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Title: Need to give preference to Course Completed Act Apprentices in recruitment in Southern Railway and in Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): It is a matter of grave concern that more than 1,500 Course Completed Act Apprentices (CCAAs) who had undergone three years of training in Southern Railway are waiting for appointment since 2008. However, it is not the case in other Railway Zones. There they have been absorbed till 2011. Likewise BHEL, HVF (Avadi) have also absorbed CCAAs upto 2012 batch. In the Chennai Division of Southern Railway, there are 5,450 vacant posts in the safety category alone.

Same is the status in the case of Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai which is primarily aimed at giving preference to apprentices from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh region. However, they have been totally ignored and importance is given to the applicants of other regions. Even in Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, 2012 batch CCAAs have been absorbed and there preference is not given to outsiders. In the ICF, Second Manufacturing Unit has started functioning and, therefore, opportunities can be given to them and the apprentices are willing to work anywhere in the Production Units/Zonal Railways in the country. They are struggling for their bread and butter and running from pillar to post for redressal of their genuine grievances.

As per estimates, Railways have to spend Rs. 55,000/- approximately to recruit one person through open process of recruitment and thereafter huge amount has to be spent for their training. Therefore, before embarking upon open recruitment, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to kindly consider the genuine grievances of in-house talents i.e. CCAAs of Southern Railway and ICF, Chennai and issue necessary directions to absorb them without delay.