

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 264**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05TH FEBRUARY, 2019/ MAGHA 16, 1940 (SAKA)
VACANCIES IN FSL**

264. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has sought explanation from Union and State Governments on the large number of vacancies in Forensic Science Laboratories (FSL) which is hampering speedy trial in criminal cases by not placing Crime reports in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of FSLs under Union Government and different State Governments at present;

(d) the total sanctioned strength of these FSLs;

(e) whether the Government proposes to launch a special drive in consultation with the States to fill up the vacant posts in the FSLs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

(a) & (b): The Supreme Court vide its order dated 29 November 2018 directed, inter-alia, that the Ministry of Home Affairs should indicate the timeline for filing up of vacant posts in Central Forensic Science Laboratories (CFSLs).

(c): A total of seven CFSLs and 32 State Forensic Science Laboratories are functioning in the country at present.

(d): As per available information, the total sanctioned strength of seven CFSLs is 562. Data on sanctioned strength in State FSLs is not maintained centrally. However, as per the information furnished by States/UTs pursuant to the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP(Civil) 749, as on 28-11-2018 the sanctioned strength of FSLs in States/UTs is 8220.

(e) & (f): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and therefore State Governments are competent to launch special drive to fill vacant posts in State FSLs.

In case of CFSLs, Government has identified action points which include filling up of the posts and streamlining the Recruitment Rules. CFSLs have also engaged 69 candidates shortlisted through a Forensic Aptitude and Caliber Assessment Test (FACT) undertaken by Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology & Forensic Science.
