

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3222

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 5TH AUGUST, 2022

Merger of Tribunals

3222. DR. NISHIKANT 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 Government to review/improve their functioning?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) : As per available records, the information is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Ministry/Department	Name of the Tribunal/Appellate Tribunal
1	Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice	Income Tax Appellate Tribunal
2	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)
3	Department of Personnel & Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances	Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)

	and Pensions	
4	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change	National Green Tribunal (NGT)
5	Ministry of Railways	Railway Claims Tribunal
6	Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance	Central Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT)
		Appellate Tribunal (SAFEMA)
7	Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance	Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT)
		Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT)
8	Department of Defence, Ministry of Defence	Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT)
9	Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications	Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)
10	Ministry of Power	Appellate Tribunal for Electricity
11	Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance	Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)
12	Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution	National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)
13	Ministry of Labour & Employment	Central Government Industrial Tribunal- cum-Labour Courts (CGITs)

(b) to (d):The merger of Tribunals was carried out by Ministry of Law and Justice through Finance Act, 2017 during the first phase of Tribunal Reforms. Thereafter, the task of further progress in this regard has been entrusted upon the Department of Revenue. Subsequently, the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021 has been promulgated on 04.04.2021 to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952, the Customs Act, 1962, the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994, the Trade Marks Act, 1999 and Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Right Act, 2001 and certain other acts to abolish the Appellate Tribunal under Cinematograph Act, 1952, Authority for Advance Rulings under Income Tax Act, 1961, Airport Appellate Tribunal, Intellectual Property Appellate Board and the Plant Verities Protection Appellate Tribunal and to provide for uniform terms and conditions of service for the President/Chairman and Members of various Tribunals of Government of India.

The Tribunals Reforms Bill 2021 was passed by both Houses of Parliament and assented by the President on 13.08.2021. As per the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the said Bill, it is informed that as per data of the last three years it is seen thattribunals in several sectors have not necessarily led to faster justice delivery and they

are also at a considerable expense to the exchequer. Therefore, further streamlining of tribunals was considered necessary as it would save considerable expense to the exchequer and at the same time, lead to speedy delivery of justice.
