

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 456
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

SHORTAGE OF JUDGES

456. SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has made any assessment on the shortage of judges and vacant posts in the various courts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise specially Assam;
- (c) whether the process of recruitment has started against the said vacancies during the last five years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

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 detailed statement of vacant posts in the various courts of the country i.e. Supreme Court and High Courts (including Assam) is at *Annexure-I* and the District and Subordinate Courts in the country, State/UT-wise (including Assam) is at *Annexure-II*.

(c) & (d): Appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at the State and Centre 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.

Filling up of vacant positions in the case of 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 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 in the respective State Judicial Service. 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 the recruitment process of judges in the District and subordinate courts.

Annexure-I

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 456 FOR ANSWER ON 28.11.2024 REGARDING
'SHORTAGE OF JUDGES'.**

Vacant Positions of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as on 21.11.2024

		Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		34			32			2		
A.	Supreme Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	81	0	81	38	41	79
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	22	7	29	6	2	8
3	Bombay	71	23	94	53	15	68	18	8	26
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	33	10	43	21	8	29
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	9	7	16	8	-2	6
6	Delhi	45	15	60	34	2	36	11	13	24
7	Guwahati	22	8	30	19	5	24	3	3	6
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	32	0	32	7	13	20
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	11	0	11	2	4	6
10	J & K and Ladakh	19	6	25	12	3	15	7	3	10
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	18	0	18	2	5	7
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	44	6	50	3	9	12
13	Kerala	35	12	47	30	15	45	5	-3	2
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	35	0	35	5	13	18
15	Madras	56	19	75	56	11	67	0	8	8
16	Manipur	4	1	5	4	0	4	0	1	1
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	3	1	4	0	0	0
18	Orissa	24	9	33	19	0	19	5	9	14
19	Patna	40	13	53	35	0	35	5	13	18
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	49	4	53	15	17	32
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	32	0	32	6	12	18
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	24	3	27	8	7	15
24	Tripura	4	1	5	4	1	5	0	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	6	0	6	3	2	5
	Total	846	276	1122	668	90	758	178	186	364

Annexure-II

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 456 FOR ANSWER ON 28.11.2024 REGARDING
'SHORTAGE OF JUDGES'.**

Vacant Positions of Judicial Officers in District & Subordinate Court as on 21.11.2024

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11
3.	Assam	24
4.	Bihar	483
5.	Chandigarh	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	198
7.	D & N Haveli and	1
	Daman & Diu	0
8.	Delhi	94
9.	Goa	10
10.	Gujarat	535
11.	Haryana	218
12.	Himachal Pradesh	19
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	45
14.	Jharkhand	199
15.	Karnataka	218
16.	Kerala	76
17.	Ladakh	6
18.	Lakshadweep	0
19.	Madhya Pradesh	336
20.	Maharashtra	250
21.	Manipur	13
22.	Meghalaya	43
23.	Mizoram	29
24.	Nagaland	10
25.	Odisha	199
26.	Puducherry	10
27.	Punjab	81
28.	Rajasthan	327
29.	Sikkim	12
30.	Tamil Nadu	346
31.	Telangana	115
32.	Tripura	24
33.	Uttar Pradesh	981
34.	Uttarakhand	28
35.	Andaman and Nicobar*	
36.	West Bengal*	230
TOTAL		5245

Source: - MIS portal of Department of Justice.

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