

# Huge pendency of cases alarming, feels SC judge

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NEW DELHI

Pointing to the huge pendency of cases across the country in high courts and subordinate courts, Supreme Court Justice Dalveer Bhandari on Sunday said the situation was alarming and called for measures to overcome the situation.

Inaugurating the all India conference of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) here, Bhandari said that the situation in the Supreme Court was not the same and is within manageable limit.

"The Supreme Court is still manageable but as far as high courts and subordinate courts are concerned, situation is very alarming...I think drastic steps needs to be taken," said the senior judge of the apex court.

Justice Bhandari said as on March 31 this year over 2.74 crore cases are pending in the subordinate courts and over 42.92 lakh cases are pending in the high courts and till

October 31, as many as 56,383 cases are pending in the Supreme Court.

He said administrative tribunals can be a viable alternative to the high courts. "The Law Commission has observed that in respect of grave concern with increasing pendency of litigations before the high courts, the theory of alternative institutional mechanism has also been propounded to defend the establishment of administrative

tribunals...These tribunals are expected to function as viable substitutes for the high courts," said Bhandari, stressing for the inclusion of more undertakings under the jurisdiction of CAT.

Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources Pawan Kumar Bansal, who also attended the function, too advocated for alternative institutions to help in reducing the pendency of court cases.

"We can not burden the Supreme Court and high courts with so many cases...We have to think seriously about the efficacy of alternative institutions and this (CAT) is a perfect and wonderful alternative," he said.

Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Prime Minister's office V

Narayanasamy, former CJI J S Verma and CAT Chairman Justice V K Bali also attended the conference.

Detailing out the modernisation and computerisation of the Tribunals across the country, Bali said the main

endeavour should be to bring down the case disposal time to six months.

The Central Administrative Tribunal came into existence in November 1985 and is entrusted with the task of adjudicating complaints and other service matters pertaining to the Central Government employees as well as employees of PSUs and organisations so notified under Section 14(2) of the Act by the Government.

