

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 577
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2024

VACANCIES IN RAILWAYS

577. DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total sanctioned strength of posts and vacancies in Railways across the country as on date, category-wise and zone-wise;
- (b) the current strength of all regular staff in Indian Railways including production units, category wise and zone-wise;
- (c) the number of new employees recruited on regular basis in the past five years in each division, year-wise;
- (d) the number of posts abolished during last five years; and
- (e) the number of contractual, temporary and outsourced employees in Indian railways including housekeeping and production units, as on date, zone-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 577 BY DR. JOHN BRITTAS ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 26.07.2024 REGARDING VACANCIES IN RAILWAYS

(a) to (e): Occurrence and filling up of vacancies are continuous process on Indian Railways considering its size, spatial distribution and criticality of operation. Adequate and suitable manpower is provided to cater to the regular operations, changes in technology, mechanizations and innovative practices. The vacancies are filled up primarily by placement of indents by Railways with Recruitment agencies as per operational and technological requirements.

After easing of restrictions imposed on account of COVID 19, two major examinations involving more than 2.37 crore candidates have been conducted successfully.

Computer Based Test (CBT) exam for more than 1.26 crore candidates was conducted in 7 phases from 28.12.2020 to 31.07.2021 in 133 shifts in 68 days across 211 cities and 726 centres.

Similarly, CBT was conducted for more than 1.1 crore candidates in 5 phases from 17.08.2022 to 11.10.2022 in 99 shifts in 33 days across 191 cities and 551 centres.

Based on these exams, 1,30,581 candidates have been recruited in railways.

The RRB examinations are quite technical in nature entailing large scale mobilization of men and resources and training of manpower. Railway overcame all these challenges and successfully conducted the recruitment in a transparent manner following all laid down guidelines. No instance of paper leakage or similar malpractice has occurred during the entire process.

Recruitment done in Indian Railways during 2004-2014 vis-à-vis during 2014 – 2024 is given as under:

Period	Recruitments
2004-14	4.11 lakh
2014-24	5.02 lakh

Further, as system improvement, the Ministry of Railways has introduced a system of publishing annual calendar this year for recruitment to various categories of Group ‘C’ post. Accordingly, four Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 32,603 vacancies have been notified during January to March 2024 for filling up of posts of Assistant Loco Pilots, Technicians, Sub-Inspectors & Constables in Railway Protection Force (RPF). The introduction of annual calendar will benefit the aspirants in the following manner:

- More opportunities for candidates;

- Opportunities to those becoming eligible every year;
- Certainty of exams;
- Faster Recruitment process, Training and Appointments

There is no scheme of abolition of posts in Railways. Manpower review is a continuous process undertaken in Railways to cater to changes in technology, policies, processes and practices. Posts are redistributed from non-essential to essential and safety categories as per requirements.

The permanent vacancies against sanctioned strength of various cadres are filled up as per notified recruitment rules, which is a continuous and time consuming process involving issue of notification, calling for applications, computer based test (CBT), Physical Efficiency Test (wherever applicable), medical examination, document verification and empanelment etc. However, Zonal Railways are authorised in some specific cases of exigency to make stop gap arrangement by engaging manpower preferably retired employees and if that is not feasible then through open market, for short duration till the vacancies are filled up on regular basis as per the laid down rules and procedure.
