

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2193
ANSWERED ON 07/08/2025

PLAN TO SET UP TRIBUNALS

2193 SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

Will the Minister of **LAW AND JUSTICE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plans to do away with Tribunals set up to address disputes in various Ministries and Departments and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Courts in the country are badly affected by the high pendency of criminal and civil cases;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the total number of pending criminal and civil cases in SC, HCs and District courts and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to establish a of permanent bench of Supreme Court at Chennai?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): There is no proposal to do away with Tribunals set up to address disputes in various Ministries and Departments.

(b) & (c): As per information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the details of cases pending in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts as on 05.08.2025 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
1.	Supreme Court of India	68195	18533
2.	High Courts	44,44,001	18,93,264
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	1,10,30,644	3,57,96,446

There are several reasons that lead to pendency of cases across various courts. The reasons, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff,

complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch similar nature of cases for hearing. Moreover, in case of pendency of criminal cases, the Criminal Justice System functions on assistance by various agencies viz. Police, Prosecution, Forensic Labs, Handwriting Experts and Medico-Legal Experts. Delay in requisite support from allied agencies also entails delay in disposal of cases. However, the disposal of pending criminal and civil cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary.

(d): Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

Representations have been received from time to time from various quarters for establishment of Benches of Supreme Court in various parts of the Country. The Eleventh Law Commission in its 125th Report titled "The Supreme Court A Fresh Look", submitted in 1988, reiterated the recommendations made by Tenth Law Commission in its 95th Report for splitting the Supreme Court into two namely (i) Constitutional Court at Delhi and (ii) Court of Appeal or Federal Court sitting in North, South, East, West and Central India. The Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229th Report submitted in 2009 had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, Eastern region at Kolkata and Western region at Mumbai.

The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who informed that after consideration of the matter, the Full Court in its meeting held on 18th February, 2010, found no justification for setting up of benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi. The Chief Justice of India had earlier conveyed similar views in August, 2007.

In Writ Petition WP(C) No. 36/2016 on establishment of National Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 13.07.2016 deemed it proper to refer the aforementioned issue to Constitutional Bench for authoritative pronouncement. The matter is currently sub-judice in the Supreme Court.
