

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2108  
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2009  
ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL  
Deora Shri Milind Murli;Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has established the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) for the redressal of grievances of armed forces personnel;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the composition of the AFT and the time by which it is likely to be functional;
- (d) the number of cases of armed forces personnel pending in various courts;
- (e) whether all the cases pending in different courts will be transferred to AFT;
- (f) the extent to which the disposal of cases/pending cases will be speeded up;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to set up AFT in all the States of the country; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations where the tribunal is likely to be set up?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (h): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2108 FOR ANSWER ON 20.7.2009

The Government have decided to establish an Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) for the adjudication or trial of disputes and complaints with respect to commission, appointments, enrolment and conditions of service in respect of persons subject to the Army Act, 1950, the Navy Act, 1957 and the Air Force Act, 1950 and also to provide for appeals arising out of orders, findings or sentences of Courts Martial held under the said Acts and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Tribunal shall have both the original and appellate jurisdiction in regard to the service matters. The Tribunal shall also have appellate jurisdiction on verdicts of Courts Martial.

The Chairperson of the Tribunal is a former Judge of the Supreme Court. In addition, it will have 15 Administrative Members and 14 Judicial Members in the Principal Bench and the Regional Benches. The Tribunal shall commence functioning from the date of issuance of the notification by the Government.

A total number of approximately 10249 cases filed by the Armed Forces personnel are pending in various courts in the country.

Every suit or other proceedings pending before any court including High Court or other authority on a subject matter over which the Tribunal has jurisdiction in terms of the provisions of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, would be transferred to the Tribunal. It is expected that the setting up of the Tribunal will result in speedy dispensation of justice to the Defence Services personnel. There is no proposal to set up AFT Bench in all the States of the country.