

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2186
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2025**

EFFECTIVENESS OF TRIBUNALS

2186 Shri Vivek K. Tankha:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to overcome impediments affecting the functioning of tribunals after the enactment of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021;
- (b) if so, whether vacancies in tribunals are being filled expeditiously;
- (c) whether e-filing and digital case-management systems are being strengthened to improve efficiency;
- (d) whether periodic performance audits of tribunals are being conducted; and
- (e) whether coordination mechanisms with High Courts and commercial courts have been established for effective disposal of transferred cases?

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) & (b): Consequent to the enactment of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, sixteen Tribunals have been placed under First Schedule of the Act which are under the purview of various Ministries/Departments as per **Annexure**. The administrative Ministry/Department which administer and are concerned with the subject matter of Tribunals under their respective allocation have not reported any persistent or emerging impediments affecting the functioning of the Tribunals.

Vacancies in various Tribunals occur on account of retirement, resignation, promotion and voluntary retirement etc. and filled up as per statutory provisions. Occurring of Vacancies and its filling up of is a continuous process. As per Sub-section (7) of Section 3 of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, the selection process *inter-alia*, states that “the Central Government shall take a decision on the recommendations made by the Search-cum-Selection-Committee (SCSC), preferably within three months from the date of such recommendation”. Hence, vacancies arise, if any, from time to time in the Tribunals are filled up as per aforesaid statutory provisions.

The provisions of Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 has however, been struck down by Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 19.11.2025 in the matter of W.P.(C) No. 1018 of 2021- Madras Bar Association vs. Union of India and Anr.

(c): The e-Filing and digital management systems have been implemented across most of the Tribunals through ePortal for facilitating electronic filing of appeals, applications, petitions and documents therein, which helped the litigants and advocates to track the case status, orders, daily cause list, etc. with ease and widely accepted by all the stakeholders. Upgradation of infrastructure like provision of free and high-speed internet has also been provided on Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) for facilitating uninterrupted virtual / hybrid hearings including the state-of-the-art video conferencing infrastructure for access by all stakeholders improve the efficiency in the Tribunals in disposing of various cases.

(d): The Tribunals concerned have reported that periodic performance audits are being undertaken regularly in respective Tribunals by the Internal Audit Team and through Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India, from time to time in accordance with the applicable Acts and Rules framed thereunder.

(e): The Tribunals being statutory/quasi-judicial body established under the provisions of Central Acts under the administrative control of various Ministries/Departments, they are entrusted to hear and dispose of appeals independently as per provision of their respective Acts and Rules framed thereunder. The cases, if any, transferred from High Courts and commercial courts are also dealt accordingly on priority for its effective disposal under the relevant Acts and Rules of the respective Tribunals.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.2186 for reply on 18/12/2025 regarding “Effectiveness of Tribunals”

Sl. No.	Tribunal/Appellate Tribunal/Board/Authority	Ministry/Department
1	Industrial Tribunal constituted by the Central Government	Ministry of Labour & Employment
2	Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal	Department of Legal Affairs
3	Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal	Department of Revenue
4	Appellate Tribunal [under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976]	Department of Revenue
5	Central Administrative Tribunal	Department of Personnel and Training
6	State Administrative Tribunals	Department of Personnel and Training
7	Railway Claims Tribunal	Ministry of Railways
8	Securities Appellate Tribunal	Department of Economic Affairs
9	Debts Recovery Tribunal	Department of Financial Services
10	Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal	Department of Financial Services
11	Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal	Department of Telecommunication
12	National Company Law Appellate Tribunal	Ministry of Corporate Affairs
13	National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission	Department of Consumer Affairs
14	Appellate Tribunal for Electricity	Ministry of Power
15	Armed Forces Tribunal	Department of Defence
16	National Green Tribunal	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change