**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE**

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 585**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 14TH DECEMBER, 2018**

**Filling up vacancies in the lower judicial service**

**585. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:**

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

**(a) whether there is a backlog of around 2.85 crore pending cases in lower courts of the country;**

**(b) if so, the details of the number of pending cases in lower courts of the country, since the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;**

**(c) whether a centralised recruitment system has been proposed by Government and the Supreme Court to fill up 5000 vacancies of Judges in the lower judicial courts; and**

**(d) if so, the details of the recruitment process along with the time-frame of its initiation and the procedure thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

**(SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY)**

(a) : As per the data available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), 2.91 crore cases were pending in the district and subordinate courts as on 10.12.2018.

(b) : Details of year-wise and State-wise pendency of cases in District and Subordinate Courts during the last three years is attached in a Statement at ***Annexure***.

(c) & (d): The appointment of Judges and Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts falls within the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned in which the Central Government has no role. However, in order to facilitate regular filling up of these vacancies in a smooth and time-bound manner, the Department of Justice *vide* its letter dated 28th April, 2017 suggested certain options to the Hon’ble Supreme Court for creation of a Central Selection Mechanism. The Hon’ble Supreme Court *suo motu* converted the Government’s suggestions into a writ petition on 09th May, 2017 and directed all State Governments (including Union Territories) to file their responses and suggestions by way of affidavits. The above matter is *subjudice* at present.

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**Annexure**

**Statement referred to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 585 for reply on 14.12.2018**

**Year-wise (for last three years) and State-wise pending cases in District and Subordinate Courts**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sl. No** | **Name of States/UTs** | **Number of Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2016$** | **Number of Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2017$$** | **Number of Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 10.12.2018$$** |
| 1. | A & N Island | 8,767 | 11,185 | --- |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh  | 10,77,944 | 4,99,246 | 5,22,853 |
| 3. | Telangana | 4,16,164 | 5,14,425 |
| 4. | Arunachal Pradesh | 14,583 | --- | --- |
| 5. | Assam | 2,58,639 | 2,23,954 | 2,84,344 |
| 6. | Bihar | 21,28,325 | 16,58,292 | 24,39,139 |
| 7. | Chandigarh | 38,907 | 38,628 | 42,980 |
| 8. | Chhattisgarh | 2,90,434 | 2,72,888 | 2,57,782 |
| 9. | D & N Haveli | 3,766 | 3,552 | 2,465 |
| 10. | Daman & Diu | 1,720 | 1,746 | 1,758 |
| 11. | Delhi | 6,06,181 | 6,07,036 | 7,19,977 |
| 12. | Goa | 42,074 | 39,745 | 43,825 |
| 13. | Gujarat | 18,22,311 | 16,41,355 | 16,59,335 |
| 14. | Haryana | 5,47,736 | 6,45,647 | 7,21,335 |
| 15. | Himachal Pradesh | 2,06,941 | 2,09,938 | 2,56,577 |
| 16. | Jammu & Kashmir | 1,45,999 | 1,21,754 | 1,55,889 |
| 17. | Jharkhand | 3,42,768 | 3,33,494 | 3,53,670 |
| 18. | Karnataka | 13,62,167 | 13,81,438 | 12,77,153 |
| 19. | Kerala | 14,82,667 | 11,52,056 | 11,62,952 |
| 20. | Lakshadweep | 357 | --- | --- |
| 21. | Madhya Pradesh | 10,97,634 | 13,25,053 | 13,70,355 |
| 22. | Maharashtra | 32,39,540 | 33,36,574 | 35,61,746 |
| 23. | Manipur | 6,978 | 9,604 | 9,994 |
| 24. | Meghalaya | 15,239 | 7,032 | 6,727 |
| 25. | Mizoram | 4,665 | 3,306 | 3,653 |
| 26. | Nagaland | 4,450 | --- | --- |
| 27. | Odisha | 10,49,325 | 10,22,635 | 11,23,055 |
| 28. | Punjab | 5,04,320 | 5,68,232 | 5,99,053 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 11,48,704 | 14,24,560 | 15,05,712 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 1,434 | 1,400 | 1,306 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 10,99,521 | 10,10,381 | 11,03,460 |
| 32. | Puducherry | --- | --- |
| 33. | Tripura | 43,568 | 25,191 | 23,519 |
| 34. | Uttar Pradesh  | 59,80,071 | 61,61,822 | 70,04,569 |
| 35. | Uttarakhand | 1,90,948 | 2,10,587 | 2,38,349 |
| 36. | West Bengal  | 27,28,753 | 17,59,635 | 22,05,954 |
| **Total** | **2,74,97,436** | **2,61,24,130** | **2,91,73,911** |

**$ Source: High Courts**

**$$ Source: NJDG Web portal.**

**Note:** Data onDistrict and Subordinate Courts in the States of **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland**, and Union Territories of **Lakshadweep** and **Puducherry** are not available on the web-portal of NJDG. Data in respect of **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** as on 10.12.2018 is not available on NJDG Portal.

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