

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2820
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2002
VACANCIES IN SAFETY CATEGORY
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

:

- (a) whether there is shortage of staff in the safety category forcing the existing staff to work on overtime resulting in fatigue the main cause of human error;
- (b) if so, the quantum of such shortage in each category, e.g. Locomotive, Guards, Station Master, Signal Staff ; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Railways to fill up these vacancies?

Answer

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

(a) and (b) : Occurrence and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process and they are filled up by recruitment or by promotion of serving employees etc. While a few vacancies are bound to exist in this continuous process at any given point of time, the policy of Government is to fill up the vacancies promptly. Norms provide for working by the staff beyond the limits prescribed only in exceptional exigencies of accidents, floods, agitations, equipment failures etc. However, the information regarding the number of vacancies as on 1.11.2002 in the safety categories of Drivers, Guards, Station Masters and Signalling staff is being collected and will be placed on the table of the Sabha.

(c) Standing procedure already exists to conduct selections/ suitability/trade tests regularly for filling up vacancies timely, especially in safety categories. However, Zonal Railways have been directed in April'2002 by way of reiteration of the existing procedure to devise a suitable mechanism for ensuring strict monitoring of filling up of safety category posts and that the matter should form a part of the standing agenda of various Meetings.