

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

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**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4856  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2023**

**ACHIEVEMENT OF TRIBUNALS**

**4856. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY:**

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

- (a) the number of tribunals functioning in the country at present;
- (b) the present status of the progress made with regard to the merger of various tribunals in the country;
- (c) whether these tribunals have been successful in achieving their objectives; and
- (d) if not, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to review/improve their functioning?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

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(a) As per First Schedule of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, the number of Tribunals in the country is sixteen.

(b) As per information received in the Department, the following tribunal *inter-alia* have either been merged or abolished.

(i) The Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 has been merged with Appellate Tribunal (Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators Act) in accordance with the Finance Act, 2017.

(ii) The Competition Appellate Tribunal has been merged with the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) with effect from 26.05.2017.

(iii) The Employee Provident Fund Appellate Tribunals were merged with the Central Government Industrial Tribunals-cum-Labour Courts and National Industrial Tribunals (CGIT-cum-LCs/NITs) after enactment of the Finance Act, 2017.

(iv) As per the Second Schedule of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, the following Tribunals ceased to hold office:

- i. Appellate Tribunal under Cinematograph Act, 1952;
- ii. Authority for Advance Rulings under Income Tax Act, 1961;
- iii. Airport Appellate Tribunal under Airports Authority of India Act, 1994;
- iv. Intellectual Property Appellate Board under Trade Marks Act, 1999; and
- v. Plant Varieties Protection Appellate Tribunal under Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001.

(c) The Tribunals have been set up to reduce the workload of courts, to expedite decisions and to provide a forum for adjudication of the disputes in the areas falling under the jurisdiction of that Tribunal. These tribunals perform an important and specialised role in justice dispensation and have been successful in their objective.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.