

Group	SC	ST	OBC
'C'	527	1158	287
'D'	321	1278	235

There is no backlog vacancy in Group A and B.

(b) On the basis of periodical directions received from Department of Personnel and Training (DOP&T), instructions are issued to the Railways for launching Special Recruitment Drive for clearing the backlog vacancies reserved for SCs/STs/OBCs.

(c) The category-wise details of vacancies filled up through recruitment and promotion during the last three years and the current year are as under:-

Year	SC	ST	OBC
2009	617	537	853
2010	1603	1211	2543
2011	2346	1822	3859
2012	3231	4479	2644

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A Special Recruitment Drive was launched for clearing the backlog of reserved vacancies of SCs/STs/OBCs existing as on 01.11.2008. The recruitment is being monitored by the highest administrative officers in Railways. Recruitment process for filling-up of remaining backlog vacancies of SCs/STs/OBCs stated above are in different stages of progress and the same will be filled up in accordance with the statutory requirement.

Expansion of railway network

2469. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has expanded its railway network by only 10,000 kilometres in the last 62 years;

(b) if so, the reasons for this slow growth;

(c) whether it is also a fact that roads are given more preference than railway; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) As on 01.04.1950, railways had 53,596 route kilometres which increased to 64,600 route kilometres as on 31.03.2012. The expansion of Broad Gauge network has been done by way of laying new lines, gauge conversion, laying double/multiple lines and since 1951, about 52,241 kilometres of Broad Gauge line has been laid/converted to Broad Gauge.

(c) and (d) Due to advantage of door to door service, particularly in respect of short and medium lead and non bulk traffic, road is the preferred mode for certain streams of traffic. To attract such traffic to Railways, Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) and 15 other Private Container Operators have been permitted by Indian Railways to operate container trains with facilities for door to door service. Besides, Parcel leasing policy has been implemented to capture small volumes of non bulk traffic by providing end to end logistics.

Pre-paid taxi/auto booking counters at stations

2470. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passengers find it difficult to hire taxis autos at railway stations as the taxi/auto drivers demand upto three times the actual fare;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there happens to be only one pre-paid booking counter at stations;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government proposes to set up more pre-paid counters at stations on the pattern of airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some difficulties have been reported.