

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2856
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2026**

SKILLING FOR RAILWAY FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS ECOSYSTEM

2856. SHRI G M HARISH BALAYOGI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any strategy to develop a skilled workforce to support the expanding railway freight and logistics ecosystem and, if so, details thereof;**
- (b) the number of personnel trained during the last three years in freight operations, multimodal logistics, container handling, warehousing and digital logistics systems, year and zone-wise;**
- (c) the details of dedicated training and certification programmes for private logistics operators, terminal operators and container train operators including industry partners, institutions engaged and number of persons trained thereunder;**
- (d) whether a formal assessment of manpower demand in the railway freight and logistics sector has been conducted, if so, the skill gaps identified and steps proposed to address them;**
- (e) whether a dedicated skill qualification framework aligned with the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) has been developed for railway freight and logistics and if so, the details of occupational roles covered and number of persons certified; and**
- (f) steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to address future skill requirements arising from railway freight expansion?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f):

Training

Indian Railways have taken several measures to enhance work productivity, motivation and professional competencies of railway employees through structured capacity building and advanced training. Capacity building and skill upgradation are continuous and institutionalised processes supported by a well-established training framework across Indian Railways.

Indian Railways have developed a comprehensive training ecosystem providing training interventions at various stages of the career to ensure skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling of employees. For this purpose, extensive training infrastructure has been created in the form of Centralised Training Institutes (CTIs), Multi-disciplinary Zonal Training Institutes (MDZTIs), Multi-disciplinary Divisional Training Institutes (MDDTIs) and specialised training centres, which conduct induction, refresher, promotional and technical training programmes at different stages of service along with those engaged in freight-related functions.

Indian Railways always aimed at providing a modern, efficient and integrated railway freight and logistics ecosystem enhancing competencies of workforce through structured training programmes, multimodal logistics and emerging technologies thereby ensuring efficient, safe and sustainable transportation services.

Training modules are designed to strengthen employees' competencies and equip railway personnel with the skills required for modern, technology-intensive railway operations digitalization of freight operations, multimodal logistics concepts, customer-centric freight services and other operational requirements. These modules are also periodically updated to incorporate new technologies in railway operations and maintenance.

In addition, Indian Railways employees undergo induction, promotional, refresher, specialised and technical training programmes at various stages of their career. The curriculum for the concerned categories of staff covers freight operation, logistics, and other operational and safety-related aspects relevant to their functions.

Approximately six lakh railway employees are trained every year under these programmes, facilitating continuous capacity building and enhancement of professional competencies.

Indian Railways, through its premier Centralized Training Institutes (CTIs) and Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), offers dedicated training and certification programmes in Rail Operations, Commercial Management, and Familiarisation with Railway Operations., for logistic operators, terminal operators and container train operator wherein various Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and allied organizations engaged, including Coal India Limited (CIL), National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC), Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), Dedicated Freight Corridors Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), Food

Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation(CWC) by promoting greater efficiency in rail-based freight transportation and logistics.

Besides this, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) has also conducted a Specialized Management Development Programme for officers of Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), a Capacity Building Workshop on Port-Led Development, and various executive training programmes on logistics for organisations such as the Defence Forces, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), and Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board (GIDB), among others. These programmes are aimed at enhancing leadership capabilities, managerial skills, and domain expertise in logistics, supply chain management, and modern transportation systems through structured executive capacity-building initiatives.

Indian Railways periodically reviews its requirements in line with evolving operational needs, technological advancements and organizational priorities. Emerging competency requirements are identified through continuous interaction with field units, training institutions and technical Directorates. Based on such assessments, training curricula and competency development programmes are revised and strengthened to equip railway personnel with the skills required for efficient freight and logistics operations.

Training programmes in Indian Railways are designed to meet the functional and competency requirements of various categories of railway employees and are periodically reviewed and updated in line with evolving technologies, operational needs and contemporary skill requirements. Besides this, continuous efforts are being made towards standardization of training modules across Indian Railways to ensure uniformity, competency-based learning and improved training outcomes. Further, Indian Railways also actively engages with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on various skill development initiatives to strengthen capacity building and promote alignment with national skill development efforts.

Indian Railways is continuously strengthening its training ecosystem to meet the future skill requirements including freight expansion. The measures include periodic revision and standardization of training modules, integration of digital learning platforms, competency-based training, exposure to emerging technologies, modernization of training infrastructure, enhancement of faculty capabilities and continuous capacity building through Centralized Training Institutes (CTIs), Multi-disciplinary Zonal Training Institutes (MDZTIs), Multi-disciplinary Divisional Training Institutes (MDDTIs). These initiatives aim to equip railway personnel with the knowledge and skills required to support efficient, technology-driven and customer-oriented freight and logistics operations.

Manpower

Recruitment done in Indian Railways during 2004-05 to 2013-14 vis-à-vis during 2014-15 to 2025-26 is given as under: -

Period	Recruitments
2004-2005 to 2013-2014	4.11 lakh
2014-2015 to 2026-2027 (upto 30.06.2026)	5.56 lakh

Occurrence and filling up of vacancies are continuous processes 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, mechanisations and innovative practices. The vacancies are filled up primarily by placement of indents by Railways with Recruitment agencies as per operational and technological requirements.

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.

Further, as system improvement, the Ministry of Railways has introduced a system of publishing the Annual Calendar from 2024 for recruitment to various categories of Group ‘C’ posts. The introduction of the Annual Calendar is benefitting 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**

Presently, recruitment against 1,61,889 vacancies of non-gazetted personnel has been taken up on Indian Railways as per Annual Calendar 2024, 2025 and 2026.

During January to December 2024, ten Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 92,116 vacancies were notified for filling up of posts of Assistant Loco Pilots (ALPs), Technicians, Sub-Inspectors, Constables in Railway Protection Force (RPF), Junior Engineers (JEs)/ Depot Material Superintendent (DMS)/ Chemical & Metallurgical Assistant

(CMA), Paramedical Categories, Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate), Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduate), Ministerial & Isolated Categories and Level-1 categories such as Assistants, Track Maintainers and Pointsman.

First stage/Single stage Computer Based Tests (CBTs) for 92116 posts have been completed. Details are as under:-

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
1st Stage CBT for the post of ALP (18,799 vacancies)	18,40,347	156	15
CBT for the post of Technician (14,298 vacancies)	26,99,892	139	15
1st Stage CBT for the post of JE/DMS/CMA (7,951 vacancies)	11,01,266	146	15
CBT for the post of RPF-SI (452 vacancies)	15,35,635	143	15
CBT for the post of RPF-Constable (4,208 vacancies)	45,30,288	147	15
CBT for Paramedical Categories (1,376 vacancies)	7,08,321	143	15
1st Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) (8,113 vacancies)	58,41,774	141	15
1st Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under Graduate) (3,445 vacancies)	63,27,473	157	15
CBT for Ministerial & Isolated categories (1,036 vacancies)	4,46,013	139	15
CBT for Level-1 posts (32438 vacancies)	1,08,28,261	152	15
Total Candidates	3,58,59,270		

2nd stage CBTs for the posts of ALP, JE/DMS/CMA and Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate & Under-Graduate) have also been completed. Details are as under:

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
2nd Stage CBT for the post of ALP (18,799 vacancies)	2,66,363	112	15
2nd Stage CBT for the post of JE/DMS/CMA (7,951 vacancies)	1,17,339	118	15

2nd Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) (8,113 vacancies)	1,21,931	129	15
2nd Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduate) (3445 vacancies)	51,978	79	15
Total Candidates	5,57,611		

Computer Based Aptitude Test (CBAT) for the posts of ALP and Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) and Computer Based Skill Tests for the posts of Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate and Under Graduate) and Ministerial & Isolated Categories have also been completed. Details are as under:

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
CBAT for the post of ALP	1,32,044	84	2
Translation Test for Ministerial and Isolated Categories	1,233	8	2
CBAT for the post of Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate)	13,616	38	2
Computer Based Typing Skill Test(CBTST) for the posts of Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate)	30,341	58	2
CBTST for the post of Non-Technical Popular Categories(Under Graduate)	13,145	44	2
Total Candidates	1,90,379		

During 2026-2027 (upto 30.06.2026) panels for more than 3,300 candidates for various posts including the posts of Technicians, Junior Engineers, Paramedical Categories, Ministerial & Isolated categories and Assistant Loco Pilots have been finalised. Majority of them are in safety categories.

In addition, as per Annual Calendar for the year 2025, nine Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 51970 vacancies have also been issued. Details are as under:-

CEN No.	Post Name	No. of Vacancies notified	Month of Notification
01/2025	Assistant Loco Pilots	10,970	March-2025
02/2025	Technician	6,238	June-2025

03/2025	Paramedical Categories	434	July-2025
04/2025	Section Controller	368	August-2025
05/2025	Junior Engineers (JEs)/ Depot Material Superintendent (DMS)/ Chemical & Metallurgical Assistant (CMA)	2,585	October-2025
06/2025	Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate)	5,810	October-2025
07/2025	Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduate)	3,058	October-2025
08/2025	Isolated Categories	312	December-2025
09/2025	Level-1 posts	22,195	December-2025
Total		51,970	

First stage/Single stage Computer Based Tests (CBTs) for 29,775 posts have been completed. Details are as under:-

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
1st Stage CBT for the post of Section Controller Categories (368 vacancies)	4,33,748	131	15
1st Stage CBT for the post of ALP (10970 vacancies)	10,03,719	141	15
1st Stage CBT for the post of JE/DMS/CMA (2585 vacancies)	5,74,351	133	15
CBT for the post of Technician (6238 vacancies)	8,41,525	117	15
CBT for Paramedical Categories (434 vacancies)	3,19,396	106	15
1st Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) (5810 vacancies)	25,89,851	142	15
1st Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under Graduate) (3058 vacancies)	32,95,980	142	15

CBT for Isolated categories (312 vacancies)	37,774	34	15
Total Candidates	90,96,344		

2nd stage CBTs for the posts of JE/DMS/CMA have also been completed. Details are as under:

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
2nd Stage CBT for the post of JE/DMS/CMA (2585 vacancies)	39,034	90	15
2nd Stage CBT for Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) (5810 vacancies)	87,317	98	15
Total Candidates	1,26,351		

Computer Based Aptitude Test (CBAT) for the posts of Section Controller has also been completed. Details are as under:

Exam	Candidates	Cities	Languages
CBAT for the post of Section Controller (368 vacancies)	2,989	24	2

Further, as per Annual Calendar for the year 2026, three Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 17,803 vacancies have been issued. Details are as under:

CEN No.	Post Name	No. of Vacancies notified	Month of Notification
01/2026	Assistant Loco Pilots	11,127	March-2026
02/2026	Technician	6,557	May-2026
03/2026	Section Controller	119	June-2026
