

PIL in SC seeks setting up of GST tribunal to cut backlog of cases

A PIL IN the Supreme Court has sought directions to the Centre for setting up of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal, as mandated under the Central Goods and Services Act, 2017, to avoid hardships caused to litigants and to curb huge backlog of cases.

Even after four years of the CGST Act coming into existence, the tribunal has not been constituted, activist lawyer Amit Sahni alleged in its PIL. The GST Bill was passed in both the Houses of Parliament in 2016 and the CGST Act, 2017, came into force from July 1 that year only. "The constitution of National and other Benches of the

appellate tribunal under Section 109 of the CGST Act is an absolute necessity of the hour and the respondents (government) cannot drag its constitution for an indefinite period," Sahni said, adding that the litigants are unable to get speedy justice.

Stating that the Centre was deliberately not setting up the GST tribunal, Sahni said GST was introduced with the objectives to simplify the taxation laws by subsuming multiple tax laws at different central and state levels into a single one and to lessen the burden of payment of multiple taxes from the shoulder of common citizens. — **FE BUREAU**