

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 375  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025**

**CANCELLATION OF PENDING DEPARTMENTAL SELECTION**

**\*375 SHRI SELVAGANAPATHI T.M. :  
SHRI UJJWAL RAMAN SINGH :**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railways has cancelled all pending departmental selections on Group 'C' posts that were not finalized and approved till march 4, 2025, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether it is a fact that the cancellation of departmental selection on Group 'C' posts was due to several irregularities noticed in conducting examination in the recent past, if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard;**
- (d) whether the CBI has arrested 26 railway officials of East Central Railway in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly leaking papers of a departmental examination and if so, the details thereof including the action taken against concerned officials in this regard;**
- (e) the time by which the Government proposes to fill all the Group "C" posts in Railways along with the details thereof;**
- (f) whether it is a fact that the railways roped in the Railway Recruitment Board to hold all departmental promotion examinations through a centralized computer-based test, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (g) the details of total posts lying vacant in all categories of railways especially relating to safety and security of rail operations as on date other than the promotional filling up posts?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 375 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025.**

**(a) to (g): Occurrence and filling up of vacancies is a 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, mechanisations 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 during 2020 to 2022.**

<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>L1</b>	<b>1.1 cr</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>99</b>

**Based on these exams, 130581 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 2004-2005 to 2013-2014 vis-à-vis during 2014-2015 to 2023-2024 is given as under:-**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Recruitments*</b>
<b>2004-2005 to 2013-2014</b>	<b>4.11 lakhs</b>
<b>2014-2015 to 2023-2024</b>	<b>5.02 lakhs</b>

**\* Including Level-1 and security related posts.**

**Further, as a 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, ten Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 92116 (Safety-63669, Non-Safety 28447) vacancies have been notified during January to December 2024 for filling up of posts of Assistant Loco Pilots, Technicians, Sub-Inspectors, Constables in Railway Protection Force (RPF), Junior Engineers (JEs)/ Depot Material Superintendent (DMS)/ Chemical & Metallurgical Assistant (CMA), Paramedical Categories, Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate), Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduate), Ministerial & Isolated Categories and Level-1.**

**For five notifications, Computer Based Tests (CBTs) have been completed in two phases from 25.11.2024 to 30.12.2024 and 02.03.2025 to 18.03.2025. The details are as under:-**

<b>Exam</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Cities</b>	<b>Centres</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Shifts</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Stage CBT for the post of ALP (18,799 vacancies)</b>	<b>18,40,347</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>CBT for the post of RPF-SI (452 vacancies)</b>	<b>15,35,635</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Stage CBT for the post of JE/DMS/CMA (7,951 vacancies)</b>	<b>11,01,266</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>CBT for the post of Technician (14,298 vacancies)</b>	<b>26,99,892</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>CBT for the post of RPF-Constable (4208 vacancies)</b>	<b>45,30,288</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>

**Railways have a robust system of Career progression involving multiple system of promotions:-**

- (i) Promotion through Departmental Examination;**
- (ii) Promotion through Skill Test;**
- (iii) Promotion through Seniority-cum-Suitability**

**Most of the promotions are done through skill test & through Seniority-cum-Suitability. A small percentage of the overall promotion is done through Departmental Examination. In the recent past, some irregularities in existing system of departmental examination has been noticed. Investigative agency has arrested some officials against whom necessary legal action is underway. This Government is committed to probity and transparency in public service. Therefore, it was decided to revisit the system of departmental examination.**

**Railway Recruitment Boards(RRBs) have a proven track record of holding fair and transparent examination. The process adopted by Railway Recruitment Board(RRB) for conducting of examination is time tested. The expertise is being leveraged for Department Examination**

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