

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1267**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2017

**Vacant Posts in NGT**

1267. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:  
SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN:

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

- (a) the total sanctioned strength vis-à-vis the total number of vacant posts in the National Green Tribunal (NGT);
- (b) the reasons for discrepancies between sanctioned and actual strength of NGT and the steps being taken to ensure that these vacancies are filled at the earliest;
- (c) whether a number of posts of judges and experts are lying vacant at the Chennai bench of NGT catering to the cases of Southern Region and a number of cases are pending for a long time;
- (d) if so, the details of the sanctioned strength of judges and experts in NGT Chennai and the posts lying vacant since when along with the details of the cases pending; and
- (e) the reasons for delay in filling up the vacancies and the measures being taken to fill up the vacancies to make efficient the functioning of NGT Chennai?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

(a) The total sanctioned strength in the National Green Tribunal comprises one Chairperson, ten Judicial Members, ten Expert Members and 161 other posts. The number of vacant posts as on 21.12.2017 are one Chairperson, five Judicial Members, eight Expert Members and 81 other posts.

(b) The different posts have fallen vacant due to superannuation, resignation, promotion or completion of deputation tenure of the incumbents. As per the provisions of National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 and the Rules framed thereunder, as amended from time to time, necessary steps are being taken to fill up the vacancies.

(c) & (d) The Southern Zonal Bench of NGT has two Benches. On attainment of superannuation of 1 Judicial Member, only 1 Bench was functional. With the

superannuation of 2 Expert Members, three vacancies had arisen. As on 21.12.2017, there are 544 cases pending in the Chennai Bench of NGT.

(e) Applications have been invited for filling up the posts of Judicial Members and Expert Members in the NGT vide advertisement issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 and subsequent advertisement issued on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 in compliance with the provisions of the Tribunal, Appellate Tribunal and other Authorities (Qualifications, Experience and other Conditions of Service of Members) Rules, 2017, notified by the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2017. The Search-cum-Selection Committee for the vacant posts of the Chairperson and Judicial Members has been constituted and that for the Expert Members is under finalization. To fill up the other vacant posts, efforts are being made by the NGT to fill these posts by promotion or on deputation basis.

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