Polity & Governance · GS - II

What is quasi judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2016	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
12.5	~200 words

Answer Hint

Quasi-judicial authority; administrative adjudication; natural justice; statutory powers; tribunals; regulatory commissions; accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

A quasi-judicial body is an authority that is not a regular court but is empowered by law to decide disputes, determine rights or impose certain legal consequences through procedures resembling judicial proceedings.

Key Characteristics

- Exercises powers conferred by the Constitution or legislation.
- Hears parties and evaluates evidence where required.
- Must generally follow principles of natural justice.
- Issues decisions or orders that may have legal consequences.
- Is subject to judicial review according to law.

Examples

- **National Green Tribunal (NGT):** Adjudicates specified environmental disputes and provides relief and compensation under environmental law.
- **Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT):** Deals with specified service matters involving public servants.
- **Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT):** Hears appeals concerning income-tax disputes.

- **Competition Commission of India (CCI):** Investigates and adjudicates matters concerning anti-competitive practices within its statutory mandate.
- **Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT):** Adjudicates specified telecommunications and related disputes.

Importance

Quasi-judicial bodies provide specialised expertise, reduce the burden on ordinary courts and can offer more efficient resolution of technical disputes.

Challenges

Concerns include vacancies, delays, questions of independence, inconsistent procedures and overlapping jurisdiction.

Conclusion

Quasi-judicial bodies bridge administration and adjudication. Their effectiveness depends on statutory clarity, impartial decision-making, procedural fairness and appropriate judicial oversight.

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