

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1143
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 05.12.2025**

Establishment of Constitutional/Regional Benches of Supreme Court

1143 Shri Kalyan Banerjee:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish permanent Constitution/Regional Benches of the Supreme Court to improve access to justice, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for non-implementation and/or delaying of setting up such benches, if any, and proposal to establish a National Court of Appeal (NCA) as recommend by Law Commission; and

(c) the number of cases involving constitutional interpretation pending for more than five years thereof ?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY
OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

2. Representations have been received from time to time from various quarters for establishment of Benches of Supreme Court in various parts of the Country. The Eleventh Law Commission in its 125th Report titled “The Supreme Court - A Fresh Look”, submitted in 1988, reiterated the recommendations made by Tenth Law

:2:

Commission in its 95th Report for splitting the Supreme Court into two namely (i) Constitutional Court at Delhi and (ii) Court of Appeal or Federal Court sitting in North, South, East, West and Central India. The Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229th Report submitted in 2009 had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, Eastern region at Kolkata and Western region at Mumbai.

3. The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who informed that after consideration of the matter, the Full Court in its meeting held on 18th February, 2010, found no justification for setting up of benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi. The Chief Justice of India had earlier conveyed similar views in August, 2007.

4. In Writ Petition WP(C) No. 36/2016 on establishment of National Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 13.07.2016 deemed it proper to refer the aforementioned issue to Constitutional Bench for authoritative pronouncement. The matter is currently sub-judice in the Supreme Court.

(c): As per the information received from the Supreme Court of India, the number of cases involving constitutional interpretation pending for more than five years, as on 26.11.2025, are as follows:

(i) Five-Judge Bench: 10

(ii) Seven-Judge Bench: 03

(ii) Nine-Judge Bench: 02
