

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1169
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 06th FEBRUARY, 2026**

Establishing Benches of Supreme Court in Southern States

1169. Shri Ve Vaithilingam:

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

- (a) whether the Government has examined the feasibility of establishing permanent benches of the Supreme Court of India in southern States and Union Territories, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry, for improving access to justice and reducing hardships to litigants;
- (b) if so, the details of consultations held by the Government with the Supreme Court, High Courts concerned Bar Councils and advocates' associations on the above proposal; and
- (c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government for evaluating regional case-load, logistical requirements and legal steps for placing a reasoned proposal before the competent authorities?

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): Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

The Eleventh Law Commission in its 125th Report titled “The Supreme Court – A Fresh Look”, submitted in 1988, reiterated the recommendations made by Tenth Law Commission in its 95th Report for splitting the Supreme Court into two namely (i) Constitutional Court at Delhi and (ii) Court of appeal or Federal Court sitting in North, South, East, West and Central India. The Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229th Report had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, Eastern region at Kolkata and Western region at Mumbai.

The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who has informed that after consideration of the matter, the Full Court in its meeting held on 18th February, 2010, found no justification for setting up of benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

In Writ Petition WP(C) No. 36/2016 on establishment of National Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 13.07.2016 deemed it proper to refer the aforementioned issue to Constitutional Bench for authoritative pronouncement. The matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court.
