

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1648
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2019**

CONTRACTUAL ENGAGEMENT OF RETIRED STAFF

1648. DR. P. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways has opened the doors for contractual engagement in certain categories against existing vacancies to tide over shortage of staff in some key areas;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether it has also decided to engage retired staff for preserving and reviving railway heritage properties such as steam locomotives, vintage coaches and signals among others; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)**

(a) & (b): Railways engage Contract Labourers/personnel directly only in a few categories such as Para-medical staff, School Teachers, Data Entry Operators etc. However, mostly contracting agencies engage their own contract labourers depending upon nature and quantum of outsourced work (either works contract or service contract). Moreover, following categories were recently (Nov. 2018) allowed for contractual engagement:-

(i) Zonal Railways are permitted to engage technical manpower in construction activities (Open line & Construction organization) in Engineering, Electrical and S&T Departments by re-engagement of retired personnel, as the first preference.

(ii) Furthermore, Zonal Railways are also permitted to engage technical manpower in construction activities (Open line & Construction organization) on contract basis, on vacant Level-6 and Level-7 posts, against non-promotional quota, only if retired employees are not available, in Engineering, Electrical and S&T department of Zonal Railways except SSE/JE (Signal), on stipulated terms and conditions.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. For meaningful preservation and revival/restoration of Railway heritage items like steam locomotives, vintage coaches, steam cranes, signals etc., Principal Head of Departments (PHODs) of Zonal Railways have been empowered to engage retired railway employees having adequate skills keeping in view his/her good health and level of his/her relevant skills/knowledge.

The contract engagement is purely on contractual short term basis with a maximum tenure of six months at a time and not against vacancies for doing regular work. A maximum of 10 retired railway staff can be engaged at any point of time. The upper age limit for engagement of retired railway staff should not be more than 65 years.
