

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3782

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 25.03.2022

Appointment of Judges in High Courts

**3782. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA:
SHRI ANUMULA REVANTH REDDY:**

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

- (a) the number of judges appointed in the High courts since 2014, High Court-wise and category-wise;
- (b) the details of vacant positions of judges in the High Courts, High Court-wise along with the reasons for such vacancies;
- (c) the details of the new seats created for judges in High Courts since 2014, High court-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has undertaken steps to fill up the large number of vacancies of judges in high courts, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has undertaken steps to ensure that the composition of higher judiciary reflects the socio-economic diversity of our country, if so, the details therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (e): A Statement showing the details of appointment of Judges to the High Courts since 2014 is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-A**.

As on 14.03.2022, against the sanctioned strength of 1104 Judges in the High Courts, 699 Judges are in position, leaving 405 vacancies of Judges to be filled. Against 405 Vacancies, 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. The current strength of Judges in the High Courts and details of vacant positions is enclosed at **Annexure-B**. 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.

Since 2014 total 198 seats of Judges have been created in various High Courts the details of which are at **Annexure-C**.

Appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. However, the Government is committed to social diversity in the appointment of Judges in the in the Higher Judiciary and has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in appointment of Judges in High Courts.

ANNEXURE-A**(As on 14.03.2022)**

S. No.	High Court	Years									Total
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
1	Allahabad	13	05	20	31	28	10	04	17	-	128
2	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	01	10	-	02	07	02	07	29
3	Bombay	14	04	06	14	04	11	04	06	-	63
4	Calcutta	01	-	01	06	11	06	01	08	-	34
5	Chhattisgarh	02	-	03	03	04	-	-	03	-	15
6	Delhi	04	08	05	04	05	04	-	02	04	36
7	Gauhati	-	-	05	02	02	04	-	06	-	19
8	Gujarat	01	02	05	-	04	03	07	07	-	29
9	Himachal Pradesh	03	-	04	-	-	02	-	01	-	10
10	J & K and Ladakh	-	01	-	03	02	-	05	02	-	13
11	Jharkhand	03	-	04	02	03	02	-	04	-	18
12	Karnataka	05	-	05	02	12	10	10	06	-	50
13	Kerala	06	-	05	03	04	01	06	12	-	37
14	Madhya Pradesh	07	01	18	-	08	02	-	08	06	50
15	Madras	-	08	25	12	08	01	10	05	-	69
16	Manipur	01	-	01	-	-	-	01	-	-	03
17	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	01	01	-	-	-	02
18	Orissa	03	-	-	-	01	01	02	04	03	14
19	Patna	04	-	06	06	-	04	-	06	-	26
20	Punjab& Haryana	14	-	01	08	07	10	01	06	-	47
21	Rajasthan	01	09	11	05	-	03	06	08	-	43
22	Sikkim	-	-	-	01	-	-	-	-	-	01
23	Telangana	-	-	-	-	-	03	01	07	-	11
24	Tripura	-	-	-	-	01	-	01	-	-	02
25	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	03	03	01	-	-	-	07
	Total	82	38	126	115	108	81	66	120	20	756

ANNEXURE-B

(As on 14.03.2022)

Details of Sanctioned Strength, Working strength and Vacancies across various High Courts

		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	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

ANNEXURE-C**INCREASE IN JUDGE STRENGTH OF THE HIGH COURTS (As on 14.03.2022)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength	Judges Strength enhanced by	Date of Enhancement (After 2014)
	High Courts			
1	Allahabad	160	-	-
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	12	22.01.2016
3	Bombay	94	19	01.04.2015
4	Calcutta	72	14	10.05.2016
5	Chhattisgarh	22	04	18.03.2015
6	Delhi	60	12	01.07.2014
7	Gauhati	24	-	-
8	Gujarat	52	10	18.03.2015
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	02	01.07.2014
10	J & K and Ladakh	17	03	01.07.2014
11	Jharkhand	25	05	01.07.2014
12	Karnataka	62	12	14.10.2014
13	Kerala	47	09	26.03.2016
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	10	01.07.2014
15	Madras	75	15	21.12.2015
16	Manipur	05	01	26.10.2015
17	Meghalaya	04	01	26.10.2015
18	Orissa	33	05 & 06	14.10.2014 & 02.02.2022
19	Patna	53	10	26.10.2015
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	17	01.07.2014
21	Rajasthan	50	10	14.10.2014
22	Sikkim	03	-	-
23	Telangana	42	18	09.06.2021
24	Tripura	05	01	07.01.2021
25	Uttarakhand	11	02	14.10.2014
	Total	1104	198	