

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 504
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025**

ENGAGEMENT OF RETIRED RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

504. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government is increasingly appointing retired staff for various operational and technical roles in light of emerging demands in train services;**
- (b) if so, the details of the number of retired personnel rehired by the Railways during the last three years zone and year-wise;**
- (c) the details of the reasons for preferring reappointment of retired staff over fresh recruitment through competitive examinations;**
- (d) whether the Government has undertaken any assessment of the impact of such reappointments on employment opportunities for qualified young aspirants and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the details of the steps being taken to ensure that fresh recruitment to critical railway posts is not neglected in favour of short-term stop-gap measures?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

- (a) to (e) : 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, mechanization and innovative practices. The vacancies are filled up primarily by placement of indents by Railways with Recruitment agencies as per operational and technological requirements.

Presently recruitment of 1,20,579 vacancies has been taken up on Indian Railways as per Annual Calendar 2024 and 2025.

During January to December 2024, ten Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 92,116 vacancies were notified for filling up of posts of Assistant Loco Pilots (ALPs), 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 categories such as Assistants, Track Maintainers and Pointsman.

First stage/Single stage Computer Based Tests (CBTs) for 59,678 posts has been completed. Details are as under:-

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
1st Stage CBT for the post of ALP (18,799 vacancies)	18,40,347	156	15
CBT for the post of Technician (14,298 vacancies)	26,99,892	139	15
1st Stage CBT for the post of JE/DMS/CMA (7,951 vacancies)	11,01,266	146	15
CBT for the post of RPF-SI (452 vacancies)	15,35,635	143	15
CBT for the post of RPF-Constable (4,208 vacancies)	45,30,288	147	15

vacancies)			
CBT for Paramedical Categories (1,376 vacancies)	7,08,321	143	15
1st Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) (8,113 vacancies)	58,41,774	141	15
1st Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under Graduate) (3,445 vacancies)	63,27,473	157	15
CBT for Ministerial & Isolated categories (1,036 vacancies)	4,46,013	139	15

2nd stage CBTs for the posts of ALP, JE/DMS/CMA and Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) has also been completed. Details are as under: -

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
2nd Stage CBT for the post of ALP (18,799 vacancies)	2,66,363	112	15
2nd Stage CBT for the post of JE/DMS/CMA (7,951 vacancies)	1,17,339	118	15
2nd Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) (8,113 vacancies)	1,21,931	129	15

Computer Based Aptitude Test (CBAT) for the post of ALP has also been completed. Details are as under:-

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
CBAT for the post of ALP (18,799 vacancies)	1,32,044	84	2

CBT for 32,438 vacancies for level -1 categories has commenced from 27.11.2025 in 140 cities in 15 languages. Physical efficiency Test (PET) for 4,208 vacancies of Constable (RPF) has commenced from 13.11.2025.

Panels for more than 23,000 candidates including the posts of Technicians, Junior Engineers, Paramedical Categories, Sub-Inspectors (RPF) and Assistant Loco Pilots have been sent to indenting Railways. Majority of them are in safety categories.

In addition, as per Annual Calendar for the year 2025, seven Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 28,463 vacancies have also been issued. Details are as under:-

S. No.	CEN No.	Post Name	No. of Vacancies notified	Month of Notification
1	01/2025	Assistant Loco Pilots	9,970	March 2025
2	02/2025	Technicians	6,238	June 2025
3	03/2025	Para-Medical Categories	434	July 2025
4	04/2025	Section Controllers	368	August 2025
5	05/2025	Junior Engineers / Depot Material Superintendent	2,585	October 2025
6	06/2025	NTPC (Graduate)	5,810	October 2025
7	07/2025	NTPC (Under-Graduate)	3,058	October 2025

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 2024-2025 is given as under :-

Period	Recruitments
2004-2005 to 2013-2014	4.11 lakh
2014-2015 to 2024-2025	5.08 lakh

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

However, sometime in order to meet exigencies, retired Railway employees are re-engaged against the vacant posts temporarily based on competency, experience etc. to ensure smooth progress of the developmental and other works till the vacancies are filled up on regular basis as per the laid down rules and procedure.
