

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3325
ANSWERED ON 20.03.2026

REPRESENTATION OF RESERVED CATEGORIES IN POSTS IN RAILWAYS

3325 SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the current representation of Other Backward Class (OBC) categories in Group 'A,' 'B,' 'C' and 'D' categories in all zones of Indian Railways;
- (b) the details of the status of current pending vacancies, including backlog for SC and ST in all categories i.e., Group 'A,' 'B,' 'C' and 'D' of Indian Railways; and
- (c) the details of the representation of SC and ST employees in senior management positions, such as General Manager, Divisional Railway Manager and equivalent posts, in Railway Board and various Railway zones?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c): The extant provision of providing 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in recruitment is followed in the Railways. The percentage representations of Other Backward Class employees in all categories (i.e. Group 'A' 'B and 'C' including Level-1), in Indian Railways, as on 01.01.2026 is as under:

Category	Provision	In place
OBC	27%	27.43%

Recruitment done in Indian Railways during 2004-05 to 2013-14 vis-à-vis during 2014-15 to 2024-25 is given as under: -

Period	Recruitments	SC category	ST category
2004-2005 to 2013-2014	4.11 lakh	64,244 (15.6%)	36,231 (8.8%)
2014-2015 to 2024-2025	5.08 lakh	79,115 (15.6%)	42,989 (8.5%)

Occurrence and filling up of vacancies are continuous processes 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, mechanisations and innovative practices. The vacancies are filled up primarily by placement of indents by Railways with Recruitment agencies as per operational and technological requirements.

Every effort is made to fill up the reserved vacancies by the candidates belonging to the earmarked category along with the other candidates. Shortfall/Backlog of vacancies of SCs, STs & OBCs remained unfilled, if any, are taken care of and carried forward for filling up through subsequent recruitment cycle. The recruitment process in Railways is being conducted regularly through Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) etc. Since recruitment in Railways is undertaken on regular basis and expeditiously, launching of special recruitment drive is not required.

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.

Further, as system improvement, the Ministry of Railways has introduced a system of publishing the Annual Calendar from 2024 for recruitment to various categories of Group 'C' posts. The introduction of the Annual Calendar is benefitting 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

Presently, recruitment against 1,43,086 vacancies of non-gazetted personnel has been taken up on Indian Railways as per Annual Calendar 2024 and 2025.

During January to December 2024, ten Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 92,116 vacancies were notified for filling up of posts of Assistant Loco Pilots (ALPs), Technicians, Sub-Inspectors, Constables in Railway Protection Force (RPF), Junior Engineers (JEs)/ Depot Material Superintendent (DMS)/ Chemical & Metallurgical Assistant (CMA), Paramedical Categories, Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate), Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduate),

Ministerial & Isolated Categories and Level-1 categories such as Assistants, Track Maintainers and Pointsman.

First Stage/Single stage Computer Based Tests (CBTs) for 92,116 posts have been completed. Details are as under: -

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
1st Stage CBT for the post of ALP (18,799 vacancies)	18,40,347	156	15
CBT for the post of Technician (14,298 vacancies)	26,99,892	139	15
1st Stage CBT for the post of JE/DMS/CMA (7,951 vacancies)	11,01,266	146	15
CBT for the post of RPF-SI (452 vacancies)	15,35,635	143	15
CBT for the post of RPF-Constable (4,208 vacancies)	45,30,288	147	15
CBT for Paramedical Categories (1,376 vacancies)	7,08,321	143	15
1st Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) (8,113 vacancies)	58,41,774	141	15
1st Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under Graduate) (3,445 vacancies)	63,27,473	157	15
CBT for Ministerial & Isolated categories (1,036 vacancies)	4,46,013	139	15
CBT for level-1 posts (32438 vacancies)	1,08,28,261	152	15
Total Candidates	3,58,59,270		

2nd stage CBTs for the posts of ALP, JE/DMS/CMA and Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate & Under-Graduate) have also been completed. Details are as under: -

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
2nd Stage CBT for the post of ALP (18,799 vacancies)	2,66,363	112	15
2nd Stage CBT for the post of JE/DMS/CMA (7,951 vacancies)	1,17,339	118	15
2nd Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) (8,113 vacancies)	1,21,931	129	15

2nd Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduate) (3,445 vacancies)	51,978	79	15
Total Candidates	5,57,611		

Computer Based Aptitude Test (CBAT) for the post of ALP and Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) and Computer based Skill Test for the post of Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate and Under Graduate) and Ministerial & Isolated Categories have also been completed. Details are as under: -

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
CBAT for the post of ALP	1,32,044	84	2
Translation Test for Ministerial and Isolated Categories	1,233	8	2
CBAT for the post of Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate)	13,616	38	2
Computer Based Typing Skill Test (CBTST) for the post of Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate-level)	30,341	58	2
Computer Based Typing Skill Test (CBTST) for the post of Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under- Graduate-level)	13,145	44	2
Total Candidates	1,90,379		

Panels for more than 42,000 candidates for various posts including the posts of Technicians, Junior Engineers, Paramedical Categories, Sub-Inspectors & Constable (RPF) and Assistant Loco Pilots have been finalised. Majority of them are in safety categories.

In addition, as per Annual Calendar for the year 2025, nine Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 50,970 vacancies have also been issued. Details are as under:

CEN No.	Post Name	No. of Vacancies notified	Month of Notification
01/2025	Assistant Loco Pilots	9,970	March 2025
02/2025	Technician	6,238	June 2025
03/2025	Paramedical categories	434	July 2025

04/2025	Section Controller	368	August 2025
05/2025	Junior Engineer (JE)/ Depot Material Superintendent/Chemical & Metallurgical Assistant	2,585	October 2025
06/2025	Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate)	5,810	October 2025
07/2025	Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduate)	3,058	October 2025
08/2025	Isolated Categories	312	December 2025
09/2025	Level-1 posts	22,195	December 2025
Total		50,970	

First stage/Single stage Computer Based Tests (CBTs) for 19,595 posts have been completed. Details are as under: -

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
1st Stage CBT for the post of ALP (9970 vacancies)	10,03,719	141	15
CBT for the post of Section Controller (368 vacancies)	4,33,748	131	15
1st Stage CBT for the post of JE/DMS/CMA (2585 vacancies)	5,74,351	133	15
CBT for the post of Technician (6238 vacancies)	8,41,525	117	15
CBT for the post of Paramedical Categories (434 vacancies)	3,19,396	106	15
Total Candidates	31,72,739		

Further, 11,127 vacancies of ALP have been approved for notification in the Calendar year 2026.

Reservation is applicable upto lowest rung of Group 'A' only. The promotions/postings of the officers at senior level are done as per the extant rules, procedures and guidelines irrespective of the category of officer.
