

- Verification of thumb impressions on the pay sheets of the staff employed in small road-side and flag-stations.
- Occasionally witness payments independently in the course of surprise check and compare the thumb impressions of the payees with those recorded in the previous month.

(b) The sanctioned and working strength of Finger Print Examiners (FPEs) on Railways is 43 and 24, respectively, at present.

(c) and (d) No Sir. Due to increase in payment of salary through banks and recruitment of literate candidates (minimum requisite qualification being 10th pass), the need for verification of thumb impression on service records, paid bills, Privilege Ticket Orders etc. has drastically reduced. Keeping in view the existing workload, the strength of the cadre is adequate.

Vacant posts of General Managers

†3137. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of zonal headquarters and production units in Railways and the number of zonal railways where the posts of General Managers are lying vacant at present;

(b) whether any case of adverse effect on working of Railways due to non- posting of General Managers on vacant posts for a long time, has come to the notice; and

(c) whether Government would formulate any policy so that selection process for filling up the post of General Managers or above, is completed before being vacant in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The position at present is as under:-

Name	Posts	Vacancies
Railway Zones	17	04
Production Units	06	02
Others	03	02

In order to ensure smooth functioning of the Railways, General Managers of other Railways, etc. are looking after the work of the vacant posts.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) As per extant policy, process for selection of General Managers is initiated in advance. However, appointments are sometimes not finalized in time due to unforeseen administrative factors.

Licences for stalls and trolleys

‡3138. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether licences have been issued for stalls and trolleys by Railways to religious and social organizations in addition to commercial agencies for selling their publications;

(b) whether no such licences have been issued to Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Christian, Jain and Parsi religious minority organizations for selling their publications;

(c) whether facility to sell their publications has been provided only to some particular religious institutions; and

(d) if so, whether it will be ensured under proposed new policy to issue licences for selling of books on the principles and sources of inspiration of social justice, in addition to the books of all religions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Licenses have been issued by Railways as per extant policy to Philanthropic and Social organisations. Initial allotment of these stalls is for a period of five years. The eligibility/principles criteria for allotment are (i) the philanthropic and social organizations must have their own publication of books and periodicals (ii) Such organization should be registered as a Society or a Trust or a Company (iii) Certificate of registration of the organization with Income Tax Department regarding its registration under section 12(A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (iv) Gazette Notification (for Section 3 5AC) or Exemption Certificate (for Section 80G) from the Income Tax Department.

Licences have been given to philanthropic and social institutions who fulfilled the above mentioned eligibility criteria, subject to availability of space.

New railway zone in Seemandhra area

3139. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any action on establishment of a new railway zone in Seemandhra area, and other issues as provided in the Andhra Pradesh

‡ Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.