

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3437
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023**

SHORTAGE OF SAFETY STAFF

3437. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of vacant positions for railway safety staff in the country, department-wise;**
- (b) the steps taken by the Railways to address the severe shortage of safety personnel in the Indian Railways;**
- (c) whether the Railways has any plans to ensure the safety and security of passengers given the significant deficiency in railway safety staff;**
- (d) if so, the corrective measures likely to be undertaken to expedite the recruitment process and fill these vacancies promptly;**
- (e) whether any time line has been fixed for the completion of the recruitment process to ensure adequate railway safety staff is in place without further delay; and**
- (f) if so, the details in this regard?**

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3437 BY SHRI RITESH PANDEY TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 09.08.2023 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF SAFETY STAFF

(a) : The details of vacancies in Operational Safety Categories, department-wise on Indian Railways as on 01.07.2023 are appended as annexure - I.

(b) to (f) : 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.

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.

Details of measures taken for safety and security of passengers are appended as annexure - II.

*** Provisional**

APPENDIX - I REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3437 BY SHRI RITESH PANDEY TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 09.08.2023 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF SAFETY STAFF

Department	VAC
Civil Engineering	2266
Electrical	17129
Mechanical	1421
Signal & Telecommunication	3638
Traffic & Transportation (Operating)	28724
Total	53178

APPENDIX – II REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3437 BY SHRI RITESH PANDEY TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 09.08.2023 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF SAFETY STAFF

- 1. Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) has been introduced in 2017-18 for replacement/renewal/upgradation of critical safety assets, with a corpus of `1 lakh crore for five years. From 2017-18 till 2021-22, a Gross expenditure of Rs. 1.08 lakh crore was incurred on RRSK works.**
- 2. Electrical/Electronic Interlocking Systems with centralized operation of points and signals have been provided at 6427 stations upto 31.05.2023 to eliminate accident due to human failure.**
- 3. Interlocking of Level Crossing (LC) Gates has been provided at 11093 level Crossing Gates up to 31.05.2023 for enhancing safety at LC gates.**
- 4. Complete Track Circuiting of stations to enhance safety for verification of track occupancy by electrical means has been provided at 6377 stations upto 31.05.2023.**
- 5. Detailed instructions on issues related with safety of Signalling e.g. mandatory correspondence check, alteration work protocol, preparation of completion drawing, etc. have been issued.**
- 6. System of disconnection and reconnection for S&T equipment as per protocol has been re-emphasized.**
- 7. All locomotives are equipped with Vigilance Control Devices (VCD) to ensure alertness of Loco Pilots.**
- 8. Retro-reflective sigma boards are provided on the mast which is located two OHE masts prior to the signals in electrified territories to warn the crew about the signal ahead when visibility is low due to foggy weather.**
- 9. A GPS based Fog Safety Device (FSD) is provided to loco pilots in fog affected areas which enables loco pilots to know the distance of the approaching landmarks like signals, level crossing gates etc.**
- 10. Modern track structure consisting of 60kg, 90 Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS) rails, Prestressed Concrete Sleeper (PSC) Normal/Wide base sleepers with elastic fastening, fanshaped layout turnout on PSC sleepers, Steel Channel/H-beam Sleepers on girder bridges is used while carrying out primary track renewals.**
- 11. Mechanisation of track laying activity through use of track machines like PQRS, TRT, T-28 etc to reduce human errors.**

- 12. Maximizing supply of 130m/260m long rail panels for increasing progress of rail renewal and avoiding welding of joints, thereby ensuring safety.**
- 13. Laying of longer rails, minimizing the use of Alumino Thermic Welding and adoption of better welding technology for rails i.e. Flash Butt Welding.**
- 14. Monitoring of track geometry by OMS (Oscillation Monitoring System) and TRC (Track Recording Cars).**
- 15. Patrolling of railway tracks to look out for weld/rail fractures.**
- 16. The use of Thick Web Switches and Weldable CMS Crossing in turnout renewal works.**
- 17. Inspections at regular intervals are carried out to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices.**
- 18. Web based online monitoring system of track assets viz. Track database and decision support system has been adopted to decide rationalized maintenance requirement and optimize inputs.**
- 19. Detailed instructions on issues related with safety of Track e.g. integrated block, corridor block, worksite safety, monsoon precautions etc. have been issued.**
- 20. Preventive maintenance of railway assets (Coaches & Wagons) is undertaken to ensure safe train operations and to keep a check on Rail Accidents across the country.**
- 21. Replacement of conventional ICF design coaches with LHB design coaches is being done.**
- 22. All unmanned level crossings (UMLCs) on Broad Gauge (BG) route have been eliminated by January 2019.**
- 23. Safety of Railway Bridges is ensured through regular inspection of Bridges. The requirement of repair/rehabilitation of Bridges is taken up based upon the conditions assessed during these inspections.**
- 24. Indian Railways has displayed Statutory "Fire Notices" for widespread passenger information in all coaches. Fire posters are provided in every coach so as to inform and alert passengers regarding various Do's and Don'ts to prevent fire. These include messages regarding not carrying any inflammable material, explosives, prohibition of smoking inside the coaches, penalties etc.**
- 25. Production Units are providing Fire detection and suppression system in newly manufactured Power Cars and Pantry Cars, Fire and Smoke detection system in newly manufactured coaches. Progressive fitment of the same in existing coaches is also underway by Zonal Railways in a phased manner.**
- 26. Regular counselling and training of staff is undertaken.**
- 27. Concept of Rolling Block introduced wherein work of maintenance/repair/replacement is planned for 2 weeks in advance on rolling basis and executed as per plan.**

- 28. On vulnerable and identified routes/sections, trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force in addition to trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.**
- 29. For immediate assistance passengers can make complaint on Rail Madad Portal directly or through Helpline Number 139 (integrated with National Emergency No. 112).**
- 30. Railway are regular touch with passengers through various social media platforms viz. twitter, facebook, koo etc. to address their security concern.**
- 31. Frequent announcements are made through Public Address System to educate passengers to take precautions against theft, snatching, drugging etc.**
- 32. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras provided in 7264 coaches in trains and 866 Railway stations for enhanced security of passengers.**
- 33. Under 'Meri Saheli' initiative, focused attention has been provided for safety and security of lady passengers travelling alone by long distance trains for their entire journey i.e. from originating station to destination station.**
- 34. Zonal railways have been instructed for deployment of proper combined strength of male & female RPF/RPSF personnel in train escort parties, to the extent possible.**
- 35. State Level Security Committee of Railways (SLSCR) have been constituted for all State/Union Territories under the Chairmanship of respective Director General of Police/Commissioner of States/Union Territories for regular monitoring and review of security arrangements of the Railways.**
