

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2982
ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024

HEAVY WORK LOAD OF LOCO PILOT

2982. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of hours a normal loco pilot works in a month;
- (b) whether it is a fact that many a time loco pilots have to work 16-18 hours continuously thereby impacting their health and also security of passengers;
- (c) the details of serious safety issues being faced by loco pilots and in what manner Government is planning to address them; and
- (d) the details of vacancies of loco pilots in various zones, zone-wise and steps taken to fill up the vacancies?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) :

1. Loco Pilots are important members of Indian Railway family who play pivotal role for moving passenger and goods traffic in safe and efficient manner. Indian Railways is committed to ensure proper working conditions for loco pilots.
2. Loco Pilots are classified under Continuous Category. Rule 8 of "Hours of Work and Period of Rest" (HOER), 2005 lays down the guidelines of duty hours of 52 Hrs per week calculated on an average in a two-weekly period of fourteen days per week for Loco Pilots. The running hours are maintained, except for exigencies. Loco Pilots are

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compensated for extra working hours as per the rates specified in Section 132 of the Railway Act, 1989.

3. HQ rest of 16 hours is given after a running staff member reaches their HQ, and periodic rest of 30 hours or 22 hours (as and when due) is provided as per Rule 133 of the Railway Act, 1989.
4. To facilitate good quality of rest to loco running staff at outstation, following measures are being taken in respect of Running rooms:
 - All 558 running rooms have been air-conditioned. This was zero in 2013-14.
 - Running staff are also provided with Yoga and meditation room, reading room with newspaper and magazines for relaxing in accordance with their requirements.
 - Loco pilots need to keep a continuous watch on track and signals involving standing operations also while driving in the locomotive. Accordingly, amenities like foot massager and some recreational facilities are made available in running rooms.
 - Provision for subsidized meals in running rooms.
 - Availability of RO water filters in running rooms.
 - Various safety drives & special counseling programs are regularly organized for checking the alertness and safety awareness among the running staff. Special safety seminars & meetings are also organized for interaction with family members of running staff for educating on role of quality rest in life of running staff.
5. Occurrence and filling up of vacancies are continuous process on Indian Railways considering its size, spatial distribution and criticality of operation. Adequate and suitable manpower is provided to cater to the regular operations, changes in technology, mechanizations and innovative practices. The vacancies are filled up primarily by placement of indents by Railways with Recruitment agencies as per operational and technological requirements.
6. After easing of restrictions imposed on account of COVID 19, two major examinations involving more than 2.37 crore candidates have been conducted successfully.

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Centres	Days	Shifts
L2 - L6	1.26 cr	211	726	68	133
L-1	1.1 cr	191	551	33	99

Based on these exams, 1,30,581 candidates have been recruited in railways.

7. The RRB examinations are quite technical in nature entailing large scale mobilization of men and resources and training of manpower. Railway overcame all these challenges and successfully conducted the recruitment in a transparent manner following all laid down guidelines. No instance of paper leakage or similar malpractice has occurred during the entire process.
8. Recruitment done in Indian Railways during 2004-2014 vis-à-vis during 2014 – 2024 is given as under.

Period	Recruitments
2004-14	4.11 lakh
2014-24	5.02 lakh

9. Further, as system improvement, the Ministry of Railways has introduced a system of publishing annual calendar from 2024 for recruitment to various categories of Group 'C' posts. The introduction of annual calendar will benefit the aspirants in the following manner:

- More opportunities for candidates;
- Opportunities to those becoming eligible every year;
- Certainty of exams;
- Faster Recruitment process, Training and Appointments

10. Accordingly, eight Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 58,642 vacancies have been notified during January to October 2024 for filling up of posts of Assistant Loco Pilots, Technicians, Sub-Inspectors & Constables in Railway Protection Force (RPF), Junior Engineers/Depot Material Superintendents/Chemical & Metallurgical Assistants, Paramedical Categories, Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduates) & Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduates). The Computer Based Test has started from 25.11.2024. This includes 18799 vacancies of Assistant Loco Pilots (ALP).