

**Vacant posts in railways**

3953. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of posts are lying vacant in Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise; and
- (c) by when Government plans to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The zone-wise vacancy position of staff on Indian Railways as on 01.06.2019 is as under:—

Sl. No.	Zonal Railway	Gazetted (A & B)	Non Gazetted (C and erstwhile D)
1.	Central	120	25,103
2.	Eastern	218	23,961
3.	Northern	148	40,611
4.	North Eastern	30	14,329
5.	North-East Frontier	169	15,740
6.	Southern	139	20,562
7.	South Central	78	18,762
8.	South Eastern	143	17,738
9.	Western	147	24,987
10.	Metro	19	925
11.	East Central	186	18,595
12.	East Coast	101	9,582
13.	North Central	156	20,505
14.	North Western	144	17,655
15.	South Western	69	7,354
16.	West Central	101	12,524
17.	South East Central	139	9,641
TOTAL		2,107	2,98,574

Note:- Process for recruitment of 2,94,420 employees is going on.

(c) Occurrence and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process involving numerous steps and vacancies are filled by placement of indents with recruitment agencies as per operational requirements. Some of the vacancies are likely to remain unfilled at a particular period of time. Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and Railway Recruitment Cells (RRCs) are regularly providing panels of successful candidates to Railways. During 2017-18, 1,51,843 vacancies and in 2019, 1,42,577 vacancies have been notified for filling up on Indian Railways.

**Availability of quality food at stations and in trains**

† 3954. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Railways to provide healthy and quality catering services to railway passengers on payment basis at railway stations and in all the passenger trains, according to their speed; and

(b) the details of special arrangements along with action plan of Railways to make 'good food fair price' campaign effective?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) To provide quality and hygienic food to passengers, a new Catering Policy has been issued on 27th February, 2017 *vide* which Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has been mandated to carry out unbundling of catering services by creating a distinction between food preparation and food distribution on trains. For this purpose, meals for trains are to be sourced from kitchens owned, operated and managed by IRCTC. To ensure hygienic and good quality food to passengers, following measures have been taken by Railways:—

- I. To upgrade quality of food preparation, IRCTC has upgraded 46 Kitchen Units in the last two years. To ensure centralized monitoring of the kitchen activities, CCTVs have been installed in 38 Kitchen Units. Sharing of live streaming of the Kitchen Units through website of IRCTC has been made operational.
- II. To ensure compliance of Food Safety Norms, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) certification from Designated Food Safety Officers of each catering unit has been made mandatory. Food Safety Supervisors have been deployed at Kitchen Units to monitor food safety and hygienic practices. Food samples collected by Food Safety Officers/Supervisors are

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.