

Vacancies in railways

4010. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up an ambitious programme of filling up two lakh vacancies mostly related to SCs/STs and backward communities; and

(b) whether in accordance with the community friendly policies of Railways, preference would be given to candidates from poor and marginalized sections and sports-persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Special Recruitment Drive (SRD) was launched for clearing the backlog of reserved vacancies (Group 'C' including erstwhile Group 'D') of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) existing as on 01.11.2008. There is no backlog in Group 'A' and Group 'B'. Recruitment process is being monitored by the highest administrative Officers. Notifications for around 1.48 lakh vacancies in Grade Pay Rs. 1800/- and above have already been issued for direct recruitment from open market. These include SC/ST/OBC vacancies of backlog as well as current shortfall. Present status of the backlog vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) is as under:

Position of Backlog Vacancies in Group 'C'	SC	ST	OBC
Backlog vacancies identified as on 01.11.2008	4003	4143	6722
Backlog vacancies filled up to 31.03.2012	2615	2476	4518
Remaining backlog as on 31.03.2012	1388	1667	2204

As a recruitment friendly gesture for weaker sections, examination fee in respect of women candidates and candidates belonging to economically backward classes whose family income, is less than Rs.50,000/- per annum have been waived off while applying for posts through open market recruitment. Sports persons on Indian Railway are recruited on the basis of achievements in the field of sports, and fulfilling the educational qualification, age criteria and other conditions.