

## CLAIMS ON EASTERN RAILWAY

\*707. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the claims of many merchants on the Eastern Railway are pending since long;

(b) the number of such cases pending upto the 31st March, 1954; and

(c) how Government propose to speed up the settlement of these claims?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). The total number of claims cases pending on 31st March, 1954 was 22081, out of which 1465 cases were more than six months old.

(c) Every month the position of pending claims cases is reviewed and special steps taken to finalize the old cases in particular.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** May I know whether any representation was made by the merchants of the regional centre of Bilaspur on the Eastern Railway, in regard to long-pending claims, and if so, what action has been taken on the same?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** I am not aware specially about Bilaspur.

**सरदार ए० एस० सहगल :** क्या यह सच नहीं है कि प्रमुख लोगों के क्लेमस का जल्दी से जल्दी तस्फिया हो जाता है और दूसरे लोगों के मामले में काफी देर होती है ?

**श्री शाहनवाज खां :** हर एक क्लेम का फैसला उस क्लेम की नवीयत के मुताबिक होता है और हम कभी किसी क्लेम में कोई इम्त्याज नहीं करते हैं ।

## AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

\*708. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many meetings of the Airport Consultative Committee were held in 1954; and

(b) how far the Committee has helped in dealing with the problems relating to air traffic?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) One.

(b) The Committee has been of help to the Director General of Civil Aviation in formulating his plans for the improvement of the facilities required for air transport and also in taking action to remove the concrete difficulties experienced by the different parties connected with aviation.

**Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** May I know the nature of the advice given by this Committee?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It has been indicated in the reply to part (b) of the question.

## CENTRAL TRACTOR ORGANISATION

\*709. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Madhya Bharat have decided not to employ tractors from the Central Tractor Organisation to reclaim their fallow land; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Sometime back the Madhya Bharat Government decided not to utilise the Central Tractor Organisation's services. They have since agreed to the continuance of Central Tractor Organisation's operations in the State.

(b) According to the State Government, charges for land reclamation work done by Central Tractor Organisation were not acceptable to the cultivators. They also stated that if they were to make recoveries from the cultivators at rates acceptable to the latter, the State Government would be incurring large losses. The reason for the cultivators' unwillingness to pay the reclamation charges was the recent fall in the prices of foodgrains.