

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

Lok Sabha

Unstarred Question No. 2186

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 29.07.2022

Strengthening of Quasi-Judicial Bodies

2186. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:

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

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of issues like high pendency pertaining to quasi judicial bodies/ tribunals/regulatory bodies in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for increasing transparency, efficiency and impartiality of quasi-judicial bodies in the country in the recent times; and
- (c) whether, the Government is taking any steps to strengthen infrastructure, digitization and human resources in quasi-judicial bodies in the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a), (b) &(c) : Information has been compiled and is placed as Annexure-I.

	Ministry of Railways	M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Department of Defence	M/o Labour and Employment	ITAT, Ministry of Law & Justice
Whether the Government is aware of issues like high pendency pertaining to quasi judicial bodies/ tribunals/regulatory bodies in the country and if so, the details thereof;	As on 30.06.2022 24,133 cases were pending in Railway Claims Tribunal.	(a) to (c) It is stated that the disposal rate of cases in NGT is higher than the filing rate. The NGT has delivered a number of significant	Total pending cases at AFTs including OAs & TAs is 22786.	Cases pending before CGITs-cum-LCs under ID Act, 1947 in June, 2022 are 15836.	As on 1.7.2022, the pendency of appeals in ITAT is 47940.
the steps taken by the Government for increasing transparency, efficiency and impartiality of quasi-judicial bodies in the country in the recent times; and	<p>The steps taken by the Government for increasing transparency, efficiency and impartiality of Railway Claims Tribunal are as under:-</p> <p>1. Installation of CCTV Cameras at all the Benches of RCT- In order to ensure transparency in judicial proceedings and avoid any untoward incident in the Court, CCTV cameras with audio</p>	<p>judgments on range of issues from across the country such as Environment Clearance, Forest Clearance, Pollution (Air & Water), Coastal Regulation Zone and Waste Management.</p>	<p>(b) & (c) : Besides Physical hearing, the matters are also taken up through virtual hearing matters of Regional Benches where there is shortage of members are also taken up</p>		<p>The Government through various initiatives in infrastructure, digitization and human resources has endeavoured to enhance transparency, efficiency & impartiality in ITAT.</p> <p><u>I. INFRASTRUCTURE(THE PREMISES OF BENCHES OF ITAT)</u></p> <p>1.1 The ITAT is functioning from its own building in Jaipur, Bangalore and Cuttack.</p> <p>1.2 Piece of land has been purchased by the ITAT in Pune, Lucknow, Guwahati, Kolkata and Ahmedabad for construction</p>

	<p>recording facility have been installed in 19 out of 20 Benches of RCT. The work of installation of CCTV camera is under process in Ernakulam Bench.</p> <p>2. Disbursement of cash component of decretal amount to claimants through electronic transfer - In order to safeguard the financial interest of poor and illiterate litigants and ensure they directly receive the decretal amount in their bank accounts, cheque payment has been dispensed with and all cash payments are made through RTGS/NEFT etc.</p> <p>3. Circulars are issued from time to time to ensure uniformity and clarity in procedure for registration of cases and release of decretal amount deposited in the Suitor's Account in all the Benches of RCT.</p> <p>4. The court cases of RCT's have also been linked with Legal Information Management & Briefing System (LIMBS).</p>		<p>and disposed off by adopting virtual mode.</p> <p>During Covid-19 pandemic three courts at AFT (PB) were also functional through video conferencing.</p>		<p>of office-cum-residential buildings. The construction of office building in New Delhi by the NBCC India Ltd. is likely to be completed by December, 2022. An office space in the newly constructed GPOA Building at Naya Raipur (Atal Nagar), Chhattisgarh has been allotted to the ITAT, Raipur Bench.</p> <p>II. DIGITALIZATION:</p> <p>Over the years, various projects have been undertaken and implemented by the Tribunal to live up to its motto "<u>NishpakshSulabhSatvarNyay</u>". It includes ITAT Online Project, Digital Display Boards, Launching of Mobile Application, Budget and Expenditure Monitoring System, E-Court etc.</p> <p>RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS IN YEAR 2021</p> <p>(a) <u>Virtual Hearings</u></p> <p>Consequent to imposition of lockdown, court proceedings in ITAT benches across the country have come to a halt. ITAT has, however, quickly taken up the challenge posed by Covid and restarted judicial proceedings by adopting solutions offered by information and communication</p>
whether, the Government is taking any steps to strengthen	1. The work of "Computerization and Digitization of RCT benches" with				

<p>infrastructure, digitization and human resources in quasi-judicial bodies in the country and if so, the details thereof?</p>	<p>the help of NIC at the cost of Rs. 7.59 Crores, "Replacement of Hardware and Networking equipment of all locations of Web enabled Claims" at the cost of Rs. 2.54 Crores and "Implementation of e-Office in all RCT benches" at the cost of Rs. 4.49 Crores have already been sanctioned and work are in progress.</p> <p>2. Railway Board has already issued directions to all Zonal Railways for provision of free legal aid service to the applicant of weaker section of society involved in untoward incident under Section 124A of RCT Act, 1987 and provision of litigants shed in</p>				<p>technology.</p> <p>(b) <u>Launching of ई-द्वार(ITAT E-Filing Portal)</u></p> <p>ई-द्वार, the E-Filing Portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, has been launched for enabling the appellants to file their appeals, cross objections and applications from their doorsteps.</p> <p>(c) <u>Publishing of Daily Orders</u></p> <p>ITAT has started publishing of the daily orders passed by various Benches of the Tribunal on the official website.</p> <p>(d) <u>Paperless Courts</u></p> <p>As a pilot project, the trial run of court proceedings in paperless environment has been successfully conducted and the President's Court Room at ITAT, Delhi has been upgraded as Paperless Court.</p> <p>III. <u>HUMAN RESOURCES</u></p> <p>The Government has recently appointed 21 Accountant/Judicial Member in ITAT. Six Assistant Registrars of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal were promoted to the post of Deputy Registrar in Income Tax Appellate Tribunal</p>
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	<p>the premises of RCT benches with all basic facilities.</p> <p>3. To leverage improved productivity and employee satisfaction, administrative work of Railway employees are carried out through Human Resource Management System (HRMS).</p> <p>4. Workshops were organised for Vice-Chairmen and Members of RCT at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal in 2016, 2018, 2019 & at Delhi Judicial Academy, Dwarka, New Delhi in 2017. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the new members who joined RCT, were acquainted with the procedures of the Tribunal through an online series of</p>				<p>in 2019. The DPC for the post of Deputy Registrar will be convened as and when the requisite officers are eligible for the post of Deputy Registrar. The UPSC has advised to amend the Recruitment Rules for direct appointment to the post of Assistant Registrar, which is under consideration.</p>
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	virtual webinars organized by the Principal Bench in lieu of the physical judicial training module.				
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