

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 378
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2024**

OVERHAULING OF WORKING CONDITIONS OF RAILWAY WORKERS

378. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the railway workers have sought overhaul of working conditions as they work in hostile environments without basic facilities;**
- (b) whether track maintainers walk upto 20 kms. each day and Travelling Ticket Examiners face intimidation by ticketless and intoxicated travellers;**
- (c) whether the loco pilots were forced to work restless due to a large number of unfilled vacancies of loco pilots;**
- (d) whether women gatekeepers have been demanding not to get posted in remote locations due to fear of sexual assaults; and**
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.378 BY SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 24.07.2024 REGARDING OVERHAULING OF WORKING CONDITIONS OF RAILWAY WORKERS

(a) to (e): There has been constant endeavour by the Indian Railways to improve the working conditions of the Railway workers. Several steps have been taken for improvement of working condition of loco running crew and initiatives taken for improvement in safety of train operation which are as follows: -

(1) Improvement in locomotives for the comfort and for easing out duties of loco running staff :-

Considering the tough duties of loco running staff, number of steps have been initiated and executed which are as under :-

- a. Production of three phase locos, having ergonomic crew friendly design features like better seat and drivers desk for better comfort of loco and assistant loco pilot, has been increased in past 10 years i.e. since 2014, 7,286 three phase locos have been manufactured as against 719 prior to 2014.**
- b. All new locos manufactured are provided with air-conditioned cabs since 2017-18. So far more than 7,000 locos have been provided with air conditioners.**
- c. All new locos being manufactured are provided with Vigilance Control Devices (VCD) as a technological aid to monitor and warn Loco Pilots in case of loss of alertness while driving. Since 2014, VCD has been provided in more than 12,000 (10,521 Electric +1,873 Diesel) locos.**

- d. A portable GPS based Fog safe Device (FSD) is being provided to Loco Pilots as a technical aid for displaying and announcing the name and distance of approaching signals and important landmarks. Since 2014, 21,742 nos. FSDs have been provided in IR.**
- e. Retro-reflective strip in sigma shape have been provided two masts prior to stop signals on all the Zonal Railways for easy identification of stop signal during foggy weather as an aid and for reducing stress on loco pilots.**

(2) Improvement in quality of rest of running staff at Running Rooms :-

A number of steps have been taken in the last 10 years to improve the quality of rest of the running staff which are as under :-

- a. All 558 running rooms have been air-conditioned.**
- b. Running staff are also provided with Yoga and meditation room, reading room with newspaper and magazines for relaxing in accordance with their requirements.**
- c. Provision for good quality subsidized meal in running rooms.**
- d. Availability of RO water filters in running rooms.**
- e. Separate room for female crew.**
- f. Loco pilots have to keep a continuous watch on track and signals involving long hours of standing in cab. Based on CAMTECH report, facilities like foot massager etc. are made available in running rooms for giving loco pilots proper rest.**

(3) Other technological aids for improving safety in train operation :-

- a. Simulator based training for improving the driving skills and the reaction time of Loco Pilots is being emphasized and simulator training facility is increased significantly.**
- b. Mobile Application named 'Chalak Dal' has been developed for the facilitation of crew. The App has been modified in 2023, to enable crew to access all his details related to running duties, sign on / sign off, loco trouble shooting directory and other documents required during train operation which otherwise were required to be carried in hard copy.**

(4) Other measures for improving safety in train operation :-

- a. Various safety drives & special counseling programs are regularly organized for checking the alertness and safety awareness among the running staff. Special safety seminars & meetings are also organized for interaction with family members of running staff for educating on role of quality rest in life of running staff.**
- b. Special drives are launched regularly to counsel running staff to boost their morale and confidence.**

Duty hours of Loco Pilots and Assistant Loco Pilots are governed by Railway servants (Hours of Work & Period of Rest) Rules 2005. Duty hours, numbers of night duties, facility for out-station rest, number and hours of rest at headquarter are well defined and monitored closely.

Track maintainers have also been provided various facilities like Retro-reflective Safety Jackets (Luminous Vest), Safety Shoes, Clothing like Winter Jackets, Trousers, Gloves, Snow Boots, Caps, Rain Coat with Hood and Water Proof Trousers, Water Bottle, Safety Helmet, two pairs of Shirts and Trousers, Light Toolkit Bag, Gang Tools cum Rest Room, Gang Huts, Toilets facilities at Manned Level Crossings, etc.

To avoid long walk/travel by the Track maintainers, normally the beat of Track maintainers' gang is kept upto 8 km and headquarters of Track maintainers as well as their toolbox are located within gang beat.

The cases of the incidents of intimidation of TTEs are registered by GRP and legal action is taken against the offenders as per law.

Considerate view is taken for posting of women gatekeepers and the matter related to sexual assault is dealt as per laid down norms.

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

After easing of restrictions imposed on account of COVID 19, two major examinations involving more than 2.37 crore candidates have been conducted successfully.

Computer Based Test (CBT) exam for more than 1.26 crore candidates was conducted in 7 phases from 28.12.2020 to 31.07.2021 in 133 shifts in 68 days across 211 cities and 726 centres.

Similarly, CBT was conducted for more than 1.1 crore candidates in 5 phases from 17.08.2022 to 11.10.2022 in 99 shifts in 33 days across 191 cities and 551 centres.

Based on these exams, 1,30,581 candidates have been recruited in Railways.

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 2004-2014 vis-à-vis during 2014-2024 is given as under :-

Period	Recruitments
2004-14	4.11 lakh
2014-24	5.02 lakh

Further, as system improvement, the Ministry of Railways has introduced a system of publishing annual calendar this year for recruitment to various categories of Group 'C' post. Accordingly, four Centralized Notifications (CENs) for 32,603 vacancies have been notified during January to March 2024 for filling up of posts of Assistant Loco Pilots, Technicians, Sub-Inspectors & Constables in Railway Protection Force (RPF). The introduction of annual calendar will benefit 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**
