

Regstn No. 3021

Estd : 1919

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Esc No.: 43/Memorandum

Date : 02.03.2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**Memorandum presented to the Hon'ble Smt. Darshana Jardosh, Minister of State for Railways, by SRES, affiliates of NFIR during her visit to Chennai on 02.03.2022.**

The Southern Railway Employees' Sangh (SRES) affiliated to NFIR extends hearty welcome to Hon'ble Smt. Darshana Jardosh, Ministry of State for Railways during her visit to Chennai on 02.03.2022.

On the advice of Father of our Nation, SRES Union was started in the year 1919 and the foundation stone of the Central Office building (named "UNITY HOUSE") was laid by Mahatma Gandhiji on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 1927. The members of our Union have participated in the freedom struggle and many of our leaders and cadre have courted arrest. Many of the eminent Freedom Fighters visited our Union Office. We have adopted Twin Principles of Truth & Non Violence for the negotiation across the table. Many office bearers of SRES were holding the highest post in India. For eg. The then President of India Shri. V.V.Giri was holding the post of President of SRES from 1929 to 1934. Similarly, Shri.Ramanujam, Governor of Goa/Orissa.

We wish to highlight the following for your kind consideration and needful action please.

**1) Constituting Placement Committee for P.way staff of Track Maintainers transfer :**

- Ref : 1) Railway Board Lr. No. E(O)III/2014/PL/03 dated 10.06.2014.  
2) Railway Board Lr. No. E(O)III-2014/PL/03 dated 07.07.2014.  
3) Railway Board Lr. No. E(NG)I-2013/TR/7 dated 21.09.2015 (RBE 109/2015).  
4) Railway Board Lr. No. E(NG)I-2017/TR/24 dated 21.05.2018 (RBE 70/2018).  
5) JGS/NFIR Lr. No. 81/Engg. dated 24.09.2020 addressed to DRM/MDU.  
6) JGS/NFIR Lr. No. 81/Engg. dated 26.06.2021 addressed to PCPO, CTE & DRM/MDU.

The total length sections vary depends upon the Track / Route Kms. Many P.Way sections have more than 50 – 60 kms. Eventhough the employees are posted within the sections it involves transfer for more than 30 – 40 kms. They have to report sub section SSE/JE. Also employees have to shift their residence according to their convenient. They are eligible to get composite transfer grant. It is pointed out that the very purpose of issuing Railway Board orders to pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement dated 31.10.2013 in WP (C) 82/2011, to constitute a placement committee to recommend transfers / postings of all Railway servants has not been adhered in Southern Railway particularly in Engineering Department. All the above instructions / Supreme Court Judgement were defeated by non constituting Placement Committee for P.Way Staff in Southern Railway. Even within a kilometer transfer seat to seat changes are also placed in the Placement committee and taking decision. When all other departments have already constituted Placement Committee and evolving the decision, but Trackmaintainer transfer alone have not adhered the Railway Board order.

Due to non placement of committee, the poor Track Maintainers are now suffering for transfer from one gang to another gang (30 – 40 kms range) which also involves shifting residence.

We therefore request Hon'ble MoSR to kindly instruct Southern Railway administration to implement the same.

2) **GRANT OF ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE INCREMENTS TO SPORTS PERSONS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS : NFIR PNM Sub. No. 57/2018 (submitted by NFIR on 26.06.2018 vide S.No.27).**

48 Sports Personnels in the last 2 decades had won many achievements and medals to the Railways. Though at the time of achievements they were granted incentive increments but it was not implemented even after 2 decades by Southern Railway.

For Eg: Shri.V.Devanand, Retd. OS/CCM/O/MAS has achieved Sr. National Boxing Championship in the year 1992 & 1993, he was granted four incentive increments but it was not implemented for the past 25 years even after several representations. He has been selected for out of turn promotion for the following achievements :

- 1) National Championship in the year 1992, 1993 & 1995.
- 2) Best Boxer award 1992 & 1993.
- 3) South Asian games Colombo Silver Medal 1991.
- 4) South Asian games Dhaka Silver medal 1993.
- 5) China invitation Bronze Medal 1993.
- 6) Participated in Asian Boxing Championship Twice 1992 & 1994.
- 7) South Asian Federation games Madras Gold Medal.

In this connection we have already represented to CPO/S.Rly on 03.06.2017 & 17.08.2017. Similarly another 47 employees from Southern Railway

had brought number of achievements to Railways in different sports activities like Kabaddi, Basket Ball (women), Athletics, Volley Ball (Men & Women), Aquatics, Body Building, Cricket (women). Based on the Railway Board letter dated 31.07.2017, Southern Railway had also sent a list of 48 employees vide Letter No. Z.769/Addl. Inc. Increments prior to 2010 dated 25.09.2017.

Though it was assured in the Railway Board PNM under Sub. No. 57/2018 on 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to finalise within 2 months, more than 2 ½ years have passed, no incentive increment granted to the sports personnels. After persistent efforts Board issued order on 10.12.2020 vide RBE 111/2020 that powers delegated to GM for claiming the increment without any delay. So far Southern Railway had not arranged to pay incentive increment.

Therefore, we request MoSR / Railway Board to issue necessary instructions to grant the incentive increments expeditiously.

### 3) **Request for re-introducing of Quarantine Leave – req.**

Ref : 1) Railway Board Letter No. E47/ME1/7/3 dated 12.04.1948.  
2) Rule 551 RI 1995 – Reprint of Para No. 944.

Para No. 941 of IREC says ***“Quarantine” means any restrictions imposed upon the movements of a railway employee or a member of his household or upon his intercourse with other persons. Such restriction being imposed when the person is suffering from, or having suffered within a preceding period not greater than the usual maximum incubation period of the infection disease. Such restriction is designated to prevent the spread of disease by an affected person to another non-affected person. Quarantine has gradually become less important with modern knowledge of disease control”***.

Para No. 942 - restriction imposed on Railway Employees under quarantine.

Granting of Quarantine Leave was stopped (it was deleted from the IREC) to all the employees due to total eradication of disease of Cholera, Chicken Pox, Measles, Mumps, Scarlet fever, Typhoid fever, etc. Now due to Covid 19 pandemic situation the entire Country are suffering, many were infected including Railway Employees and whoever found positive / symptomers / Asymptomers are kept under quarantine for 14 days.

In the absence of the above rule, now employees being granted Special Casual Leave as per Para 7.9 of Master Circular No.10. The Covid 19 is a new virus, its behavior could not be understood completely, it is spreading rapidly.

In view of the above, we request Hon'ble MoSR to kindly arrange to re-introduce the Quarantine Leave once again in the IREC Rule No. 551 of Para No. 941.

**4) Stop Privatisation :**

There is lot of confusion and disillusionment among railwaymen due to privatization, monetization of assets and outsourcing of activities. It is unfortunate that instead of relying on our own dedicated workforce the train operations are being handed over to outsiders. The Railway employees have done splendid service during Covid 19 pandemic situation by improving freight loading, surpassing the performance of the year 2019-2020. The total goods carried for the year 2021 is 1,234 MTWe ran 4600 trains for carriage of migrant labour, we also carried 33000 tonnes of oxygen gas to various places and 800 special trains were operated. Unfortunately more than 3200 Railway staff lost their lives. No compensation for the Railway employees who worked, battled against corona virus and died.

We request our Hon'ble MoSR not to offload perennial activities to private agencies and stop corporatization.

**5) Conducting of regular GDCE/LDCE promotional quota vacancies.**

We request our Hon'ble MoSR to give suitable instructions to Southern Railway for conducting GDCE / LDCE selection regularly as per Railway Board Orders.

**6) Payment of Night Duty allowance to all category staff without any pay ceiling (NFIR PNM Sub. No. 35/2018) :**

The DOPT has already agreed to the railway proposal and the same is with Ministry of Finance at present. We request our Hon'ble MoSR to kindly see that the approval of MoF is obtained soon.

**7) Restoration of discontinued Daily Officiating Allowance to Staff (NFIR PNM Sub. No. 13/2018):**

The proposal for restoration of discontinued daily officiating allowance with the approval of the Board (FC & MS) was sent to Ministry of Finance (DoE) who have advised to send a consolidated proposal (with the approval of the FC and Hon'ble MR) for all wings of the Railways. Consequent to MoF's advise to send a consolidated proposal regarding all the allowances in which modification are sought, a Committee consisting of 4 SAG Officers and Staff representative was formed to holistically examine the inclusion of fresh categories within the ambit of Risk & Hardship Allowance. The said Committee is yet to finalise its recommendations. The working of Railway is unique, wherein the post is required to be manned at any cost to avoid any untowards. The urgent need for restoration of Daily Officiating allowance to staff in Railways for smooth running of the train services with high degree of safety.

Therefore we request the Hon'ble MoSR to kindly intervene and take necessary action.

**8) Deprivation of opportunity to switch over to Old Pension Scheme :**

Many Course completed Act Apprentice were issued appointment order prior to 01.01.2004 but joined after 01.01.2004 due to various reasons were denied opportunity to switch over to OPS. They should be considered in terms of RBE 28/2020.

We request the Hon'ble MoSR to kindly intervene and taken necessary action.

**9) Request for Implementation of Railway Board Circulars by Southern Railway :**

**a) Reduction of duty hours and revision of classification of Engineering & Traffic Gateman as "Continuous" :**

- This was discussed in the NFIR PNM Sub. No. 31/2015 and 34/2016.
- Railway Board had issued Letter No. 2012/E(LL)/HER/23 dated 30.09.2016.
- Railway Board reminded vide Letter No. 2016/E(LL)/HER/22 dated 10.07.2018, 27.11.2018, 31.01.2019.
- HOER rule 1961 and Railway Board Lr. dated E(LL)2001/HER/9 dated 9.8.2005.
- High Power Committee headed by Sri. T.P.Tripathi (constituted by Railway Board to review the duties of Safety Category) vide para 5.4 of Page 226, Para 5.5.5 and 5.5.6.
- SRES/NFIR convey that despite instruction issued by Railway Board the Southern Railway administration has not conducted job analysis. The Gate Keepers are put in much hardship due to inadequate deployment of Gate Keepers at Level crossing gates in Engineering Department there has been manifold increase in the workload as number of train services / road vehicles increased, however there has been no corresponding increase in number of gate keepers for manning the gates, resulting jeopardizing the safe running of train services.
- We request Hon'ble MoSR to kindly give suitable instructions to adhere the Railway Board orders and to conduct job analysis immediately to revise the 8 hrs duty since 5 years have passed.

**b) Non availability of drinking water and dilapidated condition of Gate Lodge Track maintainers put to severe hardship :**

- Railway Board Lr. No. 2019/LMB/II/1/12 dated 24.09.2015.
- The above order and also reminders have not been implemented in Southern Railway resulting a portion of concrete ceiling fell on Smt. A.Vasantha, Pointsman 'A' on 28.07.2018 around 18.00 hrs while on duty at (Punkunnam) PNQ station LC No.19. She had a severe head injury and was admitted in hospital for treatment.

- The Southern Railway administration have not taken measures for ensuring supply of drinking water to track maintainer at work places ie. At Railway tracks as well as at level crossing gates. The gate lodges wherever available in very bad shape (dilapidated condition) due to leakage of roof and cracked walls causing safety hazards to those track maintainers who man the gates. At some gate lodges, no power supply is ensured. The solar power supply lasts for a few hours consequently the Gate Keepers are compelled to perform duties in total darkness.
- Gate Keepers are put in much hardship not only implementing 8 hrs roster, the Gate Lodges are in pathetic condition.
- We request the Hon'ble MoSR to give suitable instructions to Southern Railway for rectifying the same at the earliest.

c) **Provision of staffroom for station staff at Wayside stations :**

- Railway Board Letter No. E(LR-I)/JCM-2-1 dated 18.05.2012.
- Though, the above issue was discussed under DC-JCM on Sub. No. 18/2010 & it was replied by Southern Railway to Railway Board that 58 stations identified for rest rooms whereas 45 stations were already provided rest room. In this connection, SRES would like to bring to the kind notice of the Chairman that the factual position was almost all the place / way side station staff of Traffic, Signal, Engineering, OHE, Bridges are not provided with staffroom and much hardship experienced by women / male employee and they have to keep their belongings, taking food (literally under the tree/platform), changing the uniform, even personal tools which account in the employees tools card, etc.
- To mitigate the above problem we suggest an action plan to be drawn for implementing the same without any delay.

10) **Heavy vacancy position in Safety Categories :**

Due to non filling up of vacancies in various categories in general and safety categories in particular, the situation has reached alarming stage wherein existing staff are heavily over burden while at the same time the safety standards are being compromised. The percentage of vacancies of Track Maintainers, Helpers, Pointsmen are ranging between 25% and 40%, resulting serious discontentment among the safety category staff who are put in heavy stress and strain. Added to this, hundreds of Inter Railway Transfer Application of Track Maintainers, Loco Pilots, Pointsmen, Station Masters, Guards, Technicians, Technical Supervisors are not being processed by Southern Railway on the pretext of non availability of replacement. This has led to disappointment and frustration among those employees who are eager to go to their native places on transfer on bottom seniority. Some divisions are very blunt in stating that the applications for IRRT should not be forwarded for obtaining NOC due to acute shortage of the above

staff. It is pointed out that the efficiency level of safety system is suffering. There is urgent need for filling up of all vacancies in general and safety categories on war footing basis.

We request Hon'ble MoSR to kindly take action on war footing basis.

**11) Problem facing by Rly patients and their families due to implementation of UMID system at RH/PER.**

After implementation of UMID system at Railway Hospital / Perambur, our Railway employees and their families are subjected to many hurdles to consult the Doctor, to get medicines, for testing in labs, etc. They have to wait for a quite long time and sometimes they have to come on the next day.

As such it is suggested by SRES - NFIR that once UMID card is Registered and CR No is assigned then as per the old procedure a new OP slip with CR Number can be issued with the validity of one year so that the patients can approach any dept throughout the year without any problems. It is also suggested that separate OP counters are to be maintained for UMID registration and separate counters for issue of OP slip to those assigned with CR No as per the old procedure in both the New and Old Railway Hospitals at Perambur.

It is also brought to your kind notice that at present patients who got CR Number are directly allowed in Cardiology, Eye dept and they are registering there itself without going to OP counters. The same may kindly be allowed in all departments.

We request our Hon'ble MoSR to kindly consider our Suggestion and necessary orders may be issued at the earliest to avoid any inconvenience for taking treatment please.

**12) Induction of course completed Act Apprentice in Southern Railway as substitutes against existing vacancies in terms of Rly. Bd. letters dated 21.06.2004 (RBE No.136) and Rly. Bd. letter No. E(MPP) 2005/6/1 dated 02.12.2010 . In the past large number of Course Completed Act Apprentices were appointed in Railways with a view to utilize their skill. Due to court case it was stopped and the Railway should take a positive decision so as to enable them to get appointment in Southern Railway.**

In the meeting held on 9.7.2020, the Chairman/Rly. Board has assured to NFIR as furnished below ***“Federation insisted that GMs to empowered to fill 20% quota vacancies by Course Completed Act Apprentices instead through RRB/RRC - It was agreed to considered”***.

Therefore we request our Hon'ble MoSR to kindly take expedite action please.

13) **Hardship facing by employee due to implementation of e-pass system.**

NFIR has pointed out several difficulties and deficiencies in the HRMS Portal, leading to innumerable hassles to the Railway employees and retired staff particularly with regard to drawal of Privilege/Complimentary Passes & PTOs, Provident Fund, Loans etc.

We request our Hon'ble MoSR to kindly consider our suggestions for issuing of manual pass to serving employees as done to retired employees.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



(P.S.Suriyaprakasam)

**JGS/NFIR & GS/SRES**

**Copy to : GM/S.Rly.,** for kind information and necessary action pls.

**PCPO/S.Rly.,** for kind information and necessary action pls.

**GS/NFIR** for kind information pls.