Eastern Railway
(Personnel Department)
17,N.S. Road, Kolkata-700 001

Serial Circular No. 126/2020

No.E/GAZ/Misc/Policy **Kolkata, Dated: 15.12.2020**

All Concerned
(as per standard list)

Sub: Proposal for Holding of Centralised Computer based Examinations for 70% Selections and 30% LDCEs for Promotion to Group "B" posts in the Organized Departments (except Accounts & IRPFS).

Copy of Ministry of Railways (Railway Board)'s letter No. E(GP)2018/2/31, dated 16.10.2020 on the above mentioned subject is enclosed for information and guidance.

D.A: As above.

15/12/2020
(N.Majumdar)
Senior Personnel Officer (Gaz.)
For Principal Chief Personnel Officer

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
*****

No. E(GP)2018/2/31 **New Delhi, dt: 16-10-2020**

The General Managers,
All Indian Railways & Production Units

(Kind attn.: PCPOs/CPOs/Dy.CPO(G))

Sub.: Proposal for Holding of Centralised Computer based Examinations for 70% Selections and 30% LDCEs for Promotion to Group 'B' posts in the Organized Departments (except Accounts & IRPFS)

A Video Conference was held between DG/HR and CCAs/PCPOs in Board's office on 28/09/2020 to discuss a proposal under consideration of the Board for holding ***Centralized Computer based Objective type examinations*** for 70% Selections and 30% LDCEs for promotion to Group 'B' posts. A gist of deliberations which took place during the course of said meeting is enumerated below for information:

I) **Selection Procedure:**

a) A Centralised Computer based examination for 70% Selections and 30% LDCEs for promotion to Group 'B' posts in the 7 organized Departments (except Accounts and IRPFS) with following Breakup of marks:

(i) 70% Selection

Professional subject	-	70 marks
Estt. & Financial Rules including optional Questions of 10 marks on Rajbhasha Policy	-	30 marks

(ii) 30% LDCE

Professional subject	-	70 marks
Estt. & Financial Rules including optional questions of 10 marks on Rajbhasha Policy	-	20 marks
G.K. (excluding current affairs)	-	10 marks

b)Question Paper will have 125 Questions out of which 100 questions can be attempted

c)**Qualifying Marks** -Qualifying marks will be 60% in both 70% Selection & 30% LDCE. Relaxed standard rules for reserved category candidates will be applied as per extant instructions.

d)**Allotment of marks and provision for negative marking-** 01 mark will be allotted for every correct answer and 1/3rd mark will be deducted for every wrong answer.

e)**Exam Centres** – Examination for **70% Selections** for all the services will be held on a single day across Indian Railways. Centres will be both in the Divisions and HQs. On the same day the exam for the post of APO will be held in the second shift so that candidates who have appeared in exam for AMM/ACM/AOM in the first shift and also want to appear for APO can do so in the second shift. Similarly exam for AME and AEE will also be held in different shifts. There will be a gap of 3 hours between both the shifts.

There will be a ***supplementary exam*** after a gap of 30 days for absentees.

Similarly examination for **30% LDCE** will be held on a single day only as per the existing practice. Centres will be in Divisions as well as HQs. On the same day the exam for the post of APO will be held in the second shift so that candidates who have appeared in exam for AMM/ACM/AOM in the first shift and also want to appear for APO can do so in the second shift. Similarly exam for AME and AEE will also be held in different shifts. There will be a gap of 3 hours between both the shifts.

f) **Result-** Result of written examination prepared by the Agencies will be furnished to the respective Zonal Railways/PUs.

g)**Medical and Viva-voce** of successful candidates will be conducted by the respective Zones and thereafter final panel will be issued by them according to the vacancies on the basis of seniority (including the provision of Outstanding) in case of 70% selection and on the basis of merit in case of 30% LDCE as per extant instructions.

II)Action Plan:

a)**Preparation of Syllabus:**

Syllabus for professional subjects of 30% LDCE has been notified by Board. As the syllabi for 70% Selections are notified by the respective Zones/PUs (except of APO), a unified syllabus for 70% Selection needs to be prepared and notified by the respective

CCAs. If any changes are required in the 30% syllabus, the same may also be done and notified.

b)**Preparation of Question Bank on Professional Subject**:

(i)A bilingual (Hindi & English) objective type question bank along with answer key of 5000 questions each needs to be prepared for both 70% Selection & 30% LDCE by deputing the PHODs/HODs of all the Railways/PUs. Each unit will be asked to contribute at least 200 objective type questions each for 70% & 30% along with answer keys. For this purpose, retired PHODs/HODs/Professors of Universities may also be hired on an honorarium basis for preparing the Question bank (Through CTIs).

(ii)Questions in 70% Selection will be more on practical knowledge.

(iii)30% LDCE will also be one stage now and will comprise of objective type questions which shall be analytical in nature based on case study, applicability of rules, interpretation of rules, solving problems etc.

(iv)Syllabus will be distributed chapter wise to the Zones. Relative weightage of marks amongst the chapters may be decided and Questions sought accordingly.

c) Preparation of Question Bank on GK (excluding current affairs):

An objective type Question bank of 1000 questions along with answer key on GK (excluding current affairs) will be contributed for 30% LDCE by each CCA.

d)Question Bank for Establishment & Financial Rules

PFAs & PCPOs will be nominated by Member (Finance) and DG/HR respectively for preparing 500 questions each on Establishment & Financial rules.

e)Question Bank for Official Language:

OL Directorate in Board's office will be asked for preparing approximately 500 Questions along with answer key on official Language.

f)Updation of Question Banks:

The question banks of professional subjects, General Knowledge, Establishment & Financial Rules & Official Language will also have to be updated from time to time.

g)Final question paper:

Final question paper will be set by randomly picking up questions from the question bank under a transparent process by use of computers.

III)Training:

CTIs may be coopted by the CCAs for preparation of online modules for training.

IV) Targets:

i) Preparation and notification of Syllabus for 70% Selection – end of October, 2020

ii) Submission of question bank for 70% Selection- end of November,2020

iii) Submission of question bank for 30% LDCE- end of December, 2020

iv)All fresh 70% Selections and 30% LDCEs for promotion to Group 'B' posts will be conducted as per the new examination pattern for which detailed instructions will follow.

V) Viva voce and final panel:

Viva-voce and medical of successful candidates will be conducted by the respective Zones. Final panel will be prepared by them according to the vacancies on the basis of seniority (including the provision of Outstanding) in case of 70% selection and on the basis of merit in case of 30% LDCE as per extant instructions.

VI) Calculation of vacancies and status of existing Selections/LDCEs:

Following action needs to be taken in terms of guidelines issued vide Board's letter of even number dated 30/09/2020:

i)all 70% Selections which have been initiated but where the written examination is yet to be conducted should not be proceeded with.

ii)70% Selections which are in progress i.e. where the written examinations have already been conducted or where main Selection has been conducted but Supplementary Selection is yet to be conducted may be proceeded with and finalized as per existing procedure.

iii)In cases where 70% Selections have been finalized but corresponding 30% LDCE is yet to be held, the same should be finalized as per the extant procedure immediately.

iv)The vacancies pertaining to previous vacancy cycles, if any, shall be bunched and filled up along with the vacancies occurring in the vacancy cycle beginning from 1/01/2021 through the new examination pattern in terms of instructions contained in Board's letter no.E(GP)81/1/18 dated 9/04/1981 & 04/09/1982 also included as Para 15 in the Master Circular no.68 updated in July, 2019.

v)vacancy cycles shall also be synchronized so as to commensurate with the new vacancy cycle beginning from 1.1.2021.

Herein, it is also clarified that wherever Selections/LDCEs or Selections have already been finalized or where written examinations have already been conducted for vacancy period overlapping in the fresh vacancy cycle beginning from 1/1/2021, the vacancies may be assessed for remaining part of the vacancy cycle commencing from 1/1/2021.

3. Besides the above, certain other issues were also raised during the course of the Conference and these along with remarks thereon are detailed as under:

3.1 **Qualifying marks of 60% is quite high and it should be lowered to 45%.**

In this regard it is stated that the Qualifying marks of 60% in the written examination held as part of Group 'B' Selections with relaxations for reserved category candidates have been stipulated since long. Now, with the introduction of Objective type Questions in the written examination, the bar has not been lowered to maintain the standard.

The examples of short panels as cited for NWR and NCR, during the course of Meeting were not due to the cut-off marks but due to the fact that the selections have not been finalized as yet. SR and WR have been able to get requisite number of candidates with these norms.

In fact, with the introduction of Objective type Question paper in the Selections, there is an improvement and incidences of short panels have reduced. Therefore, lowering down the Qualifying marks is not considered desirable.

3.2 **The time limit of 120 Minutes prescribed for the Question paper is too short and should be increased.**

The duration of 120 mts. has been proposed after going through the time limit prescribed by other Institutions established for conducting public examinations like UPSC & SSC. In fact, at present also, the same time limit has been prescribed for Objective type Questions by the Railways.

3.3 **Percentile system should be introduced.**

The practice of stipulating qualifying marks in the Group 'B' Selections is in vogue since long and no change is warranted in the same in the proposed scheme.

3.4 **Question Bank should be circulated.**

It is proposed to circulate department wise model Question Papers of 100 questions each once the Question Bank is finalized for both 70% Selections & 30% LDCEs.

3.5 **No change in the existing pattern of Selections/LDCEs for promotion to Group 'B' posts in Accounts Department.**

The suggestion given by PED/Account for retaining the existing pattern of Selections/LDCEs for promotion to Group 'B' posts in Accounts Department has been agreed to.

3.6 **Non-communication of marks.**

There was a suggestion that marks of the candidates may not be communicated to the Railways before the viva voce. This has been agreed to and only names of the qualified candidates will be communicated.

3.7 **More choice of questions.**

There was a suggestion that more choice may be given as far as attempting of questions is concerned. The same has been agreed to and out of 125 questions; the candidate can attempt any 100 questions. There will be a counter system which will show as to how many questions have been attempted by the candidate.

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Copy to: AM(CE), AM(ME), AM(Traction), AM(Traffic),AM(RS), AM(Signal) & PED(Accounts), Railway Board for information & necessary action please.