

**Reservation in employment for apprentices**

1399. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation for employment is available in railway recruitment for the applicants who have completed apprenticeship in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of such apprentices who were recruited as employees under such reservation in each Railway Zones during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Preference to Course Completed Act Apprentices (CCAA) trained in Railway establishment is given, to the extent of 20% of vacancies, in case of direct recruitment from open market in Level-1, pursuant to an amendment to Section 22, Sub-section (l) of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

(c) After the amendment to Apprentices Act, 1961 was made in 2016, one direct recruitment has taken place. It was notified in February, 2018 for Level-1 (erstwhile Group 'D') vacancies. Course Completed Act Apprentices who have qualified and been selected for appointment as on 21.11.2019 are 1263 in number, zone-wise details of which are as under:—

Sl. No.	Zonal Railway	No. of CCAA candidates selected for Level-1 appointment as on 21.11.2019
1	2	3
1.	Central Railway	151
2.	Eastern Railway	25
3.	East Central Railway	186
4.	East Coast Railway	50
5.	Northern Railway	115
6.	North Central Railway	43
7.	North Eastern Railway	79

1	2	3
8.	Northeast Frontier Railway	64
9.	North Western Railway	88
10.	Southern Railway	53
11.	South Central Railway	95
12.	South East Central Railway	49
13.	South Eastern Railway	23
14.	South Western Railway	15
15.	Western Railway	155
16.	West Central Railway	72
TOTAL		1263

#### Under pricing of IPO of IRCTC

1400. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS to be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feels that merchant bankers managing IRCTC's Initial Public Offering (IPO) have erred in pricing the issue conservatively, considering overwhelming response to IPO by investors with bids amounting to a whopping ₹72,000 crore as against targetted ₹645 crore;

(b) whether at a time of reduced corporate taxes, falling GST collections and Government's efforts to shore up revenues, Government missed an opportunity by pricing IRCTC's stock very low; and

(c) whether IRCTC boasts of strong fundamentals, a debt-free balance sheet with ₹1100 crore of cash to support capital expenditure and if so, reasons for underpricing its shares?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per information received from Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), the process of issuing/offering of shares through public offer is technical in nature and requires in-depth knowledge of legal compliances and financial