

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5446
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2026**

RECRUITMENT OF AGNIVEERS IN RAILWAYS

5446. SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted an assessment of long-term employment sustainability for Agniveers recruited into Railways and if so, the details of job security, promotion avenues and permanency provisions thereof;**
- (b) whether salary parity and service conditions for ex-Agniveers match existing railway staff in similar posts and if so, the details of comparative pay structure and benefits thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has evaluated the impact of this policy on existing railway staff and operational efficiency and if so, the details of measurable outcomes and performance indicators thereof;**
- (d) whether the contractual engagement of ex-servicemen as Pointsmen dilute regular recruitment opportunities for civilian candidates and if so, the details of the justification thereof and safeguards adopted to maintain recruitment balance;**
- (e) whether reservation benefits announced under the cooperation framework are being uniformly implemented across all Railway zones and if so, the details of recruitment data thereof, zone-wise and if not, reasons for deviation; and**
- (f) whether training and skill-mapping mechanisms have been created to align military experience with technical Railway posts and if so, the details of the curriculum and implementing agencies thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (f) The occurrence and filling up of vacancies in Indian Railways is a continuous process, considering its size, spatial distribution and

criticality of operations. Adequate and suitable manpower is provided to cater to operational requirements, technological changes, mechanisation and innovative practices, with vacancies primarily filled through indents placed with recruitment agencies as per operational and technological requirements.

The details of AGNIPATH scheme for recruitment of Agniveers to non-gazetted posts in Railways are as under:

- A horizontal reservation of 10% in direct recruitment from open market in Pay Level-1 posts and 5% in Pay Level-2 and above level posts in various departments (other than RPF/RPSF) is provided to AGNIVEERS in Railways.**
- A 10% horizontal reservation in the posts of Constables in RPF/RPSF Department is also provided.**
- Reservation is subject to their fulfilling other eligibility conditions for direct recruitment in Railways to the post.**
- An age relaxation up to five years for the first batch of Agniveers and up to three years for subsequent batches of Agniveers over and above the existing upper age limits for the normal candidates is provided.**
- Exemption from requirement of qualifying the Physical Efficiency Test necessary for recruitment in Pay level-1 posts is also provided to them.**
- These benefits will be applicable uniformly across all Zonal Railways.**
- Once recruited they will be governed by the same Service Conditions, Pay & Allowances as are applicable to normal railway servants recruited from open market against direct recruitment posts.**

The first batch of Agniveers has not yet completed their term of engagement and retention process as such they are not yet available for

appearing in the appointment process on the Railways. Since the recruitment of Agniveers will be against direct recruitment vacancies, there will be no impact on the promotional prospects or other service conditions of the existing railway staff or on the operational efficiency of Railways.

In direct recruitment in Railways, a horizontal reservation of 20% in Pay Level-1 and 10% in Pay Level-2 and above posts is provided to Ex-Servicemen eligible candidates. In addition, Ex-Servicemen are also considered for engagement on temporary basis as Gatemen and Pointsmen against short term vacancies till a regularly recruited candidate is available to ensure smooth progress of developmental and other works. This is applicable uniformly on all the Zonal Railways.

Recruitment in Indian Railways has been undertaken at a large scale over the years, and the occurrence and filling up of vacancies continues as an ongoing process. The details of recruitment are as under:

Recruitment done in Indian Railways during 2004-05 to 2013-14 vis-à-vis during 2014-15 to 2025-26 is given as under: -

Period	Recruitments
2004-2005 to 2013-2014	4.11 lakh
2014-2015 to 2024-2025	5.08 lakh
2025-2026 - till date	42,380

The RRB examinations are quite technical in nature entailing large scale mobilisation 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.

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' posts. 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**

Presently, recruitment against 1,43,086 vacancies of non-gazetted personnel 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 various posts. First Stage/Single stage Computer Based Tests (CBTs) for these posts have 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
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
CBT for level-1 posts (32438 vacancies)	1,08,28,261	152	15
Total Candidates	3,58,59,270		

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

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
2nd Stage CBT for Non- Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduate) (3,445 vacancies)	51,978	79	15
Total Candidates	5,57,611		

Computer Based Aptitude Test (CBAT) for the post of Assistant Loco Pilots and Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate Level) and Computer based Skill Test for the post of Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate and Under Graduate) and Ministerial & Isolated Categories have also been completed. Details are as under:-

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
CBAT for the post of ALP	1,32,044	84	2
Translation Test for Ministerial and Isolated Categories	1,233	8	2
CBAT for the post of Non- Technical Popular Categories (Graduate)	13,616	38	2
Computer Based Typing Skill Test (CBTST) for the post of	30,341	58	2

Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate-level)			
Computer Based Typing Skill Test (CBTST) for the post of Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduate-level)	13,145	44	2
Total Candidates	1,90,379		

Panels for more than 42,000 candidates for various posts including Technicians, Junior Engineers, Paramedical Categories, Sub-Inspectors and Constables in RPF and Assistant Loco Pilots have been finalised, with a majority in safety categories.

In addition to above, as per Annual Calendar for the year 2025, nine Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 50,970 vacancies have also been issued. Details are as under:-

CEN No.	Post Name	No. of Vacancies notified	Month of Notification
01/2025	Assistant Loco Pilots	9,970	March 2025
02/2025	Technician	6,238	June 2025
03/2025	Paramedical categories	434	July 2025
04/2025	Section Controller	368	August 2025
05/2025	Junior Engineer (JE)/	2,585	October 2025

	Depot Material Superintendent/ Chemical & Metallurgical Assistant		
06/2025	Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate)	5,810	October 2025
07/2025	Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under- Graduate)	3,058	October 2025
08/2025	Isolated Categories	312	December 2025
09/2025	Level-1 posts (Including Assistants, Track Maintainers and Pointsman -5053 vacancies)	22,195	December 2025
Total		50,970	

First stage/Single stage Computer Based Tests (CBTs) for 19,595 posts have been completed. Details are as under: -

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
1st Stage CBT for the post of ALP (9970 vacancies)	10,03,719	141	15
CBT for the post of Section Controller	4,33,748	131	15

(368 vacancies)			
1st Stage CBT for the post of JE/DMS/CMA (2585 vacancies)	5,74,351	133	15
CBT for the post of Technician (6238 vacancies)	8,41,525	117	15
CBT for the post of Paramedical Categories (434 vacancies)	3,19,396	106	15
Total Candidates	31,72,739		

Further, 11,127 vacancies of ALP have been approved for notification in the Calendar year 2026.

The Agniveers at the end of their engagement period are provided with a detailed Skill Set Certificate highlighting the skills and level of competency acquired by them during their engagement period. The Agniveers (Technical), Agniveers (Clerk/Store Keeper Technical) and Agniveers (Tradesmen, 10th pass) are some categories of Agniveers which directly coincide with the skill sets required in Railways.

Indian Railways has a comprehensive training ecosystem comprising Centralised Training Institutes, Multi-disciplinary Zonal Training Institutes, Multi-disciplinary Divisional Training Institutes and specialised training centres. These Institutes provide induction, refresher, promotional and technical training at various stages of service in Railways. Detailed training modules are prescribed for respective categories at initial and promotional stages along with refresher and specialized courses, with emphasis on practical aspects and regular updation in line with technological changes in areas such as track safety, communication systems and emergency handling.

Specialized initiatives such as training on Kavach, simulator-based training and disaster management are also integrated, along with service-orientation modules covering soft skills, customer care, threat perception, emergency response, fire-fighting, first-aid and gender sensitisation. Employees are also encouraged to undertake continuous learning through digital platforms such as the iGOT Karmayogi portal, and the existing training framework is leveraged to bridge domain-specific skill gaps and align manpower with operational requirements.
