

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3879  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024**

**RESTARTING OF TRAINS STOPPED DURING CORONA PERIOD**

**†3879. SHRI RAMASHANKAR RAJBHAR:**

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

- (a) whether the operation of the trains had been stopped across the country during the Corona period;**
- (b) if so, the proposals to restart such trains;**
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) the details of the number of the trains not restarted so far;**
- (e) whether the Government conducts apprenticeship; and**
- (f) if so, the details of the status of adjustment of the said apprenticeship?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

- (a) to (d) With a view to contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, Indian Railways(IR) had discontinued the operation of all regular passenger carrying trains with effect from 23rd March, 2020 and only special train services were being operated. Meanwhile, IR also undertook rationalization of the time table with the assistance of IIT-**

**Bombay. Consequent upon the rationalization exercise, all regular passenger carrying trains are being operated as per rationalised time table.**

**(e) IR conducts apprenticeship programs at its various units like Production Units, Workshops, Loco Sheds, Carriage and Wagon Depots etc. under the provisions of the Apprentices Act, 1961.**

**(f) Pursuant to Amendment in Section 22 of Apprentices Act, 1961 which provides that "every employer shall formulate its own policy for recruiting any apprentice who has completed the period of apprenticeship training in his establishment", it has been decided that 20% of the Level-I vacancies in case of direct recruitment shall be filled giving preference to Course Completed Act Apprentices (CCAA). CCAA candidates trained in Railway Establishments have also been extended due weightage for the apprenticeship in a manner that one third of the marks in preparation of the final merit list after conduct of CBT is based on marks obtained in their apprenticeship examination. These candidates are also exempted from the Physical Efficiency Test. Railways provides additional relaxation for these CCAAs in form of upper age relaxation to the extent of duration of apprenticeship training undergone by the candidates under Apprenticeship Act, 1961, subject to maximum of three (3) years.**

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