(b) Vacancies as on 1.4.2012 have occurred due to normal retirements, voluntary retirements, deaths, promotions and on account of creations of posts etc. Filling up of vacancies is a continuous process through various modes of intake. There is always a time lag between occurrences of vacancies and processing the same for filling up, which involves notification of vacancies, holding examinations, finalization of select panels and issue of appointment letter.

Unmanned railway crossings in Karnataka

4150. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of unmanned railway crossings in Karnataka at present;
- (b) the number of accidents occurred at these crossings in the State during the last three years; and
- (c) the steps Government proposes to take to convert these crossings as manned ones within a time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) There are 455 unmanned level crossings in Karnataka as on 01.04.2013.

- (b) The number of consequential incidents at unmanned level crossings in the State of Karnataka during 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 was 1, 4 and Nil respectively.
- It has emerged from the analysis of pattern of accidents that manning of unmanned level crossings is not an ideal solution. Therefore, the policy of manning of unmanned level crossings has been reviewed and Hon'ble Minister of Railways (MR) has announced in Budget Speech for elimination of all unmanned level crossings.

Accordingly, Railways have decided to progressively eliminate all unmanned level crossings by:-

- (i) Closure - Closing unmanned level crossings having Nil/negligible Train Vehicle Unit (TVU).
- (ii) Merger - Merger of unmanned level crossing gate to nearby manned or unmanned gates or subway or Road Under Bridge (RUB) or Road Over Bridge (ROB) by construction of diversion road.
- (iii) Provision of Subways/RUBs.
- Manning The unmanned level crossings which cannot be eliminated by (iv) above means will be progressively manned based on rail-road traffic volume, visibility conditions.

Allotment of vending licence

- 4151. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- whether there is any policy/procedure laid down by Government for allotment of curio/miscellaneous article stall contract at railway station platforms;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- whether any contractor was allotted vending licence in violation of the (c) railway policy; and
 - if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.