

**Relieving of transferred railway staffs in Maharashtra**

2854. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many railway staffs have been given transfer orders after their willingness to other railway divisions but they could not be relieved since more than two years in Maharashtra, particularly Solapur Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay; and

(c) by when the railway staff members would be relieved to their desired postings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No staff belonging to Solapur Division whose transfer orders have been issued are waiting for more than two years to be relieved to join their destination divisions. At present, there are about 58 number of staff in the whole Maharashtra State whose transfer orders have been issued but are waiting to be relieved for more than two years.

(c) Issuance of Transfer Orders and relieving the concerned staff is a continuous process which is done based on administrative convenience and keeping in view the vacancy position and requirement of man-power in the relieving unit.

**Vacancies of doctors in Railways**

2855. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are around 2,000 doctors in Railways with a vacancy of around 550;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it has been reported that during emergency on account of rail accidents, doctors from Railways reached to the spot of accidents very late; and

(d) the details of action taken by Government to fill up the vacancies of doctors in Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The sanctioned strength of doctors in Indian Railway Medical

Service (IRMS) Group 'A' is 2595, out of which there are 484 vacancies as on 01.07.2018. However, these vacancies are filled by engaging Contract Medical Practitioners (CMPs) as a stop gap arrangement till regularly selected Assistant Divisional Medical Officers (ADMOs) join Railways.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of low joining rate of Assistant Divisional Medical Officers (ADMOs), the indents for the Combined Medical Services Examination (CMSE) conducted by UPSC had been increased substantially from 250 to 600 in 2013, 650 in 2014, 600 in 2015 and 600 in 2016. This has improved the joining rate of doctors on Indian Railways. Action has also been taken to fill up the posts of Specialist Divisional Medical Officers (DMOs) in Senior Scale in different specialities by placing indents with UPSC and about 50 such DMOs have already joined. Offer letters have also now been issued to the candidates recommended from the reserve panels by UPSC against the shortfall of DMOs who got offer of appointments but did not join. Zonal Railways are also empowered and are regularly engaging Contract Medical Practitioners as per requirement.

#### **Lower occupancy due to flexi-fare scheme**

2856. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the flexi-fare scheme introduced by the Railways has resulted in lower occupancy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that though the scheme has benefited Railways by more than ₹550 crore, the scheme has forced passengers to look at the option of air travel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The concept of flexi fare was introduced with effect from 09.09.2016. An analysis of number of passenger booked in Rajdhani, Duronto and Shatabdi Express trains (having flexi fare) during the period from September, 2016 to June, 2018 has revealed that there has been an increase of 0.20% in the number of passengers booked in these trains as compared to corresponding period of previous year.