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Title: Need to take steps to absorb apprentices in Southern Railway.

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH): Madam Speaker, this is regarding the plight of more than 1,500 Apprentices who had undergone training in Southern Railway and are waiting for appointments since 2008. However, it is not the case with other railway zones. It is not out of place to mention here that for selection as CCAAs candidates, they have to qualify in a proper written, physical and medical test besides interview. It is pertinent to note here that in Southern Railway there are more than 5,000 vacant posts in the safety category alone, which ultimately results in safety compromise and increasing number of accidents.

The situation is not so different in ICF, Chennai which is primarily focused on preference to Apprentices from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh region. However, they are totally overlooked and importance is given only to applicants of other regions. The ICF's second manufacturing unit has started functioning and opportunities can be given to CCAAs. They are struggling for their livelihood, running from pillar to post for redressal of their genuine grievances.

As per the latest estimates, Railways has to spend Rs.55,000 approximately to recruit one person through open recruitment and thereafter a huge amount of money has to be spent for their training. Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Railway Minister that before going in for open recruitment, kindly give a patient hearing to the genuine grievances of the in-house talents, that is CCAAs of Southern Railway and ICF, Chennai, and issue necessary direction to absorb them at the earliest.