

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2749
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2001
ACCIDENT CLAIMS
CHANDRA NATH SINGH

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of accident cases are lying pending in claims tribunals for more than one to three years;
- (b) the reasons for the delay in their settlement; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a): 2329 accident cases for more than one to three years old are lying pending in different Benches of Railway Claims Tribunal as on 1.2.2001.

(b):

(i) Non attendance by the applicants or their counsel,

(ii) Adjournment sought by the applicant/their counsel for producing their witnesses or other evidence,

(iii) Non-availability of heirship title with the claimants,

(iv) Transfer of claims cases from one Bench to the other, sought by claimants.

(c): (i) Instructions have been issued to all Zonal Railways that as soon as a passenger train accident or untoward incident takes place, all particulars of injured and killed may be obtained, claim application forms sent to claimants, and the record made available to the concerned Bench of the Railway Claims Tribunal.

(ii) When claims are filed and put up for hearing, the Railways should give all possible assistance to the Tribunal for speedy settlement.

(iii) Written Statements are to be filed by the Railways in such cases within 15 days of receipt of notice from Railway Claims Tribunal.

(iv) As per revised guidelines prior finance concurrence for payment of compensation has been dispensed with and Chief Claims Officers of Zonal Railways have been empowered to sanction and arrange payment of the decreed amount to the claimants.

(v) After the decretal amount of a claim has been sanctioned, Railways have to ensure that cheques are issued and despatched within a period of 15 days.

(vi) Railway Claims Tribunals have been requested by the Government to take following steps:-

(1) Priority to be given for hearing and disposing of accident claims cases.

(2) Members of other Benches to be deputed to vacant Benches for specifically hearing and disposing of accident claims cases for expediting their disposal.