

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2237
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023**

FILLING UP VACANT POSTS

**2237. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:
SHRI M. SELVARAJ:
SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI NATARAJAN P.R.:
SHRI HIBI EDEN:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the severe staff shortage faced by the Indian Railways, with several gazetted and more than 3.12 lakh non-gazetted posts lying vacant across 18 zones and if so, the details thereof, zone/division-wise;**
- (b) whether the Railways has taken any measures to address the shortage of staff in all the zones including Ernakulam, Kerala and thereby prevent potential train accidents and disasters and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has fixed a timeline or target for filling all the vacant posts and if so, the details thereof and if not, the number of gazetted/non-gazetted posts lying vacant across the country, zone-wise;**
- (d) whether the Government has implemented any measures to expedite the recruitment process and ensure timely appointments and if so, the steps taken in this regard;**
- (e) whether the inability to fill the posts has led to employees working over-time of upto 16 hours at a stretch without rest and food and if so, the facts thereof;**
- (f) whether the Government has identified specific challenges in the recruitment to the vacant posts and if so, the plan envisaged to address these challenges;**

- (g) the number of employees engaged by the Railways on contract basis during the last five years, year/zone/division-wise; and**
- (h) whether permanent railway personnel are more responsible and accountable towards their duties in comparison to the contractual staff which affects the Railways operating system and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2237 BY SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI, SHRI M. SELVARAJ, SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR, SHRI NATARAJAN P.R. AND SHRI HIBI EDEN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 02.08.2023 REGARDING FILLING UP VACANT POSTS

(a) to (f) : The details of total vacancies, zone-wise in Indian

Railways as on 01.07.2023 are as under:

Zonal Railway	Gazetted	Non-gazetted
CR	103	25281
ECOR	94	8114
ECR	187	12812
ER	216	29869
MR	37	993
NCR	135	15962
NER	79	12830
NFR	171	12365
NR	168	32468
NWR	108	9813
SCR	77	10338
SECR	83	7796
SER	172	13432
SR	121	15240
SWR	54	4843
WCR	73	11142
WR	192	25597
Production units & other units	610	12338
Total	2680	261233

The vacancies of Operational Safety categories are 53,178.

Occurrence and filling up of vacancies are continuous process on Indian Railways considering its size, spatial distribution and criticality of operation. The vacancies are filled up primarily by placement of indents by Railways with Recruitment agencies as per operational requirements.

Direct recruitment to Group 'A' Services on Indian Railways is mainly done by UPSC. Every year Indent is placed on UPSC and DoPT.

A massive recruitment exercise has been completed recently for empanelling 1,39,050 candidates by conducting Computer Based Test (CBT) of approximately 2.37 crore candidates.

CBT for Centralized Employment Notification (CEN) 01/2019 for Non-Technical Popular Categories (NTPC) was conducted for 1.26 crore candidates in 133 shifts in 68 days across 211 cities and 726 centres in 15 languages. Similarly, CBT for CEN-RRC 01/2019 (Level-1) was conducted for 1.11 crore candidates in 99 shifts in 33 days across 191 cities and 551 centres in 15 languages.

During period from 01.04.2022 till 30.06.2023, 1,36,773 candidates have been empanelled against various Group 'C' posts (including Level 1). This includes 1,11,728* safety category posts.

All efforts are being made to fill up vacancies in Southern Railway including Thiruvananthapuram Division and in units/offices located at Ernakulam. 3361 candidates have been empanelled for appointment to Group 'C' (excluding Level-1) posts in Southern Railway. 8514 candidates have been empanelled for appointment to Level-1 posts in Southern Railway.

Vacancies are being filled up in a regular manner either through direct recruitment or promotion. No such instance of employees

working up to 16 hours at a stretch without rest and food has come to notice.

(g) : The number of contractual staff engaged in railway during last five years is as under :

Zonal Railway	Year-wise data				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
CR	441	660	645	468	490
ECOR	252	281	289	273	239
ECR	1463	1160	829	727	578
ER	309	352	424	584	348
MR	6	4	13	1	1
NCR	397	554	556	713	370
NER	1788	1912	613	533	682
NFR	559	176	190	176	168
NR	3050	3149	3179	3298	3419
NWR	227	243	277	197	91
SCR	647	710	768	868	576
SECR	150	155	159	205	164
SER	111	247	320	190	73
SR	160	328	521	141	106
SWR	467	657	667	637	492
WCR	222	215	313	341	228
WR	482	610	874	731	337

(h) : Duties are performed in Railways either by permanent Railway employees or by contractual employees (few activities especially some non-core activities / activities which are not permanent in nature) with proper monitoring of their duties by assigned Supervisors.

***Provisional**
