



Special Report on Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts, 2023

*“An Overview of cases in Administrative Tribunals and
Special Courts in Pakistan during 2023”*

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Executive Summary:

For the speedy trial of cases pertaining to various laws, the federal and provincial governments may establish Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts under their respective Jurisdictions. These courts are supervised by various ministries at the federal level and by various departments at the provincial level.

The National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) was established under NJPMC Ordinance NO. LXXI of 2002. The said Ordinance provide that the Secretariat of Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan shall provide secretarial assistance to NJPMC. One of the functions of NJPMC is the publication of annual or periodic reports of the superior judiciary, district judiciary and Administrative Courts and Tribunals (section 4(a)). The compilation of the aforementioned data and its dissemination to the concerned stakeholders' aids in performance measurement of the court system, thus making it possible for the policy makers for recommending effective expeditious disposal of cases.

The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan fulfills a pivotal role by gathering and organizing data pertaining to judiciary and administrative tribunals and special courts to enhance the administration of justice. This report serves to provide an in-depth analysis of the status of various Administrative Tribunals & Special courts guided by specific criteria.

With a focus on the period from 1st January to 31st December 2023, this interim report encapsulates vital statistics derived from 324 Administrative Tribunals & Special Courts. The compilation indicates a previous pendency of 160,697 cases, with 135,824 new cases instituted during the year. Notably, 137,316 cases were resolved, yet a marginal rise of 2% in pending cases was noted, culminating in a total of 163,211 cases awaiting resolution.

Section-1 outlines the 324 Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts working under the administrative control of the Federal and Provincial Governments. 145 Administrative Tribunals & Special Courts operate under Federal Government Administration while 179 fall under Provincial oversight.

Section-2 delves into the dynamics of case institution, disposal, and pendency in Federal and Provincial Administrative Tribunal & Special Courts. Despite a commendable disposal, figure of 137,316, showing 2% rise in pending cases reflects the challenges ahead. The insights reveal a 5.7% surge in Federal Jurisdiction cases and an 11% decline in the Provincial domain.

It is imperative to acknowledge that this report represents data related to the last year, with a comprehensive 2023 report slated for compilation soon.

Section 1:

A) Overview - Administrative Tribunals & Special Courts in Pakistan:

In Pakistan, there are 324 Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts working under administrative control of Federal and Provincial Governments, which includes 120 in Punjab, 101 in Sindh, 58 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 23 in Balochistan and 18 in Islamabad.

Under administrative Control of Government	ICT	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	Total
Federal	18	58	43	18	5	145
Provincial	-	62	58	40	18	179
Total	18	120	101	58	23	324

- i. Within the Islamabad Capital Territory, a total of 18 Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts operate under the administrative control of the Federal Government.
- ii. The province of Punjab houses 120 Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts, with 58 falling under the auspices of the Federal Government and 62 under the Provincial administration.
- iii. In the province of Sindh, a network of 101 Administrative Tribunals & Special Courts function, comprising 43 under the Federal Government's authority and 58 under the Provincial Government.
- iv. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 58 Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts are operational, with 18 under federal administration and 40 under provincial governance.
- v. The province of Balochistan accommodates 23 Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts, with 5 under direct Federal oversight and 18 administered by the Provincial Government.

B) The Number of Administrative Tribunals & Special Courts:

There are two types of the Administrative Tribunals & Special Courts; those which fall within Federal Jurisdiction but have presence in the Provinces due to their statutory requirements. The other category is of those which have been established in the Province under the respective Provincial Law.

i. Federal Jurisdiction:

The table reflects the number and area of presence of 145 Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts under administrative control of **Federal Government** throughout the country.

Name of Court	ICT	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	Total
Accountability Courts	3	13	17	8	1	42
Anti-Dumping Appellate Tribunal	1	-	-	-	-	1
Anti-Terrorism Court	2					2
Appellate Tribunal Inland Revenue	1	1	1	1	-	4
Appellate Tribunal Sales Tax Service	-	-	-	1	-	1
Banking Courts	1	18	11	3	1	34
Commercial Courts	-	1	1	-	-	2
Competition Appellate Tribunal	1	-	-	-	-	1
Custom Appellate Tribunals	2	2	3	-	-	7
Drug Court	1	-	-	1	1	3
Environmental Protection Tribunal	1	-	-	-	-	1
Federal Service Tribunal*	1	-	-	-	-	1
Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board	-	1	1	-	-	2
Insurance Appellate Tribunal	-	2	1	-	-	3
Intellectual Property Tribunal	1	1	1	-	-	3
Medical Tribunal**	1	-	-	-	-	1
National Electric Power Regulatory Authority Appellate Board	1	-	-	-	-	1
National Industrial Relations Commission***	1	-	-	-	-	1
Prevention of Electronic Crime Investigation Agency Tribunal	1	-	-	-	-	1
Special Court (Central)	1	8	3	1	1	14
Special Court (Control of Narcotics Substances)	1	6	2	1	1	11
Special Court (Customs, Taxation and Anti-Smuggling)	-	2	1	1	-	4
Special Court (Offences in Banks)	1	3	1	1	-	6
Total	18	58	43	18	5	145

* Federal Service Tribunal Headquarter is in Islamabad and have 2 benches located in Lahore and Karachi

** Medical Tribunal and Prevention of Electronic Crime Investigation Agency Tribunal is only available in Islamabad

*** NIRC head office is located in Islamabad and have benches at Lahore, Multan, Karachi, Sukkur, Peshawar and Quetta

ii. Provincial Jurisdiction:

The table reflects the number and area of presence of 179 Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts under administrative control of **Provincial Governments**.

Name of Court	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	Total
Anti-Corruption Courts	10	4	2	1	17
Appellate Tribunal Local Council Sindh	-	1		-	1
Anti-Terrorism Courts	10	32	13	9	64
Anti-Encroachment Tribunals	-	5	-	-	5
Child Protection Court	1	-	-	-	1
Consumer Courts	17	-	17	-	34
Appellate Tribunal Sindh Revenue Authority	-	1	-	-	1
Drug Courts	6	1	-	-	7
Environmental Protection Tribunal	1	1	1	1	4
Labour Appellate Tribunals	2	1	1	1	5
Labour Courts	11	8	5	5	29
Special Court (Removal of Encroachment)	-	3	-	-	3
Lahore Development Authority Tribunal	1	-	-	-	1
Punjab Revenue Authority Board	1	-	-	-	1
Punjab Live Stock Tribunal	1	-	-	-	1
Service Tribunals	1	1	1	1	4
Total	62	58	40	18	179

Section 2:

A) Case Statistics:

The following table delineates the comprehensive pendency, institution, and disposal figures of cases in Federal and Provincial Administrative Tribunals & Special Courts. At the outset of the year 2023, a total pendency of 160,697 cases was noted, with 135,824 new cases instituted. Among these, 137,316 cases were disposed of, resulting in a remaining pendency of 163,211 cases as on 31st December, 2023.

Federally Administered (January to December, 2023)						
S.#	Name of Province	No. of Courts	Previous Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
1	Punjab	58	52628	42660	40389	56637
2	Sindh	43	26886	15850	15283	27873
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	18	4320	4924	4214	5530
4	Balochistan	4	557	511	346	678
5	Islamabad	22	36834	14707	14152	37393
Total		145	121225	78652	74384	128111

Provincially Administered (January to December, 2023)						
S.#	Name of Province	No. of Courts	Previous Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
1	Punjab	62	19567	25353	28953	16801
2	Sindh	58	6698	5820	6744	5824
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	40	12083	24005	25038	11617
4	Balochistan	19	1124	1994	2197	858
Total		179	39472	57172	62932	35100

Grand Total	324	160697	135824	137316	163211*
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B) Case Statistics of Federal and Provincial Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts:

- i. In Punjab with 120 Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts, 68,013 cases instituted and 69,342 cases disposed. Despite the commendable disposal, surpassing that of institution, a lingering pendency of 73,438 cases persisted, signaling a 2% increase in backlog.

* As reported by the high courts, the difference in Pendency is due to physical verification/recounting of figures, transferred/restored, reopening and abatement etc.

- ii. In Sindh with 101 Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts, 21,670 cases were instituted while 22,027 cases were disposed, leaving a backlog of 33,697 cases with a slight 0.3% increase in backlog.
- iii. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 58 Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts, 28,929 cases instituted and 29,252 cases disposed. However, a backlog of 17,147 cases remained, reflecting a 5% increase in backlog.
- iv. In Balochistan with 23 Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts, 2,505 cases instituted and 2,543 cases disposed with a reduction of 9% cases in backlog.
- v. In Islamabad with 22 Administrative Tribunals & Special Courts, 14,707 cases were instituted and 14,152 cases were disposed, leading to a backlog of 37,393 cases with an increase of 1.5% in backlog.
- vi. In 324 Administrative Tribunals & Special Courts, 135,824 cases were instituted and 137,316 cases were disposed, leaving behind 163,211 cases with an increase of 1.6 % in backlog.

i. Case Statistics in Administrative Tribunals & Special Courts under Federal Jurisdiction:

The ensuing table encapsulates the overall pendency, institution, and disposal data of cases in Federal Administrative Tribunals & Special Courts. Throughout the year 2023, a noticeable 5.7% increase in backlog was recorded. Noteworthy increments were observed in Accountability Courts, Appellate Tribunal Revenue, Special Courts (Control of Narcotics), and NEPRA Appellate Board. Conversely, Customs Appellate Tribunal and Federal Service Tribunal exhibited substantial reductions in pendency.

The pendency of Appellate Tribunal Inland Revenue, Banking Courts and Federal Service Tribunal makes 83% of the net pendency of cases in the Federal Administrative Tribunals & Special Courts.

January to December, 2023						
Sr. #	Name of Court/Tribunal	No. of Courts	Previous Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
1.	Accountability Courts	42	421	429	346	827*
2.	Appellate Tribunal Inland Revenue	4	57348	38426	31409	64444

* As reported by the high courts, the difference in Pendency is due to physical verification/recounting of figures, transferred/restored, reopening and abatement etc.

January to December, 2023						
Sr. #	Name of Court/Tribunal	No. of Courts	Previous Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
3.	Anti-Dumping Appellate Tribunal	1	44	18	52	10
4.	Banking Courts	34	30496	18394	20403	30407*
5.	Commercial Court	2	20	3	0	23
6.	Competition Appellate Tribunal	1	209	5	12	202
7.	Custom Appellate Tribunals	7	5373	2904	4394	3961
8.	Federal Service Tribunal	1	11007	2473	2563	10917
9.	Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board	2	50	55	29	76
10.	Intellectual Property Tribunal	3	1874	1249	1120	1981
11.	Insurance Appellate Tribunal	3	552	280	426	446
12.	National Industrial Relations Commission	1	5629	3667	4259	5037
13.	NEPRA Appellate Board	1	98	621	68	651
14.	Prevention of Electronic Crime Court	1	285	261	353	193
15.	Special Courts (Central)	14	3100	5736	5411	3283
16.	Special Court (Customs, Taxation and Anti-Smuggling)	4	1442	568	367	1643
17.	Special Court (Control of Narcotics Substances)	11	1626	2046	1530	2455
18.	Special Courts (Offences in Banks)	6	611	418	327	702
19.	Medical Tribunal	1	128	12	36	104
Total		145	121225	78652	74384	128111*

* As reported by the high courts, the difference in Pendency is due to physical verification/recounting of figures, transferred/restored, reopening and abatement etc.

ii. Case Statistics in Administrative Tribunals & Special Courts under Provincial Jurisdiction:

The subsequent table details the overall pendency, institution, and disposal statistics of cases in Provincially administered Administrative Tribunals & Special Courts. A notable 11% reduction in backlog cases transpired in the year 2023. Minor upticks were noted in Consumer Courts, Drug Courts, Environmental Protection Tribunal and Labour Appellate Tribunal, whereas Labour Courts, Anti-Terrorism Courts and Anti-Corruption Courts witnessed considerable decrease in pendency.

The pendency of Anti-Corruption Courts, Consumer Courts, Labour Courts and Provincial Service Tribunals make 82% of the net pendency of cases in the Provincial Administrative Tribunals & Special Courts.

January to December, 2023						
Sr. #	Name of Court/Tribunal	No. of Courts	Previous Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
1.	Appellate Tribunal Sales Tax Service	1	42	47	69	20
2.	Anti-Corruption Courts	17	4455	2063	2907	3636
3.	Anti-Encroachment Tribunals	5	266	333	398	215
4.	Anti-Terrorism Courts	66	2360	4135	4149	2143
5.	Appellate Tribunal Local Council Sindh	1	0	18	3	15
6.	Appellate Tribunal Sindh Revenue Board	1	148	178	82	244
7.	Balochistan Service Tribunal	1	746	712	931	527
8.	Child Protection Court	1	384	1565	1580	369
9.	Consumer Courts	34	4569	11563	11870	4736
10.	Drug Courts	10	1836	5791	5539	2123
11.	Environmental Protection Tribunal	5	590	866	946	643
12.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Service Tribunal	1	5090	2754	3082	4886
13.	Labour Courts	29	12008	17745	20637	9346
14.	Labour Appellate Tribunals	5	810	2073	1930	963

January to December, 2023						
Sr. #	Name of Court/Tribunal	No. of Courts	Previous Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
15.	Lahore Development Authority	1	144	36	34	146
16.	Punjab Live Stock Tribunal	1	38	49	56	31
17.	Punjab Revenue Authority Board	1	156	210	212	160
18.	Punjab Service Tribunal	1	5342	7136	8670	4334
19.	Sindh Service Tribunal	1	1294	966	1072	1229
20.	Special Court (Removal of Encroachment)	3	106	19	44	83
Total		179	39472	57172	62932	35100*

* As reported by the high courts, the difference in Pendency is due to physical verification/recounting of figures, transferred/restored, reopening and abatement etc.

Conclusion

In summary, the report reveals significant strides in case disposal across various courts, notably in Punjab and Federal Jurisdiction. Despite this progress, persistent pendency challenges exist, indicating room for enhancement in case management efficiency. Specifically, provinces like Sindh exhibited a slight increase in backlog, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa experienced a 5% rise, necessitating focused attention. In Punjab, although disposal rates were commendable, a 2% surge in backlog was observed. The substantial decrease in backlog within Provincial Jurisdiction warrants recognition. To foster a more efficient judicial system, a collaborative effort is paramount. As we aim for a more robust final report at year-end 2024, all Provincial Courts are respectfully urged to contribute diligently to address identified gaps and collectively strive for improved outcomes.