

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2710  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024**

**OVERCROWDING ON LONG-DISTANCE TRAIN ROUTES.**

**2710. SHRI KARTI P CHIDAMBARAM:  
SHRI PARSHOTTAMBHAI RUPALA:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the measures taken by the Government to handle workload, evaluate staffing levels and improve operational processes at each railway station of the country;**
- (b) whether the Government is aware that alarming and persistent overcrowding on long-distance train routes is resulting in widespread passenger complaints about discomfort, safety concerns and poor travel conditions;**
- (c) the specific measures taken/to be taken by the Government to address overcrowding on high-demand routes, including the introduction of additional trains, increasing service frequencies or augmenting existing services to enhance safety and passenger comfort; and**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to prioritize the expansion and improvement of regular, high-frequency train services to overcome the challenges rather than focusing disproportionately on luxury/premium projects?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (d): In its constant endeavour to provide additional accommodation to travelling passengers, Indian Railways (IR), in**

**addition to the various types of regular trains, also operates Special train services during festivals, holidays, etc. to cater to the extra needs of passengers.**

**Accordingly, during the year 2024, 13523 trips special trains were operated to meet the extra rush of passengers during Holi and summer vacation.**

**To cater to the rush during Durga Pooja/ Dipawali /Chhath, 7990 trips of Special trains have also been operated during the period 1st October, 2024 to 30th November, 2024, to serve approximately 1.8 crore passengers.**

**IR also augments the load of trains, both on a permanent and temporary basis, to generate additional accommodation for different segments of passengers.**

**During the year 2023-24, 872 coaches have been utilized for augmentation of train services on a permanent basis while during the year 2024-25(till November, 2024), 774 have been utilized for permanent augmentation.**

**Further, to provide greater accommodation for the passengers using General and non-AC Sleeper Coaches, the extant policy regarding composition of Mail/Express trains, provide for 12 (Twelve) General class & Sleeper class non- AC coaches and 08 (eight) AC-Coaches, in a train of 22 coaches, thereby providing greater accommodation for the passengers using General and non-AC Sleeper Coaches. Besides, of the total number of Coaches being presently**

**utilized for running of train services, two-third are non-AC, and one-third are AC variants.**

**Additionally, Indian Railways have introduced Amrit Bharat services, which have modern State-of the Art technology are equipped with advanced features like Semi-Permanent couplers for jerk free travel, horizontal sliding windows, foldable snack table and bottle holders, mobile holders etc. These services, which are fully non-AC trains, presently comprising 12 Sleeper Class Coaches and 8 General Class coaches, are providing high quality services to the passengers.**

**Moreover, Introduction of new trains, increase in frequency of trains and extension of trains is an on-going process over IR subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification and availability of resources.**

**Adequate manpower is provided at the railway stations based on the classification of the stations, duty hours of the employees based on Hours of Employment Regulations (HOER) and manpower yardsticks prescribed for different activities.**

**Continuous review of manpower requirement is done in view of introduction of new technologies, changing working systems, creation of new assets etc.**

**Occurrence and filling up of vacancies are continuous processes 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 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.**

<b>Exam</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Cities</b>	<b>Centres</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Shifts</b>
<b>L2 - L6</b>	<b>1.26 cr</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>L-1</b>	<b>1.1 cr</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>99</b>

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

**Recruitment done in Indian Railways during 2004-2014 vis-à-vis during 2014 – 2024 is given as under.**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Recruitments</b>
<b>2004-14</b>	<b>4.11 lakh</b>
<b>2014-24</b>	<b>5.02 lakh</b>

**Majority of these recruitments are in operation and safety categories.**

**Further, as system improvement, the Ministry of Railways has introduced a system of publishing annual calendar from 2024 for recruitment to various categories of Group ‘C’ posts. 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**

**Accordingly, Eight Centralized Notifications (CENs) for 58,642 vacancies have been notified during January to October 2024 for filling**

**up of posts of Assistant Loco Pilots, Technicians, Sub-Inspectors & Constables in Railway Protection Force (RPF), Junior Engineers/Depot Material Superintendents/Chemical & Metallurgical Assistants, Paramedical Categories, Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduates) & Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduates).**

**The Computer Based Test has commenced from 25.11.2024 onwards.**

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