

रेल दावा अधिकरण
RAILWAY CLAIMS TRIBUNAL
दिल्ली / Delhi
(प्रधान पीठ / Principal Bench)

13/15, माल रोड, दिल्ली-110 054
13/15, Mall Road, Delhi-110 054

**Minutes of the Meeting held via Video Conferencing with Representatives of
the Bar Associations and Advocates practicing at RCT Delhi and Lucknow
Benches on 14.06.2021 at 11.30 a.m.**

Present:

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Sh. K. S. Ahluwalia	Hon'ble Chairman, RCT
2.	Sh. Sunil Mathur	Hon'ble Member (Tech.)
3.	Sh Vijay Kumar	Hon'ble Member (Tech)
4.	Smt. Aashima Mehrotra	Registrar
5.	Smt Sarah Jayal Sawakmie	Addl. Registrar
6.	Sh. K.P.S Nirwal	Asstt. Registrar
7.	Sh. N.L. Gandhi	PS to Hon'ble Chairman
8.	Shri D.S Bhardwaj	C.O.S
9.	Smt Sonal Behl	Court Master
10.	Sh. Jitender Vikram Singh	Court Master
11.	Shri Ajit K. Bhatnagar	CLA, Northern Railway
12.	Ms Sarv Mangla	CLA, Northern Railway

Advocates and Representatives of Railway Claims Tribunal Bar Associations

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Smt. Ashima Sood	Treasurer, Bar Association of RCT/Delhi
2.	Sh. Dushyant Swaroop	Advocate
3.	Sh. Anupam Srivastava	Advocate
4.	Sh. Saurabh Gupta	Advocate
5.	Sh. M.S Bhatia	Advocate
6.	Sh. Subhash Sachdeva	Advocate
7.	Sh. B.S Mahur	Advocate
8.	Sh. H.K. Gautam	Advocate
9.	Shri Nitesh Sharma	Advocate
10.	Shri Rajesh Kumar	Advocate
11.	Sh. Salek Chand	Advocate
12.	Sh. Jai Singh	Advocate
13.	Sh. M. Hussain	Advocate
14.	Sh. N.K. Gupta	Advocate

15.	Sh. P. K. Singh	Advocate
16.	Shri M.P Rana	Advocate
17.	Sh. C.P. Singh	Advocate
18.	Shri R.K Agnihotri	Advocate
19.	Sh. Sukhdev Singh	Advocate
20.	Sh. S.C. Rajpal	Advocate
21.	Smt Purnima Sharma	Advocate
22.	Sh. Anuj Mahur	Advocate
23.	Sh. Rajveer Singh	Advocate
24.	Madan Pal	Advocate

1. A meeting was held on 14.06.21 with the advocates practicing at RCT, Delhi which included the office bearers of the three Bar Associations namely Bar Association of RCT/Delhi, Bar Association of erstwhile RCT/ Ghaziabad and the Association of Railway Advocates. The main agenda of the meeting was to take a considered decision for resumption of court proceedings in view of the prevailing COVID-19 situation which has started to improve in and around Delhi. Moreover, it was previously decided by Hon'ble Chairman in the virtual meeting held on 27.05.21 with Members, officers and staff of RCT, Delhi to hold a virtual consultative meeting on 14.06.21 with the members of Bar Associations to take their views on the matter.
2. The meeting commenced with the Hon'ble Chairman, RCT, extending a warm welcome to all the participants.
3. Registrar, RCT gave a short brief about the agenda of the meeting and requested the Bar Association representatives to express their views.
4. Smt. Ashima Sood, advocate stated that from 21st June, 2021 onwards virtual court hearings should commence for hearing miscellaneous matters and from July onwards, other cases can be taken up depending upon the prevailing COVID-19 situation.

Shri N.K Gupta, advocate stated that till 30th June, 2021, there should be no court hearings and from 1st July onwards, virtual court hearings should commence.

Shri P.K Singh, advocate from RCT, Lucknow stated that virtual hearings should take place till July 31st. In cases where both parties are in agreement, evidence should be recorded from August, 2021 onwards if the 3rd wave of COVID-19 doesn't arrive and the situation permits. He stressed upon the need to ensure that all RCT staff are vaccinated before resumption of Court proceedings. This was reiterated by Shri CP Singh.

Shri M. Hussain, advocate stated that he has no problem with the resumption of Virtual court proceedings.

Shri Subhash Sachdeva, advocate stated that virtual court hearings should commence from Ist July onwards.

Shri B.S Mahur, advocate stated that till the end of June 2021, virtual courts can function and that from July onwards physical courts should be allowed to be held.

Shri H.K. Gautam stated that till June end, there should be no virtual hearings. It should commence from July onwards and evidence cases be taken up in August, 2021 only.

5. From the respondent's side, Shri Dushyant Swaroop, advocate stated that from Ist July, 2021 virtual court hearings should commence. Depending on the COVID-19 situation, evidence cases can be taken up in August,2021 in cases where the claimants reside in and around the Delhi/NCR area. In the case of deponents residing out of station, they can be given dates in September 2021 for evidence. He further stated that in cases where WS has been filed in bulk recently, the issues may be framed.

Shri S. C Rajpal, Shri M.S Bhatia, Shri R.K Agnihotri, Shri Anupam Srivastava and Shri Saurav Gupta, all agreed with the suggestions given by Shri Dushyant Swaroop.

6. It was informed that some of the advocates recently lost their lives due to COVID-19. Hon'ble Chairman stated that on receipt of a formal communication from the respective Bar Associations to this effect, a formal virtual meeting will be held to pay homage to the departed souls.
7. After listening to the views of the advocates from the Claimants side and Respondent side and taking the inputs from the Hon'ble Members (Technical), and Registrar, RCT, and also keeping in mind the directions of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi passed on 14.05.2021, the Hon'ble Chairman issued the following directions:
 - i. From 21.06.2021 to 25.06.2021, cases in which written statements have been recently filed shall be pre-poned and listed for framing of issues. No other case during this period shall be listed before the respective Benches.
 - ii. From 28.06.21 to 02.07.21, cases of Miscellaneous nature involving Execution matters, condonation of delay, correction in spellings of names etc shall be taken up by the respective Benches;

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- iii. From 05.07.21 to 09.07.21, arguments cases shall be listed before the respective Benches along with cases which have been left out of framing of issues and Miscellaneous matters, if any;
 - iv. The Court Masters shall prepare the cause lists in advance and timely circulate the same among all concerned.

8. The Hon'ble Chairman also appreciated the efforts taken by Railway Board and Zonal Railways in ensuring that a large number of WS have been filed at RCT.

The proceedings of the meeting concluded with a Vote of thanks to the Chair.


(Aashima Mehrotra)
Registrar

Dated: 14.06.2021

Copy to: -

- 1) PO/RCT/Delhi
- 2) RCT Web Portal