

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2988
ANSWERED ON – 13/08/2026

STRENGTHENING OF TRIBUNALS

2988 # SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:
SHRI BRIJ LAL:
SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken to ensure the timely appointment and stable tenure of Chairpersons, Presiding Officers and members of various tribunals;
- (b) whether any proposal is under consideration to establish a National Tribunals Commission, in order to strengthen the institutional oversight of tribunals;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the measures being taken to meet the infrastructural and administrative requirements of tribunals functioning across the country; and
- (e) the roadmap for strengthening the functional and administrative autonomy of tribunals in the future?

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) to (c): Consequent upon the enactment of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, sixteen Tribunals have been placed under First Schedule of the said Act which are under the purview of various Ministries/Departments. Timely appointment and tenure of Chairpersons, Presiding Officers and members of tribunals have been administered by the respective administrative Ministry/Department as per the statutory provision under the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 and Rules framed thereon.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 19.11.2025 in the matter of Madras Bar Association vs. UOI, W.P.(C) No.1018 of 2021, inter-alia, vide para-142 of the said judgement, has struck down certain provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 and given its findings regarding the working of the Tribunals under the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 and Rules framed thereon.

In order to comply inter alia with the directions at para-153 of the above said judgement and to establish a 'National Tribunals Commission', both the Houses of Parliament have in this session passed the 'Tribunal Reforms Bill, 2026'.

(d) & (e): The Government is making all efforts to fill the vacancies in the various Tribunals besides augmenting their infrastructural requirements and human resources. Various steps including legislative measures and framing of standard operating procedures have been and are undertaken for efficient functioning of the Tribunals and for timely disposal of cases. This includes strengthening digital infrastructure, adoption of e-Office, Court Room hearing by way of Video Conferencing, digitization of records, online case management systems, and continuous monitoring of administrative efficiency for early disposal of cases. 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 provisions of their respective Acts and Rules framed thereunder.
