

Centre has initiated process to fill vacancies in High Courts

Union Minister for Law and Justice D.V. Sadananda Gowda has said that the Centre has initiated steps to fill vacancies in High Courts.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, he said that there were 430 vacancies in High Courts and 31 judges were appointed last year. Another 51 were appointed from January to March.

Mr. Gowda said that the ministry had received a proposal from States for filling another 203 posts and these names had been sent back to the respective State governments seeking their opinion and confidential reports.

He said that the proposal for appointing 18 judges – eight judicial officers from the lower courts to be promoted as High Court judges and 10 from the Bar—had been received from Karnataka and these names had been referred back to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking his opinion and confidential reports.

Opinion

“Once we get the confidential reports and opinion from the State governments, the process of appointment of judges will begin,” Mr. Gowda said. Asked when this process would be completed, he said, “Within two months.”

To a question on the demand for the inclusion of Koppal and Ballary districts within the jurisdiction of the Kalaburagi Bench of the High Court of Karnataka, Mr. Gowda said that he was in favour of it personally.

He hastened to add that the Union government unilaterally could not take any decision on the issue and a proposal should come from the State government.