

## PREFACE

Tribunals are the necessary concomitant of the Welfare State to which India became committed after 1947. They are an important part of the judicial machinery of the country and adjudicate on a variety of claims and controversies between individuals *inter se* and the state and the individual. Their adjudicative role is in no way less than that of the regular courts both in terms of the subject-matter and decisional output. The Forty-second Amendment of the Constitution contemplates creation of tribunals in a wide variety of fields. In spite of their significant role in adjudication and in the maintenance of the rule of law, no systematic study of the working of tribunals has been made so far. This small monograph is an attempt to focuss attention on the various aspects of the functioning of tribunals. It discusses such matters as the notion of "tribunals", their composition and procedures, supervision over tribunals, judicial review, and allocation of decision-making functions to them. The study is illustrative, not exhaustive; and a plea has been made for a full-fledged inquiry into the functioning of tribunals.

Sometime ago the Indian Law Institute had undertaken a comprehensive project on Administrative Tribunals. Though considerable work had been done on this project, yet the study could not be completed for a variety of reasons. A team of research scholars of the Institute consisting of Mrs. Alice Jacob, Shri R. D. Garg, Shri S. C. Jain and the undersigned worked on this project. In collecting materials the major work was done by Shri R. D. Garg. Thanks are due to the team. A few of the findings made in that study have been used in this monograph.

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