

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1367

ANSWERED on Tuesday, March, 11, 2025/ 20 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)

Vacancies in DRTs

1367 Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for vacancies in one-third of the 39 Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) across the country, which are non-functional due to the absence of presiding officers;
- (b) the steps being taken to expedite the selection and appointment process of presiding officers to address the backlog of cases;
- (c) the mechanisms in place to prevent such vacancies from recurring, given the significant impact on the recovery of debts and the functioning of financial institutions; and
- (d) the plans to enhance the efficiency of the DRT system to better support the recovery process and financial stability in the country?

ANSWER

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
(Shri Pankaj Chaudhary)

(a) and (b) At present out of thirty-nine (39) posts of Presiding Officers in Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) there are thirty-six (36) posts of Presiding Officers that are filled up. The Government takes required steps to fill up vacancies expeditiously.

(c) The anticipated vacancies of Presiding Officer in Debts Recovery Tribunal are advertised well before the occurrence of the vacancy.

As per Section 5 of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 the term of officer of Presiding Officer of Debts Recovery Tribunal is four (04) years or till he attains the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier. Hence, the selection to the post of POs in DRTs is a dynamic and ongoing process.

(d) The Government has taken a number of steps to improve the efficiency of the Tribunals and quick disposal of pending cases, summarised as under:

- ❖ Mandatory e filing of applications involving an amount of Rs.100 crores and above, w.e.f. 22.7.2021 vide Notification GSR.501(E);
- ❖ Mandatory e filing extended to all types of applications in these Tribunals and Appellate Tribunals w.e.f. 1.2.2023 irrespective of the amount involved vide Notification GSR.79 (E);
- ❖ Hybrid Hearing system has been enabled in DRTs and DRATs;
- ❖ Video Conferencing facilities have been enabled in DRTs and DRATs;
- ❖ e DRT help desk established in all the DRTs and DRATs for ease of the litigants in filing their cases on line;
- ❖ Extensive training on e filing system imparted to the advocates/litigants and other concerned persons;
- ❖ E Sewa Kendras set up in all DRTs and DRATs to assist the litigants in e filing of cases ;
- ❖ Standard Operating Procedure for e Sewa Kendra issued;
- ❖ A digital assistant has been made available for the assistance of litigants for redressal of their difficulties.
- ❖ Regular training is imparted to the officers of Debts Recovery Tribunals to build their capacity for efficient disposal of cases.
