

who are on the waiting list, a limited number of berths have been earmarked as Emergency Quota in different trains and in different classes. The quota is released by the Railways in accordance with the priority as per warrant of precedence and well established practice being followed since long. At the time of allotment of berths/seats, emergency quota is first allotted for self travel of HOR holders/Members of Parliament, etc., strictly as per their inter-se seniority in warrant of precedence. Thereafter, other requisitions received from various quarters are considered and the remaining quota is released taking into account various factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like travelling on government duty, bereavement in the family, sickness, job interview, etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Emergency Quota Cells are located at Zonal/Divisional Headquarters and at some of the important non-Headquarter stations. These Cells normally function under the control of a gazetted officer supported by requisite number of staff posted by Zonal Railways. The number of staff posted in each such Cell varies according to the workload.

Concession for youth of Jammu and Kashmir in railway jobs

4607. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacancies in Railways at present and the steps taken to fill up the same;

(b) whether there is any liberty or concession for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir at the time of selection; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) As on 01.11.2017, over Zonal Railways, total number of vacancy of non-gazetted staff is 2,40,533 (Provisional).

Two employment notifications have recently been issued for filling up 89,409 vacancies. These include 26,502 vacancies of Assistant Loco Pilots and Technicians and 62,907 vacancies in various Level-1 posts.

(b) and (c) Five years age relaxation in upper age limit is admissible to candidates ordinarily domiciled in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Extension of track from Lohardaga to Gumla

4608. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are planning to extend its track/network to Gumla from Lohardaga in Jharkhand; and

(b) by when Ranchi, Lohardaga, Tori track would be operational in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) A survey for a new line from Lohardaga to Gumla with extension to Simdega was conducted in the year 2008-09. Due to its unremunerative nature and Railways' huge shelf of ongoing projects, the proposal could not be taken forward. Hence, at present there is no proposal to extend track/network from Lohardaga to Gumla in Jharkhand.

(b) Ranchi-Lohardaga-Tori track has already been completed and commissioned.

Revision of flexi-fare system

4609. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to revise the flexi-fare system in premium trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto Express to benefit crores of passengers of our country;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that flexi-fare system in Railways, where there is no private operators like airlines, is not conducive for passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) A Committee was constituted to review the flexi-fare scheme. The terms of reference of the Committee was to examine all options and recommend best option keeping in mind interest of passengers and Railways. The Committee has submitted its report which is under examination.