

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2089
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025**

AVAILABLE VACANCIES OF LOCO PILOT IN RAILWAYS

2089. SHRI KHALILUR RAHAMAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding the existing vacancies of loco pilot in railways;**
- (b) the total strength of loco pilots in different categories of train in the country;**
- (c) the number of loco pilots retired during the last ten years along with those recruited during the same period;**
- (d) the steps being taken to fill up the vacant posts; and**
- (e) the sanctioned duty hours of loco pilot in a week?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e): Occurrence and filling up of vacancies are continuous processes 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.

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Centres	Days	Shifts
L2 - L6	1.26 cr	211	726	68	133
L1	1.1 cr	191	551	33	99

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

Recruitment done in Indian Railways during 2004-2005 to 2013-2014 vis-à-vis during 2014-2015 to 2023-2024 is given as under: -

Period	Recruitments
2004-2005 to 2013-2014	4.11 lakhs
2014-2015 to 2023-2024	5.02 lakhs

During the last ten years (i.e. 2014-2015 to 2023-2024), 51,856 candidates have been recruited for the post of Assistant Loco Pilots (ALPs)/ Loco Pilots (LPs). During the same period 15,300 number of loco pilots have retired.

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**

Ten Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 92,116 vacancies have been notified in 2024 for filling up of posts of Assistant Loco Pilots (18,799 vacancies), 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. First stage Computer Based Test for 41,500 posts has been completed from 25.11.2024 to 30.12.2024.

Details are as under:-

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Centres	Days	Shifts
ALP CEN No. 01/2024 (18,799 vacancies)	18,40,347	156	346	5	15
Technician CEN No. 02/2024 (14,298 vacancies)	26,99,892	139	312	9	27
JE/DMS/CMA CEN No. 03/2024 (7,951 vacancies)	11,01,266	146	323	3	9
RPF(SI) CEN No. 01/2024 (452 vacancies)	15,35,635	143	306	5	15

Further, Computer Based Test for RPF CEN No. 02/2024 (4,208 vacancies) for the post of Constable has started from 02.03.2025 onwards. 2nd Stage Computer Based Test (CBT-II) for CEN No. 01/2024, for the post of Assistant Loco Pilot is scheduled on 19.03.2025 and 20.03.2025.

Loco Pilots are classified under Continuous Category. Section 132(2) of Railway Act, 1989, prescribes duty hours of 54 hrs a week on an average in a two-weekly period of fourteen days for staff working under Continuous category. Rule 8 of “Hours of Work and Period of Rest” (HOER), 2005 lays down the guidelines of duty hours of 52 hrs a week on an average in a two-weekly period of fourteen days for Loco Pilots i.e., duty hours are less than max. hrs of 54 per week for other “Continuous” category employees on Indian Railways. Loco Pilots are also compensated for extra working hours as per the rates specified in Section 132 of the Railway Act, 1989.
