

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1510
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2021**

DARJEELING HIMALAYAN RAILWAY

1510. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Darjeeling Himalayan Railway is facing acute shortage of skilled workers and that there are candidates who have cleared Apprentice Training since 2014 but are still not engaged by the Railways;**
- (b) whether Darjeeling Himalayan Railways is a heritage train running on steam engine with an older technology;**
- (c) if so, the steps taken towards training employees with special skills and understanding of the train and the terrain; and**
- (d) whether Railways is hiring local youth under the DHR as they are more adept to the local environment and the required skillsets and expertise can be nurtured locally?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS &
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1510 BY SHRI RAJU BISTA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 28.07.2021 REGARDING DARJEELING HIMALAYAN RAILWAY.

(a) : No, Sir. There is no shortage of skilled staff in Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

As per laid down policy, Act Apprentices trained on Indian Railways are provided horizontal reservation to the extent of 20% of the vacancies in case of direct recruitment to posts/categories in Pay Band-1 (Level-1) of ₹ 5200-20200 having Grade Pay of ₹ 1800/-.

(b) : Darjeeling Himalayan Railway is a Heritage Railway running with some of the oldest steam Locomotives in India. However, Diesel Locomotives are also being used in the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway section.

(c) : Necessary training is being imparted to the staff engaged in maintenance of heritage assets.

(d) : The recruitment in Railways is being done through Centralised Employment Notifications. Newly recruited employees are provided training at various stages of their career namely Induction Training to fresh recruits, Promotional Training, Refresher Training & specialized Training pertaining to their field of job. The staff is adequately trained to perform the duties assigned to them.
