

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3794
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024**

CHALLENGES FACED BY TRACKMEN IN RAILWAYS

3794. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the challenges faced by trackmen in the Railways, including inadequate safety measures, heavy workloads, and limited career progression opportunities;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the total number of trackmen currently employed in the Railways, along with the vacancies in this category;**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the working conditions and safety of trackmen, particularly during extreme weather conditions and night shifts;**
- (d) whether the Government has any plans to modernize the tools and equipment provided to trackmen to enhance their efficiency and reduce physical strain;**
- (e) the details of any initiatives undertaken to address the grievances of trackmen, including wage disparities, promotions, and welfare measures; and**
- (f) whether the Government is considering the deployment of advanced technology to assist trackmen in their duties and if so, the timeline for its implementation?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (f) Trackmaintainers are important members of Indian Railway Family who play important role in keeping track fit for safe operation of

trains. Indian Railways has taken several measures to improve the working condition of Trackmaintainers as under:

- (i) Trackmaintainers have been equipped with essential safety gears while working in hazardous environments. The major safety equipments like Retro Reflective Safety Jackets (Luminous Vests), Safety Shoes, Gloves, Safety Helmet with detachable miner's light, Tricolour Light Emitting Diode (LED) 3 cell Torch, Rain Coat, Winter Jacket etc. have been provided to them.**
- (ii) In order to enhance efficiency and reduce physical strain of Trackmaintainers, Light Weight Tools and equipments like Spanner, Hammer, Crowbar etc. have been provided.**
- (iii) Mechanized maintenance of tracks using various types of Track Machines have been introduced to reduce the manual efforts.**
- (iv) Further, to reinforce safety practices, regular counselling, training sessions and medical examinations are being conducted to raise awareness about potential hazards and proper safety protocols. The "Personal Safety First" programme is being conducted through seminars and workshops, where Trackmaintainers are trained on how to stay safe while working on or near the track.**
- (v) Indian Railway has also taken measures to address the issue of carrier progression and promotion of Track Maintainers' Cadre by introducing two more promotional grades thereby ensuring four grades for promotion.**
- (vi) Apart from above, additional avenues for promotion are available through General Departmental Competitive Examination (GDCE) and Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE).**

There is no Wage disparity as the wages and allowances for various level of Track Maintainers are as recommended by the 7th Central Pay Commission. Further, Risk and Hardship allowances have also been provided according to nature of duty of the Trackmaintainers.

As regards welfare measures to Trackmaintainers, they have been provided Gang Tools cum Rest Room, Gang Huts, Toilets facilities at manned level crossing, Water bottle (2 litre, heat insulated), family accommodation to take care of education and health of dependents.

The 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 requirements. Presently, more than 2.19 lakh Trackmaintainers are working in Indian Railways.

Manpower including trackmaintainers recruited during 2004-14 vis-à-vis during 2014-24 is given as under:

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