## ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ, ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖನಾ ಶಾಖೆ KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RESEARCH AND REFERENCE BRANCH

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## /Cabinet nod for more judges in SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Acting at the request of the Chief Justice of India, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday decided to increase the number of Supreme Court judges from 31 to 34.

The move comes against the backdrop of the rising number of cases in the top court, which stands at nearly 60,000.

At present, the sanctioned strength of the court is 30, excluding the Chief Justice of India.

Once the Bill gets parliamentary approval, the number of judges will go up to 33, excluding the CJI, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi recently wrote to the Prime Minister seeking more judges.

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According to a written reply by the Law Ministry to a Rajya Sabha question on July 11, 59,331 cases are pending in the top court.

Due to paucity of judges, the required number of Constitution Benches to decide important cases were not being formed, the CJI wrote. "You would recall that way back in 1988, about three decades ago, the judge strength of the SC was increased from 18 to 26, and then again after two de-

cades in 2009, it was increased to 31, including the CJI, to expedite disposal of Cases to keep pace with the rate of institution," he wrote.

"I request you to kindly consider, on top priority, to augment the judge strength in the SC appropriately so that it can function more efficiently and effectively as it will go a long way to attain the ultimate goal of rendering timely justice to the litigant public," the CJI wrote.