

## **BRANCH SECRETARIAT, BENGALURU**

### **FUNCTIONS:**

**ORGANISATION:** Deputy Legal Adviser heads the Branch Secretariat, Bengaluru. The Branch Secretariat, Bengaluru has jurisdiction over the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh handling the litigation and advice of various Central Government Department/Ministries.

**ADVICE:** 1) The Branch Secretariat renders legal advice to all the Central Government Departments and offices located in the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The advice work includes scrutiny and vetting of pleadings i.e. statement of objections, counter affidavits to be filed before the High Courts i.e. High court of Karnataka, Bengaluru, Circuit Benches of High Court of Karnataka at Dharwad and Gulbarga and High court of Andhra Pradesh respectively, reply statement to be filed before Central Administrative Tribunal, written statement, counter affidavits, counter statements, versions filed before District Courts, Subordinate Courts and various other Tribunals.

2) Examining the feasibility of filing SLP, Appeals, review etc. interpretation of laws guiding Departments on legal sustainability of their action and holding discussions with officers of the administrative Departments, whenever necessary.

**LITIGATION :** The Branch Secretariat, Bengaluru supervises the entire litigation of the Central Government Departments and offices in the High court of Karnataka, Bengaluru, Circuit Benches of High Court of Karnataka at Dharwad & Gulbarga and High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Subordinate Courts located at Bengaluru City and twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad and CAT in both the States. This Branch Secretariat also looks after the work of Government litigation in the District Consumer Dispute Redressal Fora, the State Consumer Redressal Commissions of both the States Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal and Debt Recovery Tribunal. The function of the Branch Secretariat in this regard includes engagement/ nomination of the Counsel and distribution of cases among the Central Government Counsel for the High Court of Karnataka, Principal Bench, Bengaluru, CAT Bengaluru and Lower Court, Bengaluru.

**COUNSEL'S FEE BILLS :** This Branch Secretariat itself processes counsel fee bills and pays the fees directly from its centralized funds to the Central Government Counsel in the High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru. So far as Circuit Benches of High Court of Karnataka at Dharwad and Gulbarga are concerned, the counsel fee bill is borne by the concerned Department on whose behalf the Counsel conducts the cases and not by the Branch Secretariat, Bengaluru. The concerned Departments pay the fee for Central Government panel Counsel in CAT, District and subordinate Courts. Hence this Branch Secretariat is not certifying counsel fee bills. However, clarifying the various provisions of the scheme to the Department in case of any doubt and maintaining the liaison between the Government Departments and the Central Government Counsel are undertaken by this Branch Secretariat.