

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1070
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023

GUIDELINES ON WORKING HOURS FOR LOCO PILOTS

1070 DR. AMEE YAJNIK:
SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 30 per cent of loco pilots are driving trains for more than 12 hours;
- (b) whether there are any guidelines regarding maximum working hours for loco pilots, if so, details of the regulations including exceptions/special circumstances and its monitoring mechanism;
- (c) details of any incidents or accidents during last five years along with attributed to fatigue or excessive working hours of loco pilots;
- (d) if so, summary of the events including action taken to address the issue; and
- (e) total working loco pilots and total vacant posts of loco pilots, zone-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1070 BY DR. AMEE YAJNIK AND SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING GUIDELINES ON WORKING HOURS FOR LOCO PILOTS

(a) and (b) No, Sir. Railway servants (Hours of Duty & Period of Rest Rules 2005) formulated under the Railways Act, 1989, lays down provisions relating to classification of the railway servants and also for their duty hours and periods of rest which are followed in preparation of duty rosters in order to provide adequate rest to staff. As per guidelines: -

- i. Total duty at a stretch (from 'sign on' to 'sign off') for running staff should not exceed 11 hours.
- ii. Running duty at a stretch should not ordinarily exceed 9 hours. Such duty may extend further provided the railway administration gives at least 2 hours notice before the expiry of 9 hours to the crew that they would be required to perform running duty beyond 9 hours with the stipulation that the total duty from 'sign on' to 'sign off' shall not exceed 11 hours.
- iii. In case the train does not reach its destination, normal crew changing point or the point where the reliever has been arranged, within the overall limit of 11 hours, and such a point is approximately one-hour journey away, the running staff shall be required to work to that point provided the maximum hours in that trip does not exceed 12 hours.
- iv. For loco pilots of all Mail/Express trains, the running duty (for the purpose of preparation of links only) should not exceed 8 hours. However, preparatory or complementary worktime shall not be included within 8 hours.
- v. The above provision for running duty hours and total duty hours shall be applicable to all running staff including Loco Pilots (Mail/Express), Loco Pilots (Passenger), Loco Pilots (Freight), Motormen and Guards except wherever stated otherwise.

Duty hours of crew are monitored through Crew Management System (CMS) portal at divisional as well as HQ level. Regular efforts are taken to ensure that crew performs duty hours within prescribed limits.

(c) and (d) No such accident/incident have occurred.

(e) Out of 1,23,820 posts of loco pilots and assistant loco pilots (ALP) as on 01.07.2023, vacancies are to the tune of 13,330. Railway-wise details of ALP candidates empanelled during 2019-20 to 2022-23 are as follows: -

| S. No. | Zonal Railway | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | Total |
|--------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | Central | 1829 | 7 | 181 | 522 | 2539 |
| 2 | East Central | 2461 | 15 | 3 | 145 | 2624 |
| 3 | East Coast | 2704 | 6 | 149 | 281 | 3140 |
| 4 | Eastern | 1279 | 68 | 69 | 331 | 1747 |
| 5 | North Central | 3019 | 1 | 267 | 465 | 3752 |
| 6 | North Eastern | 1377 | 51 | 2 | 288 | 1718 |
| 7 | Northeast Frontier | 938 | 0 | 0 | 147 | 1085 |
| 8 | Northern | 2857 | 6 | 75 | 7 | 2945 |
| 9 | North Western | 1057 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 1074 |
| 10 | South Central | 2724 | 29 | 339 | 365 | 3457 |
| 11 | South East Central | 1148 | 0 | 53 | 1736 | 2937 |
| 12 | South Eastern | 1457 | 30 | 31 | 996 | 2514 |
| 13 | Southern | 908 | 8 | 17 | 157 | 1090 |
| 14 | South Western | 1619 | 15 | 13 | 0 | 1647 |
| 15 | West Central | 907 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 907 |
| 16 | Western | 832 | 25 | 63 | 211 | 1131 |
| Total | | 27116 | 261 | 1279 | 5651 | 34307 |
