

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3126
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2015
RAILWAY CLAIMS TRIBUNAL
Bhatt Smt.Ranjanben;Somaiya Dr. Kirit

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken by the Railways to accelerate the settlement at railway claims tribunal;
- (b) whether the selection process for the post of Vice-Chairman in railway claims tribunal has been finalised;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be completed and the candidate is likely to be appointed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) has been functioning since 1989 to provide quicker relief by ensuring early disposal of claim compensation cases for loss/damage of goods booked by rail and for death/injury to the victims of train accidents or untoward incidents. However, there has been large pendency of cases in various Benches of RCT mainly on account of the posts of Members, particularly that of Members (Judicial), having remained vacant since 2011. Another reason for pendency of claims cases in RCT is that, these cases being judicial in nature, involve different stages for completion of statutory and other formalities which is a time-consuming process. Now that selection for the vacant posts of Members arising for the period 2011 to 2013 has since been completed, it is likely that settlement of the pending cases by RCT Benches would be accelerated. In the meanwhile, Chairman/RCT, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 4(4) of the RCT Act, also arranges Circuit Benches by deputing Members from one Bench to another in order to dispose of claims cases expeditiously.

(b) The process of selection for the vacant posts of Vice-Chairman (Technical) has already been finalized, whereas selection for the vacant posts of Vice-Chairman (Judicial) is in process.

(c) Vice-Chairmen (Technical) of RCT at Delhi and Kolkata Benches have already been appointed on 18.12.2014 and 30.10.2014 respectively.

(d) The proposal for appointment against two vacancies of Vice-Chairman (Judicial) and fifteen vacancies of Member (Judicial), existing as on 31.12.2013, has already been sent for obtaining approval of the Competent Authority. On receipt of approval, appointment orders will be issued to the selected/approved candidates.