

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 234
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024**

VACANT TRACK MAINTAINER POSTS

234. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of vacant Trackmen (Track Maintainer) posts in Indian Railways available through departmental exams;**
- (b) details of number of eligible Trackmen denied the opportunity to appear for these departmental exams;**
- (c) total number of Trackmen lost their lives while on duty in the past five years;**
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to implement and enhance Trackmen's safety and prevent future fatalities;**
- (e) whether the Government has provided Trackmen with safety devices or early warning systems to ensure their safety while working on the tracks; and**
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to improve working conditions and career progression opportunities for Trackmen particularly regarding access to departmental exams for advanced roles and responsibilities?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING 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. 234 BY SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 27.11.2024 REGARDING VACANT TRACK MAINTAINER POSTS

(a) to (f): Trackmaintainers are recruited through Direct recruitment at the entry grade and they are further promoted in their cadre as per existing provisions. Trackmen have been restructured into four grades (Pay Levels I, II, IV, and V) with a dedicated promotion channel. No post of Trackmaintainer is vacant on account of departmental examination. Trackmaintainers have a defined channel for 3 promotions. Further as per the avenue of promotion, Trackmaintainer have promotional channel to Junior Engineer (Permanent Way).

Besides above, Trackmaintainers can appear in General Departmental Competitive Examination (GDCE). GDCE are open to all eligible employees, including Trackmaintainers. Regular Group 'C' and Level-I staff fulfilling eligibility can appear in the GDCE, enabling skilled and qualified employees in lower grades to progress to higher grades quickly. Trackmaintainers have been availing the benefit of GDCE across Railways.

Trackmaintainers are equipped with essential safety gear while working in hazardous environments. The safety equipment like Retro-reflective Safety Jackets (Luminous Vest), Safety Shoes, Gloves, Safety Helmet with detachable miner's light Tricolour Light Emitting Diode (LED) 3 Cell Torch is regularly provided.

To further reinforce safety practices, regular counseling and training sessions are conducted by Officers and Senior Supervisors to raise awareness about potential hazards and proper safety protocols. The "Personal Safety First" programme is conducted through seminars and

workshops, where Trackmaintainers are trained on how to stay safe while working on or near the track. Hand Flags, Banner Flags, Detonators, Whistles etc. are also provided to enhance safety.

To ensure continuous monitoring of approaching trains, Lookout Men are deputed as necessary. Regular medical checks are conducted to assess the physical fitness of Key personal.

As a result of the above safety measures, there has been reduction in no. of trackmen run over during duty from 196 in 2013-14 to an average of 67 per year during the last 5 years which is a reduction of over 65 %.
