

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.

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**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		
A.	Supreme Court	34			32			2		
B.	High 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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>1122</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>364</b>

**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 Daman & Diu	D & N Haveli	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*		230
36.	West Bengal*		
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