

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 903**  
**ANSWERED ON 06.02.2026**

**NUMBER OF SANCTIONED POSTS AND VACANCIES IN RAILWAYS**

903 DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) total sanctioned number of posts and vacancies in Railways across the country in absolute numbers as on date;
- (b) category-wise and zone-wise details thereof;
- (c) current strength in absolute numbers of all regular staff in Indian Railways including production units;
- (d) category-wise and zone-wise details thereof;
- (e) total number of new employees recruited on regular basis in absolute numbers in the past five years in each zone-wise, year wise; and
- (f) exact number of contractual, temporary and outsourced employees in Indian railways including housekeeping and production units as on date, zone-wise details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (f): 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.

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 59,678 posts has been completed. Details are as under:-

<b>Exam</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Cities</b>	<b>Languages</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> 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
1 <sup>st</sup> 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
1 <sup>st</sup> Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) (8,113 vacancies)	58,41,774	141	15
1 <sup>st</sup> 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
<b>Total Candidates</b>	<b>2,50,31,009</b>		

2<sup>nd</sup> 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: -

<b>Exam</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Cities</b>	<b>Languages</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage CBT for the post of ALP (18,799 vacancies)	2,66,363	112	15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage CBT for the post of JE/DMS/CMA (7,951 vacancies)	1,17,339	118	15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) (8,113 vacancies)	1,21,931	129	15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduate) (3445 vacancies)	51,978	79	15
<b>Total Candidates</b>	<b>5,57,611</b>		

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-level) and Ministerial & Isolated Categories have also been completed. Details are as under:-

<b>Exam</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Cities</b>	<b>Languages</b>
CBAT for the post of ALP (18,799 vacancies)	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
<b>Total Candidates</b>	<b>1,77,234</b>		

CBT for 32,438 vacancies for level -1 categories has commenced from 27.11.2025 in 140 cities in 15 languages. Physical efficiency Test (PET) for 4,208 vacancies of Constable (RPF) has been completed on 06.12.2025.

Panels for more than 34,000 candidates for various posts including the posts of Technicians, Junior Engineers, Paramedical Categories, Sub-Inspectors (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:-

<b>CEN No.</b>	<b>Post Name</b>	<b>No. of Vacancies notified</b>	<b>Month of Notification</b>
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/ Depot Material Superintendent	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	22,195	December 2025

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.

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

<b>Period</b>	<b>Recruitments</b>
2004-05 to 2013-14	4.11 lakh
2014-15 to 2024- 25	5.08 lakh
2025-26 (till date)	34,929

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

In exigencies of work, contractual engagement/outsourcing is resorted to as a stop-gap arrangement till regular incumbents join the posts. Such contractual engagement/outsourcing is purely temporary and time-bound, and is undertaken only to ensure smooth functioning of Railway operations until posts are filled through regular selections as per extant rules and procedures.

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