

Use of SMS facility in E-ticketing

1379. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways plan to facilitate passengers who are booking their e-ticket by allowing them to show SMS in their mobile as a proof or acknowledgement of booked ticket;
- (b) whether similar facility is being extended to persons carrying laptop who can show e-mail on their laptop;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard and by when such a facility would be started;
- (d) whether all security implications would be taken into account before launching the scheme; and
- (e) whether this facility would be in addition to existing facility of e-ticketing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):
(a) to (b) Instructions have been issued permitting the screen shot of the e-ticket displayed through laptops/palmtops/mobile phones referred to as Virtual Reservation Message (VRM) to be treated as an instrument on par with the existing Electronic Reservation Slip (ERS), whose print is taken on paper.

- (c) This facility has already been started.
- (d) All security implications have been taken into account before starting the facility.
- (e) This facility is a part of the existing e-ticketing scheme and the VRM/ERS along with one of eight prescribed proof of identity (in original) constitutes the authority to travel in train.

Vacancies in railways

1380. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that around 2 lakh posts are lying vacant in Railways;
- (b) the number of posts, out of 2 lakhs vacancies, that are related to railway safety and are not filled up for a long time, zone-wise;

(c) the reasons for long pending vacancies in Railways; and

(d) the measures Railways propose to take to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) and (b) The number of vacancies as on Zonal Railways as on 01.04.2011 is 2,21,499* out of which safety category vacancies is as under:

Zone	Vacancy*
CR	9142
ER	9598
EGR	12727
ECOR	8766
NR	10850
NCR	5958
NER	3555
NFR	4826
NWR	4801
SR	8901
SCR	11044
SER	8605
SECR	7514
SWR	4889
WR	7422
WCR	7706

* - provisional

(c) and (d) Any large organization like the Railways will have certain vacancies at any point of time. Arising and filling of vacancies is a continuous process and the policy of the Railway Administration is to fill up available vacancies promptly as per laid down procedures. Notifications for filling up of about 1,90,000 posts have been issued.