



National Federation of Indian Railwaymen

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**Affiliated to : Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) &
International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)**

No. IV/Committee/T.M./2018

Dated: 03/10/2019

The Chairman,
Railway Board,
New Delhi
Dear Sir,

Important

Trackmaintainers

Sub: Posthumous Honour to the Railway employees who lose their lives while performing Railway duties-reg.

Ref: NFIR's letter No. IV/Committee/T.M./2018 dated 08/08/2019 to Railway Board.

Kind attention is invited to Federation's communication dated 08/08/2019 wherein it was requested to take speedy action for providing "Rakshak Type Protection System" for Track Maintainers including Patrolmen for saving their lives while performing duties. A period of more than a month has since passed, however there is no response from the Railway Board.

Further to above, Federation desires to invite kind attention of the CRB that the Railway employees belonging to safety categories in general and Track Maintainer in particular have been facing life threats in the course of performing of their duties. Federation cites the figures quoted by the High Level Safety Review Committee (Chairman Anil Kakodkar submitted its report to the Railway Ministry in February, 2012) which shows that as many as 1600 Railway Staff were killed while 8700 were injured in the course of performing duties during the period from 2007-08 to October, 2011. The Committee also observed that this figure is substantially higher even when comparing with the number of deaths and injuries sustained by the passengers during Train Accidents in the same period. Federation also conveys that the role played by the Track Maintainers who suffer casualties/injuries cannot be underestimated. As a matter of fact, in the Indian Railways network system the Track Maintainers sacrifice their family comfort and their own health for the purpose of smooth running of trains. It will be no exaggeration to state that the Track Maintainers category is one of the front line safety categories providing safety and protection to the lives of crores of passengers travelling in the trains round the clock duly performing their duties of maintenance of Railway Tracks in all weather conditions, may be torrential rains during monsoon season, freezing cold or scorching heat. They are also deputed for Patrolling duties regularly where they face threat of poisonous snakes and creatures on the Railway Tracks in the nights where there is almost no light. These staff get run over, face snake bites besides being attacked by miscreants causing severe injuries and deaths. Their sacrifice and selfless dedication for the sake of whole travelling population has not been evaluated fully as yet, although they are no less important than the Indian Army saving the borders of the Nation.

Federation feels that time is opportune to conduct study over the issue in depth to recognize the services of the safety category staff, mainly the Track Maintainers who lose their lives for the sake of travelling public. Federation therefore suggests that all such staff should be declared martyrs posthumously and suitable gallantry awards be considered to be given to their families on Independence/Republic Day.

NFIR, therefore, requests the CRB to kindly consider the above proposal for recommending the same to the Government for approval.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. M. Raghavaiah)
General Secretary