

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2509

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 24.03.2022

Vacancies in High Courts

2509. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that there are 216 permanent judges' vacancies in High Courts across the country besides 186 vacancies of Additional Judges;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has put in place any mechanism to fill up these vacancies in a time bound manner;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (e): As on 16.03.2022, against the sanctioned strength of 1104 Judges in the various High Courts, 699 Judges are in position, leaving 405 vacancies of Judges to be filled. A statement showing the sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies of Judges in the High Courts is placed as **Annexure**.

Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts 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.

As per the existing Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judges of High Courts, the Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposal for filling up of vacancies of a Judge in a High Court six months prior to the occurrence of vacancies. Government appoints only those persons as Judges of High Courts who are recommended by Supreme Court Collegium (SCC). Against the vacancy of 405 Judges, at present, 175 proposals are at various stages of processing between the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium. Further recommendations from High Court Collegiums are yet to be received in respect of 230 vacancies in High Courts.

Annexure

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the High Courts.

(As on 16.03.2022)

	High Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	120	40	160	74	19	93	46	21	67
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	26	0	26	2	9	11
3	Bombay	71	23	94	51	7	58	20	16	36
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	31	8	39	23	10	33
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	10	3	13	7	2	9
6	Delhi	45	15	60	33	0	33	12	15	27
7	Gauhati	18	6	24	17	6	23	1	0	1
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	32	0	32	7	13	20
9	Himachal Pradesh	10	3	13	8	1	9	2	2	4
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	4	17	13	0	13	0	4	4
11	Jharkhand	19	6	25	19	1	20	0	5	5
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	39	6	45	8	9	17
13	Kerala	35	12	47	27	12	39	8	0	8
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	35	0	35	5	13	18
15	Madras	56	19	75	44	15	59	12	4	16
16	Manipur	4	1	5	3	1	4	1	0	1
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	3	0	3	0	1	1
18	Orissa	24	9	33	21	0	21	3	9	12
19	Patna	40	13	53	25	0	25	15	13	28
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	43	6	49	21	15	36
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	26	0	26	12	12	24
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	19	0	19	13	10	23
24	Tripura	4	1	5	5	0	5	-1	1	0
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	7	0	7	2	2	4
	Total	833	271	1104	614	85	699	219	186	405