

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *275
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

Functioning of NGT's Eastern Zone Bench

*275. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of concerns regarding the absence of regular sittings of National Green Tribunal's Eastern Zone Bench at Kolkata and consequent delays in adjudication of environmental matters;
- (b) the number of Judicial and Expert Member posts sanctioned, filled and vacant for the Bench;
- (c) the number of cases pending before the Bench along with average case-disposal time during the last three years; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to ensure regular sittings with dedicated Judicial and Expert Members at Kolkata and if so, the timeline thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

- (a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) to (D) IN RESPECT OF
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 275 DUE FOR REPLY ON 13.08.2026
REGARDING FUNCTIONING OF NGT'S EASTERN ZONE BENCH ASKED BY
SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA.**

(a) to (d): The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has minimum sanctioned strength of twenty one (21) including a chairperson, ten (10) Judicial Members and ten (10) Expert Members. The National Green Tribunal, having all-India jurisdiction, functions through five Benches, namely Principal Bench, New Delhi; Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata; Western Zone Bench, Pune; Central Zone Bench, Bhopal; and Southern Zone Bench, Chennai. Against the sanctioned strength, presently four (04) Judicial Members and six (06) Expert Members are in position.

Each Zonal Bench comprises of one Judicial and one Expert Member, as per availability. To ensure regular sitting, the NGT has informed that cases of the Eastern Zone Bench are heard regularly by the Judicial Member of the Principal Bench through video conferencing and by the Expert Member of the Kolkata Bench. Approximately 13 to 15 cases are heard on daily basis including urgent matters on priority. It has further been informed that the NGT, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata is provided with one additional Expert Member from the Principal Bench with effect from 03.08.2026 through video conferencing, along with the Judicial Member and the existing Expert Member at the Kolkata Bench.

As per information provided by the NGT, 605 cases are pending before the Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata as on 30.06.2026. The average case disposal time during the last three years, i.e., from June 2023 to May 2026, has been reported as 4 months and 4 days, which is within the period of six months prescribed for the Tribunal to endeavour to dispose of matters under Section 18(3) of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
