

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:845
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2005
SHORTAGE ON ENGINE DRIVERS
Jagannath Dr. M.;Panda Shri Prabodh;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an acute shortage of engine drivers;
- (b) if so, the number of vacancies as on date;
- (c) whether the shortage of drivers is affecting the freight and passengers earnings;
- (d) if so, whether the Railways have assessed the financial losses due to the shortage of drivers;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Indian Railways to deal with the shortage of engine drivers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a): No, Sir.

(b) and (f): Occurrence and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process and filling up is by direct recruitment or promotion of serving employees. While a few vacancies are likely to exist in this continuous process at any given point of time, the policy of the Government is to fill up the vacancies promptly. Standing procedure already exists for holding of selections/suitability/trade tests timely for filling up of promotional vacancies and placing indents on Railway Recruitment Boards for filling up of direct recruitment quota vacancies.

The number of vacancies so calculated in a category is based on the sanctioned strength. The sanctioned strength includes not only the bare requirement for operation but also Rest Givers, Leave Reserve and provision for training etc. In the case of Running Categories these additional provisions have been liberally made in order that work does not suffer, even if there are time gaps between arising and filling up of the vacancies.

(c): No, Sir.

(d) and (e) : Do not arise.