

Title : Need to fill up the vacancies of Loco Pilots in various Railway Zones

SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN (PALAKKAD): The loco pilots drive trains over long distances, far from home, and are often pressed into duty without adequate breaks and this causes great stress and lapses in concentration which is a major cause of train accidents in the country and this has been acknowledged by the Railways in multiple reports. The loco pilots have been demanding a weekly rest of 46 hours. They also demand that two consecutive nights of duty should be followed by one-night rest and trains should have basic amenities for drivers. Over the past four years, the Railways Recruitment Board has not recruited even a single loco pilot despite tens of thousands of vacancies. Shockingly, the country has been witnessing frequent train accidents, and the recent one occurred was on 17.6.2024, killing more than 15 people on board, near Jalpaiguri. This happened just one year after a major train accident involving three trains at Balasore, which killed more than 300 people on 02.6.2023. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to fill up thousands of vacancies of loco pilots on a time-bound basis as well as all other vacant posts of all Railway Zones relating to the safe running of trains in the country.