

the affirmation before sanctioning authorities, or fail to furnish all the relevant information, or when the claim is one which cannot be settled without legal evidence, and there is delay on the part of the claimant in providing it.

As a result of the revised procedure the number of pending cases, which was 13,761 at the end of August, 1960 came down to 11,936 at the end of December, 1960.

Telephone Revenue Accounts Offices

783. **Shri B. K. Gaikwad:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Telephone Revenue Accounts Offices are going to be shifted to various stations outside Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of employees are being compelled to move to the new Stations even though they are not liable to be transferred ordinarily according to the conditions of their recruitment;

(c) whether the Government have received representations from such affected officials who do not want to serve at new Stations for various reasons; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to absorb these officials in the various other P. & T. Offices in Delhi where vacancies exist?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) Out of the four independent Telephone Revenue Accounts Offices at present located in Delhi, two are proposed to be shifted in the near future and the other two in due course, to stations outside Delhi.

(b) It is not correct to say that the employees of Telephone Revenue Accounts Offices are not liable to be transferred to the new Stations according to the rules of their recruitment. When their offices are being shifted in the interest of service, the

employees are also liable to be transferred along with the offices. No violation of the conditions of recruitment is involved in this.

(c) Yes.

(d) In individual cases involving hardship. Government propose to consider their requests sympathetically for transfer to other P. & T. offices in Delhi where vacancies exist under the normal rules.

Transport of Timber

784. **Dr. M. S. Aney:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether representation has been received from Nagpur Timber Merchant's Association regarding inadequate allotment of covered wagons for transport of timber from Nagpur and Itarsi;

(b) whether similar representation has been received from other timber associations also;

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to improve the situation; and

(d) whether it is proposed to give higher priority to transport of timber in the Third Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Every effort is made to step up loading to a maximum extent possible within availability of wagons.

(d) There is no proposal to give higher priority to transport of timber on trade account. Programmed movements of timber sponsored by State Governments or the Union Government, however, take place under higher priority provided they are either consigned by or to a Government official in his official capacity.