

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2412
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2006
COURT CASES FILED BY ARMY PERSONNEL
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Army is having trouble grappling with court cases filed by serving as well as retired personnel as reported in the Times of India dated November 23, 2006;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) the number of such court cases pending in various courts as on date; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of court cases?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The total number of court cases in various High Courts and the Supreme Court is about 8000.

The Judge Advocate General's Department in the Army is responsible for attending to the court cases especially in the High Court and Supreme Court. Army has established 20 legal cells coterminous with major High Courts. These cells act as nodal agencies in coordinating various aspects of court cases viz. filling of counter affidavits, vacation of stay applications, miscellaneous petitions etc. Besides, for pension related matters, pension adalats are held six times a year. Elaborate instructions have also been issued by the Army for attending to court cases from the stage of filing suits/ petitions, counter affidavits, appeals etc. and other aspects of litigation. The monitoring of court cases is also done through periodic reports and returns. Review meetings at appropriate levels are also held on need basis.

The Government has decided to set up an Armed Forces Tribunal and a Bill in this regard has been introduced in the Parliament. This is expected to reduce the burden of courts significantly.