



NFIR

National Federation of Indian Railwaymen

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MEMORANDUM

Memorandum presented to Ms. V.G.Bhooma, AM Staff / Railway Board, by SRES, Affiliates of NFIR during her visit to ICF, Chennai on 25.01.2024.

The Southern Railway Employees' Sangh (SRES) affiliated to NFIR extends hearty welcome to Ms. V.G.Bhooma, AM Staff / Railway Board, during her visit to Chennai on 25.01.2024.

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

1) Allotment of qualification based pay to the ECG Technicians in Railway

The qualification got revised for ECG Technician in the 6th CPC to degree in Science plus Diploma in ECG Lab Technology / Cardiology / Cardiology Technician / Cardiology Technique of reputed institutions vide Ref : E(NG)II/2001/RR/45-Pt dated 29.09.2015. The ECG Technicians appointed in Dr.Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, NDLS (Under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) have never been in possession of the standard qualification relating to the job expected from an ECG Technician. Only after 2 years training they will go for practical work. Whereas, Railway ECG Technicians possess Diploma in ECG Lab Technology.

Considering higher qualification, training and experience and from the day 1 the Railway ECG Technicians started to work. Compared to all other hospitals / departments our Railway Technicians were allotted lower GP 2400 and there is no further avenue of promotion. They are retiring on the same GP without any Promotion (except MACP). In this connection, NFIR/SRES had already pursuing with Railway Board under PNM Sub. No. 25/2021. NFIR had discussion in the Rly Board PNM and highlighted to ED/Accounts.

We request you to kindly take expedite steps to grant higher Grade Pay GP 4200 on par with Dr.Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

- 2) **Re-casting of channel of promotions in respect of isolated categories of Medical Department** (NFIR PNM Sub. No. 09/2022). Ref: Rly. Bd. Lr. dated 27.11.2017, 23.10.2017 to all GMs.

Many isolated categories like Dental hygienists, ECG Technicians, Holter Technician, Cardiac Pulmonary Pump Technician, Cardiac Catherization Technician, Dayalysis Technician, Prosthetic Technician and Occupational Therapists, etc. are suffering without avenue of promotion. Though Board collected details from all the Zonals, so far no tangible action was taken. The 7th CPC vide para no. 7.6.8 and 7.6.10 specifically recommended for Para Medical Staff. In this connection NFIR / SRES pertinent to mention that most of the isolated categories is Graduation plus Diploma in the specific discipline and also they were not granted proper pay structure and Avenue of Promotion. Therefore, we request you to kindly take early action please.

- 3) **Grant of Grade Pay 4800 / 4600 to the Crews of Vande Bharat & Semi High Speed Trains which runs 130 kms / hour (LP - Mail & Express / Train Manager)** : There is greater accountability / responsibility to the Crews of High Speed Trains as the train runs 130 kms speed / hour. Further it may increase. **The driver has to run every 1 km within 25 seconds. So every minute he has to run 2.17 kms. Human dependency to be reduced in order to ensure safe running of High speed trains.** Everyday 2.3 crores passengers travelling safely, 21,000 trains (12000 + 9000) are being operated uninterruptedly. Highest ever freight loading of 1512 million tonnes (2022-2023). Increase in combined freight and passenger revenue Rs.2 lakhs crores.

We whole heartedly thank Hon'ble Railway Minister for considering Supervisors Pay GP 4800 / 5400 w.e.f 1.12.2022, in the same logic the pay for Crews to be increased to GP 4800 / 4600 in order to ensure the horizontal/ vertical relativity, hitherto it was followed. (In the 5th CPC, the pay scale of Mail & Express Driver was GP 6000-9800, and for Train Manager Mail & Express was GP 5500 – 9000). Therefore, we request you to kindly take action to grant GP 4800 / 4600 to the Crews.

- 4) **Conducting of Secret Ballot Election** : As per the commitment given by Railway Board before Honourble Supreme Court as well as Chennai High Court, now 10 years have passed. There was no sign of any improvement in conducting Secret Ballot Election. Employees are frustrated and disappointed for non adhering of norms by Railway Board. Therefore, we request you to kindly conduct early Secret Ballot Election.

- 5) **Request for Scrapping of NPS & to Restore OPS :**

Indian Railways is one of the largest Transport systems in the World and is fully owned and operated by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), Government of India. It plays significant role in driving economic growth of the

country, offering highly affordable, environment-friendly transportation of passengers and freight specially bulk commodities across the country and also for rapid movement of Army, Para-Military forces artillery and military hardware to the Nation's borders. The role of Indian Railways thus cannot be undermined under any circumstances.

The Ministry of Railway had introduced Pension System for Railway employees who entered Railway service on 16 November 1957. These rules were subsequently modified as Railway Services (Pension) Rules 1993 and Railway Services (Extraordinary) Pension Rules 1993. It is also worth-mentioning that the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of DS Nakara and Others Vs Union of India (AIR-1982-SC-130) Five Member Bench gave following verdict :

“Pension is neither a bounty nor a grace bestowed by the sweet will of the employer but is a payment for the past services rendered. It was construed as a right step towards socio-economic justice and a concrete assurance to the effect that the employee in his old age is not left in the lurch.”

It needs to be appreciated that in the recent time, State Governments i.e. Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have decided to abolish NPS and restore OPS w.e.f. January, 2004 while Government of West Bengal continued Old Pension Scheme for ensuring social protection to the retired employees at the evening of their lives.

The role of Railway employees is unique, complex and not comparable with any other Department. The role played by Railway employees for ensuring the services is akin to Defence Forces.

We request you to kindly take necessary action for withdrawal of National Pension System and restoration of Old Pension Scheme w.e.f. January, 2004 as the Industrial peace can be preserved.

6) **Considering of IRT & IDT applications** : Time and again Railway Board has given clear instructions to all Zonal Railways to make use of the opportunity being presented by way of large panels made available by RRB/RRC for considering the pending transfer applications. Transfer cases may be processed on priority wherever feasible.

7) **GRANT OF ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE INCREMENTS TO SPORTS PERSONS WHO BROUGHT LAURELS TO INDIA / RAILWAYS : NFIR PNM Sub. No. 57/2018.**

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

In connection with the above, we have already represented to CPO/S.Rly on 03.06.2017 & 17.08.2017, 20.01.2018, 25.09.2018 & 26.10.2019, 11.11.2020, 23.06.2022.

It was deliberated in the Railway Board PNM under Sub. No. 57/2018, pursuant to the PNM decision Board had 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 to even single player.

Therefore, we request you to issue necessary instructions to grant the incentive increments expeditiously in order to honour the above Sports Personnels and adhere the Railway Board order.

- 8) Hospital Patient Care Allowance / Patients Care Allowance to the Staff of Ministerial Cadre working in RH / Health Units.
- 9) Implementation of 7th CPC recommendations for grant of minimum GP 2000 to Dresser / OTA Category.
- 10) Implementation of Bushawal Pattern of Incentive to AC Loco staff and DEMU Staff at LW / PER and Diesel Workshop Staff of GOC. GM/S.Rly had already recommended and sent to the Railway Board for approval. It was also discussed in the DC-JCM Meeting.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



(P.S.Suriyaprakasam)
JGS/NFIR & GS/SRES



Note : The above issues are discussed with AM / HR (Staff).