High Courts.

The number of judicial appointments made and vacancies filled during the last five years in Supreme Court and High Courts, year-wise is as under:

Year	Supreme Court	High Courts
2021	09	120

2022	03	165
2023	14	110
2024	04	34
2025	07	157
2026(as on 03.08.2026)	05	22

Further, filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under the 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 appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has inter-alia stipulated certain timelines, which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts for recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts.

The details of Sanctioned and Working Strength of Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts, during the last five years, year-wise is as under:

Year	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
2021	24492	19328
2022	25077	19319
2023	25345	20018
2024	25753	20694
2025	25900	21093
2026(as on 03.08.2026)	30868	23558

Disposal of cases pending in various courts lies within the domain of the Judiciary. Disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of Judges and Judicial officers, supporting court staff, physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, quality of investigation, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz bar, investigation agencies, witnesses, litigants. However, the Government is fully committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary which, inter-alia, involves timely appointment of Judges, better infrastructure for courts including computerization, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, promoting Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism, enactment and implementation of New Criminal Laws 2023, establishment of Fast Track Special Courts, re-engineering of court procedure and emphasis on human resource development.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3251 FOR ANSWER ON 07.08.2026 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN THE JUDICIARY'

Sanctioned Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts, State-wise, as on 03.08.2026

	Name of Court	Sanctioned strength	Working strength	Vacancies
A.	Supreme Court	38	35	3
B.	High Court			
1	Allahabad	160	107	53
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	32	5
3	Bombay	94	75	19
4	Calcutta	72	41	31
5	Chhattisgarh	22	13	9
6	Delhi	60	44	16
7	Gauhati	30	24	6
8	Gujarat	52	34	18
9	Himachal Pradesh	17	12	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	25	12	13
11	Jharkhand	25	13	12
12	Karnataka	62	48	14
13	Kerala	47	36	11
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	37	16
15	Madras	75	51	24
16	Manipur	5	3	2
17	Meghalaya	4	4	0
18	Orissa	33	17	16
19	Patna	53	43	10
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	55	30
21	Rajasthan	50	39	11
22	Sikkim	3	2	1
23	Telangana	42	27	15
24	Tripura	5	4	1
25	Uttarakhand	11	8	3
	Total	1122	781	341

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3251 FOR ANSWER ON 07.08.2026 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN THE JUDICIARY'

Sanctioned Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Subordinate Courts, State-wise, as on 03.08.2026

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Sanctioned strength	Working strength	Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	739	565	174
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	53	39	14
3.	Assam	486	445	41
4.	Bihar	2032	1658	374
5.	Chandigarh	30	30	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	677	500	177
7.	D & N Haveli	3	2	1
8.	Daman & Diu	4	4	0
9.	Delhi	950	832	118
10.	Goa	60	57	3
11.	Gujarat	1720	1185	535
12.	Haryana	787	648	139
13.	Himachal Pradesh	192	172	20
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	322	267	55
15.	Jharkhand	710	498	212
16.	Karnataka	2812	1172	1640
17.	Kerala	614	574	40
18.	Ladakh	17	8	9
19.	Lakshadweep	5	2	3
20.	Madhya Pradesh	2051	1683	368
21.	Maharashtra	5247	4350	897
22.	Manipur	72	47	25
23.	Meghalaya	99	57	42
24.	Mizoram	74	45	29
25.	Nagaland	34	24	10
26.	Odisha	1183	854	329
27.	Puducherry	38	26	12
28.	Punjab	834	696	138
29.	Rajasthan	1712	1517	195
30.	Sikkim	36	31	5
31.	Tamil Nadu	1400	1204	196
32.	Telangana	619	474	145
33.	Tripura	133	119	14
34.	Uttar Pradesh	3700	2618	1082
35.	Uttarakhand	318	280	38

36.	West Bengal			
	Andaman and Nicobar	1105	875	230
	Total	30,868	23,558	7,310

Source: Nyaya Vikas Portal 2.0