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31/07/2018

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The Judge - population ratio in India is among the lowest in the world. In this scenario, do you agree with the view that India should consider increasing the retirement age for Judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court? Justify your stand.

The main reason for considering the increase in retirement age for High Court and Supreme Court Judges is due to backlog of cases and less Judge to population ratio. But increasing the retirement age not the solution for backlog cases.

In this regard the major reason for backlog cases is adjournments. More than 91% of cases that were delayed over 2 years sought adjournments and it was granted.

When compared with other developed countries the retirement age is high it is due to the demographics of that country. In case of India nearly 45% are below 25 years old and only 6% are above 65 years old. But developed countries are having more than 15% in 65 plus age group. Hence India is much different

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from developed countries. And the life expectancy in India is nearly 69 Years

India has the highest backlog when compared to other countries and this implies that the workload of Indian Judge is high. Hence it is better if the Judges retire early as they are not overburdened at an older age.

The problem of Judge to Population ratio can be addressed by conducting All India test for lower Judiciary. And Government should Accelerate the appointment of Judges which is already recommended by the Collegium. The Experience of the retired Judges can be utilized in teaching profession and as a Valuable chairperson in committees for policy reforms, legal aid etc..

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