

PAPER REPORT

Indian Express

24 November 2002

'Arbitration best method to settle business disputes'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 23: Courts take too much time and money and the best answer for settling business disputes is through arbitration, said Karnataka Lokayukta Justice N Venkatachala.

Many other legal minds, including A N Jayaram, Advocate General, Karnataka, agreed with him while speaking at a seminar on arbitration organised by the Arbitration and Mediation Centre Ltd in the city.

"It is best that courts stay away from arbitration as interference can cause more harm than good," added Justice Venkatachala.

Arbitration, it was felt, generates the least amount of hostility between parties and does not disrupt business dealings. This method of dispute resolution is used in commerce and business.

"The main reason that foreign capital shies away from India is because dispute resolution is long-winded. With globalisation, the need for speedy disposal of disputes is all the more important," said Jayaram.

This kind of dispute resolution can be done by experts in a particular field or through institutionalised arbitration centres.

To eliminate partiality, it would be best to get arbitrators through a institutionalised channel, said Justice Venkatachala.

Fairness in adjudicating cases and not favouritism to a client marks a good arbitrator, it was felt.

"By some miraculous cultural transition, we should imbibe impartiality," added Jayaram.