

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5467
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2026**

ENGAGEMENT OF CONTRACTUAL POINTSMEN IN RAILWAYS

5467. SHRI AZAD KIRTI JHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has approved the engagement of around 5000 ex-servicemen as pointsmen on a contractual basis in Railways and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government is facing a regular manpower crunch that requires contractual staff to operate critical safety systems despite the potential safety threat due to lack of their long- term accountability and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the details of reasons for not complying with the recommendations of Commissioner of Railway Safety after the Bagmati Express accident for reviewing and eliminating the practice of deploying contractual staff in safety critical areas; and**
- (d) whether the Government has taken concerns of different stakeholders into consideration, given large scale backlash from unions protesting the move and if so, the details thereof and measures taken in response?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d) : Recruitments 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
2025-26 till date	42,380

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 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 posts of Assistant Loco Pilots (ALPs), Technicians (including Technician Grade-I Signal), Sub-Inspectors, Constables in Railway Protection Force (RPF), Junior Engineers (JEs)/ Depot Material Superintendent (DMS)/ Chemical & Metallurgical Assistant (CMA) (including

JE Signal), 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 92,116 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 (32,438 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 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
2nd Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduate) (3,445 vacancies)	51,978	79	15
Total Candidates	5,57,611		

The Computer Based Aptitude Test (CBAT) for the post of ALP and Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) 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 Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate-level)	30,341	58	2
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 the posts of Technicians, Junior Engineers, Paramedical Categories, Sub-Inspectors & Constable (RPF) and Assistant Loco Pilots have been finalised. Majority of them are in safety categories.

In addition, 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	Technicians	6,238	June 2025
03/2025	Paramedical categories	434	July 2025
04/2025	Section Controller	368	August 2025
05/2025	Junior Engineer (JE) / Depot Material Superintendent / Chemical & Metallurgical Assistant	2,585	October 2025
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)	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 (9,970 vacancies)	10,03,719	141	15
CBT for the post of Section Controller (368 vacancies)	4,33,748	131	15
1st Stage CBT for the post of JE/DMS/CMA (2,585 vacancies)	5,74,351	133	15
CBT for the post of Technician (6,238 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		

However, in order to meet exigencies, sometimes Ex-Servicemen are engaged as Pointsmen on temporary basis against the vacant posts as per the laid down rules and procedures. Ex-Servicemen engaged as Pointsmen on temporary basis are trained as per the requirements. Further, temporary staff engaged for maintenance are used for non-critical activities along with or under the supervision of Railway Staff.

The action taken has already been apprised to the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, Ministry of Civil Aviation, New Delhi.
