

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2376
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2026

DELAY IN RAILWAY RECRUITMENT AND SHORTAGE OF SAFETY RELATED STAFF

2376 SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of delays in filling vacancies in Group C, Group D and technical posts in Indian Railways;
- (b) the details of vacancies in Railways, particularly in safety related posts such as loco pilots, station masters, track maintainers and technical staff, zone wise and category wise;
- (c) the reasons for delay in recruitment against sanctioned posts;
- (d) the number of recruitment processes completed and appointments made during the last three years; and
- (e) the steps taken to expedite recruitment and ensure adequate availability of safety category employees in Indian Railways?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Recruitment done in Indian Railways during 2004-05 to 2013-14 vis-à-vis during 2014-15 to 2025-26 is given as under: -

Period	Recruitments
2004-2005 to 2013-2014	4 lakh 11 thousand
2014-2015 to 2026-2027 (upto 30.06.2026)	5 lakh 56 thousand

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.

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.

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 **1,61,889** (Including Assistant Loco Pilots(ALPs)-40,896, Technician-27093, Junior Engineers (JEs)/ Depot Material Superintendent (DMS)/ Chemical & Metallurgical Assistant (CMA)-10536, Station Master-1609 & Track Maintainers-24219) vacancies of non-gazetted personnel has been taken up on Indian Railways as per Annual Calendar 2024, 2025 and 2026.

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 92116 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	2,66,363	112	15
2nd Stage CBT for the post of JE/DMS/CMA	1,17,339	118	15
2nd Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate)	1,21,931	129	15
2nd Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduate).	51,978	79	15
Total Candidates	5,57,611		

Computer Based Aptitude Test (CBAT) for the posts of ALP and Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) and Computer Based Skill Tests for the posts 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
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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 posts of Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate)	30,341	58	2
CBTST for the post of Non-Technical Popular Categories(Under Graduate)	13,145	44	2
Total Candidates	1,90,379		

During 2026-2027 (upto 30.06.2026) panels for more than 3,300 candidates for various posts including the posts of Technicians, Junior Engineers, Paramedical Categories, Ministerial & Isolated categories 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 51970 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	10,970	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 Engineers (JEs)/ Depot Material Superintendent (DMS)/ Chemical & Metallurgical Assistant (CMA)	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		51,970	

First stage/Single stage Computer Based Tests (CBTs) for 29,775 posts have been completed. Details are as under:-

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
CBT for the post of Section Controller (368 vacancies)	4,33,748	131	15
1st Stage CBT for the post of ALP (10970 vacancies)	10,03,719	141	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 Paramedical Categories (434 vacancies)	3,19,396	106	15
1st Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) (5810 vacancies)	25,89,851	142	15
1st Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under Graduate) (3058 vacancies)	32,95,980	142	15
CBT for Isolated categories (312 vacancies)	37,774	34	15
Total Candidates	90,96,344		

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

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
2nd Stage CBT for the post of JE/DMS/CMA	39,034	90	15
2nd Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate)	87,317	98	15
2nd Stage CBT for Assistant Loco Pilots	1,60,014	91	15
Total Candidates	286,365		

Computer Based Aptitude Test (CBAT) for the post of Section Controller has also been completed. Details are as under:

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
CBAT for the post of Section Controller.	2,989	24	2

Further, as per Annual Calendar for the year 2026, three Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 17,803 vacancies have been issued. Details are as under:

CEN No.	Post Name	No. of Vacancies notified	Month of Notification
01/2026	Assistant Loco Pilots	11,127	March-2026
02/2026	Technician	6,557	May-2026
03/2026	Section Controller	119	June-2026
