

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Total 6830 trains were cancelled from 1st July, 2009 to 30th June, 2010 due to reasons such as bandhs/agitations/bomb blasts/suspension of night running/security reasons, cyclone/flood/breaches, water logging, fog, accident/derailment, failures, late arrival of link rakes etc.

(b) to (d) Reservation of passengers is class and train specific. In the event of cancellation of a train due to unforeseen circumstances, passengers already booked on their approaching the Railways, are provided accommodation, if available in other trains, on first come first served basis. However, they are not provided accommodation in other trains with overriding priority over waitlisted passenger of that train. All the passengers of the cancelled train are given full refund of the fare.

#### **Summer special trains**

2240. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is introducing special trains to south to clear the extra rush in summers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the demands of States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (b) Special trains are run on various sectors for clearance of extra passenger rush keeping in view the pattern of traffic, operational feasibility and availability of resources. These special trains are not run on the basis of State or any region. During Summer this year about 7922 trips of special trains including to South were run to clear extra rush of passengers.

(c) Demand for special trains are received at various levels *i.e.* Station, Division, Zonal and Railway Board and necessary action as per requirement and operational feasibility, is taken.

#### **Vacant posts in railways**

2241. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are more than 85,000 safety related posts lying vacant in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that railways is expressing difficulties due to shortage of staff in almost all sections concerning safety; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The details of safety related posts lying vacant on Zonal Railways as on 01.04.09, is as under:

Railway	Total
Central	5994
Eastern	4887
East Central	9137
East Coast	6805
Northern	6965
North Central	4119
North Eastern	2428
North East Frontier	2265
North Western	3058
Southern	5676
South Central	6854
South Eastern	7042
South East Central	6825
South Western	5090
Western	6292
West Central	5587
TOTAL	89024

(c) and (d) Railways are managing and maintaining train operation services effectively which is evident from efficiency parameters for train operations like wagon utilization and wagon turn around, which have shown continuous improvement over the years. Further, the productivity of employees, measured in terms of net tonne kilometers (NTKMs) and passenger kilometers (PKMs) per employee has also shown continuous improvement over the years. The number of consequential train accidents have also declined. While recruitment in Railways is a continuous process, it is now at various stages for filling up the vacancies in Group 'C' and Group 'D' categories. This includes the backlog vacancies in respect of SC, ST and OBC, as also vacancies reserved for the physically challenged persons.

#### **Rail projects in Gujarat**

2242. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several major railway projects pertaining to Gujarat which were announced by the predecessor Minister have been stalled till date including new divisional Railway Office at Surat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the State Government of Gujarat has recently urged Government to revive such projects and complete them in time bound manner; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir. Further, no announcement was made for Divisional Railway Manager's Office at Surat.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

#### **Setting up of new technology at RDSO**

2243. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: