

## **Branch Secretariat, Bengaluru**

The Branch Secretariat has jurisdiction over the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in dealing with litigation and advice to various Departments/Ministries of the Central Government. An Additional Legal Adviser heads the Branch Secretariat, Bengaluru.

### **ADVICE:**

The Branch Secretariat renders legal advice to all the Central Government Departments and Offices located in the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and UT of Puducherry (with 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, Benches of High Court of Karnataka at Dharwad and Kalaburagi and the High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad and High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravathi. respectively, reply statement filed before Central Administrative Tribunals at Bengaluru and Hyderabad respectively, written statement, counter affidavits, counter statements versions filed before District Courts, Subordinate Courts and various other Tribunals. This Branch Secretariat also examines the feasibility of filing SLP, Appeal, Review etc. interpretation of laws guiding Departments on legal sustainability of their action and holding discussions with the administrative Departments, whenever necessary.

### **LITIGATION:**

The Branch Secretariat supervises the entire litigation of the Central Government Departments and Offices in the High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru, Benches of the High Court of Karnataka at Dharwad & Kalaburagi and High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad and High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravathi, Subordinate Courts located in Bengaluru City and most of the districts of Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, CAT in these States and UT of Puducherry (with Andhra Pradesh). This Branch Secretariat also looks after the work of Government Litigation in the District Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum, the State Consumer Redressal Commissions of States, Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal and Debt Recovery Tribunal. The function of the Branch Secretariat in this regard includes engagement / nomination of the Counsels and distribution of cases amongst the Central

Government Counsels for the High Court of Karnataka, Principal Bench, Bengaluru, CAT, Bengaluru and District & Subordinate Courts of Karnataka, Tribunals & Commissions in the State of Karnataka.

### **COUNSELS 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 the Benches of High Court of Karnataka at Dharwad and Kalaburagi are concerned, the Counsels fee bill is borne by the Department concerned on whose behalf the Counsel conducts the cases and not by the Branch Secretariat, Bengaluru. The Departments concerned pay the fee for Central Government panel Counsel in Central Administrative Tribunal, District & Subordinate Courts. Hence this Branch Secretariat is not certifying Counsel's fee bills. However, this Ministry clarifies in bill matters, as and when requests are received.

### **RETAINERSHIP FEES:**

This Branch Secretariat makes payment of retainer-ship fees to the Standing Government Counsels engaged by the Department of Legal Affairs for conducting Central Government litigations before the District & Subordinate Courts in the State of Karnataka.