

Shortage of TTEs

1946. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total sanctioned strength of TTEs in Railways;
- (b) whether there is a shortage of TTEs at present; and
- (c) if so, the shortage position; zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The sanctioned strength of various categories of ticket checking staff on all Zonal Railways is 36551.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Zone-wise details of vacancies in ticket checking staff are as under:

Railways	Vacancies in ticket checking cadre
1	2
Central	579
Eastern	250
East Central	743
East Coast	265
Northern	629
North Central	1067
North Eastern	200
North Western	186
Northeast Frontier	175
Southern	575
South Central	495
South Eastern	165

1	2
South East Central	172
South Western	210
Western	400
West Central	371
TOTAL	6482

Suburban railway service in Kerala

1947. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have received a proposal to start Suburban Railway service in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Railways has received a letter from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala to sanction Rapid Rail Transit System in Kerala between Thiruvananthapuram and Chengannur by use of the existing Broad Gauge double line between these stations. As per the Detailed Project Report submitted by Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. (MRVC), employed by Government of Kerala, the proposed work, costing about ₹ 3300 crore, will facilitate the introduction of train services to cater the suburban passengers between Thiruvananthapuram and Chengannur.

Electrification of railway section

1948. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes electrification of Allahabad-Varanasi-Chhapra railway section;

(b) if so, the details thereof and details of survey work undertaken so far in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?