

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2531

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003

FILLING UP OF VACANT POSTS

M. JAGANNATH;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY;T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are 20,000 posts in safety categories are lying vacant in Railways for last several years;
- (b) whether Railways has decided to fill up these vacancies in addition to employing 3500 constables in RPF through Railway Recruitment Board for the sole purpose of controlling accidents and to provide safety;
- (c) whether major contributing factors for accidents have been found to be human failure;
- (d) the manner in which Railways plan to combat the rising menace of track tampering in adding huge manpower to the already over-sized and fund starved railways in the name of providing safety;
- (e) whether the railways has also taken a decision to replace the old and over aged assets of the railways in the time bound basis; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Guarding of track and bridges against miscreant activity is the statutory responsibility of concerned State Government. However, keeping safety of passengers in view, Railways have decided to undertake patrolling of track in the sections considered sabotage prone. This includes stationary watchmen at identified bridges and surprise mobile patrolling by joint team of Railway Protection Force and Gangmen in identified sections. Periodical meetings of RPF Officers are held with State Police & Intelligence Agencies to ensure better co-ordination for track safety.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) A non lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) of Rs. 17,000 Crores has been set up to wipe out the arrears of replacement of over-aged assets like track, bridges, rolling stock and signalling gears within a fixed time frame of six years. The Fund has been operational since October 2001.