

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5258  
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2014  
RAILWAY CLAIMS TRIBUNALS  
Somaiya Dr. Kirit

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a number of posts of Judicial Member in various Railway Claims Tribunals (RCTs) are lying vacant in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor including RCT Mumbai;
- (c) whether there is huge backlog of claims pending in various RCTs particularly at Mumbai;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Railways have received representation from public representatives for filling up the vacant posts of Judicial Member in various RCTs including Mumbai; and
- (f) if so, the action taken thereon along with steps taken/being taken by the Railways to fill up the said vacancies in a time bound manner ?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5258 BY DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 14.08.2014 REGARDING RAILWAY CLAIMS TRIBUNALS

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Two posts of Vice-Chairman (Judicial) at Mumbai & Chennai and 17 posts of Judicial Members at Delhi, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Ghaziabad, Kolkata, Guwahati, Patna, Ranchi, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Jaipur, Nagpur, Bangalore, Secunderabad, Ernakulam Benches of Railway Claims Tribunal are vacant. Selection for all vacancies available upto 31.12.2013 has already been held.

(c) & (d) Total Number of cases pending in all Benches of RCT as on 01.07.2014, is as under:-

Zone (with names of Benches)	No.of pending cases
1. North Zone: Delhi, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Ghaziabad & Gorakhpur	15009
2. East Zone: Kolkata, Patna, Guwahati, Bhubaneswar & Ranchi	14273
3. West Zone: Bhopal, Ahmedabad, Jaipur & Nagpur	6057
In Mumbai, RCT cases pending	5951
Total	12008
4. South Zone: Chennai, Secunderabad, Ernakulam and Bangalore	3816
Total	45106

The delay in disposal of the cases is mainly because of the following reasons :

1. The posts of Members in various benches are lying vacant since long. As on date, out of 42 posts of Member (J) and Member (T) including Chairman and Vice-Chairman, 25 posts are vacant and only 17 are in position.
2. Time taken by Respondent Railway in filing the Written Statement.
3. The judicial process involves different stages like filing of cases, filing of written statement, filing of evidence, cross examination of witnesses and parties and the arguments, which is a lengthy process and takes time. However, if all the documents are in order and

have been filed in time, disposal of case is done expeditiously.

(e) Yes, Madam. One such reference has been received.

(f) The selection for 15 posts of Judicial Member and 02 posts of Vice-Chairman (Judicial) has already been held. Police verification/IB reports have been sought in respect of selected candidates. On receipt of reports, proposal for approval of the Appointments Committee of Cabinet will be submitted. On receipt of approval, orders of appointment shall be issued.