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INDIA FIGHTS COVID 2.0

Indian Railways contributes in Governments Struggle to win over.

Second wave of Covid affected the Country with greater ferocity. Centre and States are struggling to manage the situation. Hospital infrastructures like beds, ICU beds, medical oxygen, medicine, etc are not able meet the growing demand. In some places demand exceeds supply. Central and State Governments are marshaling their entire resources to win over the crisis. The only silver lining of the second wave of infection is the low fatality rate.

While majority of the citizens have come up in support of government's plan and strategies by maintaining social distancing and following Covid protocol. However, time and again, reports of unauthorized meetings & gatherings, spreading of rumors, patients fleeing the quarantine centers, not observing mandatory isolation, hiding travel history, organizing unnecessary vacation trips, etc are creating serious setbacks in containing spread of virus.

Another major reason was immediately after first wave people started believing or made to believe that India defeated Covid that worst were behind and the Country was out of danger.

In addition to fighting Covid, patients with cancer, pregnant women, and old patients with multiple comorbidities need special care as studies available so far have been conveyed that once caught, these patients deteriorate rapidly.

At this time of crisis citizens are expected to stay indoors, practice social distancing, observe health hygiene like frequent washing of hands, covering face while coughing, and maintaining self-quarantine if dry cough, fever, and fatigue occurs.

The Ministry of Railways is swiftly meeting the State Governments' demand in setting up of Covid Care coaches during the current raging second spell of the Covid pandemic with its fleet of 4000 coaches (retrofitted as isolation units) with a capacity of 64000 beds.

To tide over the crisis faced by hospitals in some part of the country, Indian Railways is operating Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) Ro-Ro service carrying tankers loaded with LMO. More 'Oxygen Express' are on run and are being planned to various parts of the country.

Operation of passenger special trains, goods and parcel trains are done seamlessly to transport people, essential commodities and Industry and commercial items. Given the backward socio-economic conditions, high density of population in cities, lack of awareness among the

NOTICE FOR VIRTUAL MEETING OF CEC IRTSA ON 20.06.2021

Keeping in view the extraordinary circumstances created due to the spread of pandemic COVID-19, it is notified that the Meeting of CEC IRTSA, which was earlier proposed to be held at RCF Kapurthala on 22.06.2021, will now be held as a Virtual CEC Meeting on Sunday the 20th June, 2021 from 15.00 hrs to 20.00 hrs to discuss important issues and to decide the line of action thereon.

The Virtual CEC Meeting shall be held on WhatsApp on a dedicated platform titled as "Virtual CEC Meet IRTSA" (VCECM IRTSA). All CEC Members & Zonal Secretaries of IRTSA are requested to participate in the meeting positively from 15 Hrs and record their views & give their consent on the Agenda from 3-30 PM to 7-30 PM on 20-6-2021 on the said platform VCECM IRTSA on WhatsApp (i.e. after the address by the CP, GS & CT).

AGENDA

1. Homage to those who died due to COVID.
2. Address by Central President IRTSA. (Audio with written text) – (About 10 to 12 Min)
3. Report of General Secretary IRTSA. (Audio with written text) – (About 10 to 12 Min)
4. Address by Patron(s) & Working President(s) - (5 to 8 Min each)
5. Report of Central Treasurer. (Audio with written text) – (About 5 to 10 Bullet Points)
6. Position of Court case for Higher Pay Level for JE & SSE.
7. Report of Zonal Secretaries/Presidents followed by views of other CEC Members (Audio with written text in Bullet Points: Position of Membership, Central Quota & Activities in 2020-21.
8. Prog. for 56th Annual Conference - CGB & CEC Meetings of IRTSA to be held at RCF Kapurthala on the Foundation Day of IRTSA on 27th & 28th November 2021.

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masses, poverty and ignorance hard task in the hands of Governments.

We can gain confident that India is a major vaccine producer even though there is a question of whether producers can meet the large growing demands.

As Railway men and as responsible citizens it is time for all of us to work with commitment and safety so that Country can come out of the pandemic and economic crisis. ♦

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"SUCCESS COMES TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE"



Editorial**MACPS: Many anomalies- No fruitful action- Pilling up of Cases in all courts & Tribunals across the country. Will DoPT look upon with gracious favour?!****Undue delay by DoPT in convening Joint committee:**

Every Pay Commission and plenty of Expert bodies studied the key component of providing adequate career progression for Government employees. Nevertheless, it is an unsolved perennial problem for the Government Employees in ensuring the same. Reasonable opportunities of four to five promotions in one's life time career should be fairly made available without any compromise by the Government to its employees.

In spite the employees possess requisite qualification, skill sets & experience, promotion is entirely dependent on availability of vacancies in higher grade post in all of the Government departments. In addition, there exists disparity between different departments since, different types of promotion schemes are being followed in different departments.

All the Pay Commissions felt the system of career progression to avoid large scale stagnation in Government service.

At this juncture, 5th CPC recommended that "Every employee, recruited in a particular grade/scale of pay shall be allowed to move to his respective and specified higher scales on completion of specified period of residency in the lower pay scale, subject to the fulfilment of usual norms of the promotion." 5th CPC also made it clear that, introduction of ACP scheme should not in any case affect the available normal promotional avenues and need to improve the promotional prospects in an organization on functional grounds and by way of organizational studies, cadre reviews etc.

6th and 7th CPC followed the basic principle of 5th CPC. While implementing 5th, 6th & 7th CPCs recommendations on ACP/MACPS, Government made some modifications to bring in the current system of three financial upgradation on completion of 10, 20 & 30 years from the initial recruitment grade.

Though the MACP Scheme brought some respite to stagnant employees, the scheme brought in many anomalies. Government's indifferent attitude in resolving many serious anomalies is severely dented basic purpose of the scheme. There were many legal cases filed by individual employees and Employees unions. Petitions seeking justices on the different anomalies of MACPS are pending in Hon'ble Supreme Court, all High Courts and all Administrative Tribunals across the country.

Even though Courts have given favourable verdict in the demands of implementation of MACPS w.e.f.01.01.2006 and inclusion of training period for the purpose of MACPS, the verdicts were not implemented resulting in another round of legal battle.

It appears that Government and the nodal department-DoPT are not much worried about addressing the genuine issues in MACPS for their employees. They were not acting quick enough to clear the pending legal cases at Courts across the country.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its order dated 05.03.2020, directed that some anomalies, which were brought before the Joint Committee, constituted in DoPT to

examine the MACPS, be considered as deemed appropriate, and a decision taken in accordance with law.

Even though DoPT has given its decision on some issues, Joint committee on MACPS constituted by DoPT along with Staff side members has not met for long time. Important demands including implementation of MACPS w.e.f. 01.01.2006 and inclusion of training period for the purpose of MACPS is hanging for years. Rapid favorable action of DoPT is required for the redressal of genuine demands of Government Employees without any further delay. It is a compulsion of time,. **Will DoPT look upon with gracious favour?!**

Next date of increment for the employees promoted or upgraded under MACPS on or after 1.1.2006. Another chance of three months period given for exercise of option. Finance Ministry O.M.

Date of next increment under Rule 10 of Central Civil Service (Revised Pay) Rules, 2016 – Clarification – regarding.

Department of Expenditure O.M.No 04-21/2017-IC.E.IIIA, dated 15.04.2021

Employees who have been regularly promoted or granted financial upgradation on or after 01.01.2006 and desire to exercise / re-exercise option for pay fixation under FR 22(1)(a)(i) were given an opportunity to exercise or re-exercise of their option for pay fixation within one month of the date of issue of the said O.M. dated 28.11.2019.

Arising out of large number of references to give another opportunity, it is approved to exercise / re-exercise the option for pay fixation within three months from the date of issue of this O.M.

IRTSA MOURNS PREMATURE DEMISE OF IT'S STALWARTS

Er.Sugata Datta Former Zonal Secretary IRTSA CLW Zone left us fighting Corona.



Er.Kushala Kumar Former Zonal Secretary IRTSA RWF & Working President CEC IRTSA passed away due to health ailment.

IRTSA MEMORANDUMS**To - Director General (HR), Railway Board****Sub: Clarification regarding issuance of Privilege Pass Surrender Certificate (PPSC) and availing of Special Cash Package.**

Ref: 1) Railway Board letter No.E(W)2020/PSS-1/3, dated 04.03.2021

2) Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure O.M.No12(2)/2020/E-II.A, dated 10.03.2021

1) In Special Cash Package equivalent in lieu of Leave Travel Concession Fare for Central Government Employees including Railway Employees, JCM Staff side and IRTSA made following demands,

a) Cash equivalent spending of the value of deemed LTC fare (instead of three times) may be permitted.**b) Cash equivalent spending on deemed LTC fare may be permitted with GST registered vendors without linking it with any GST rates.****c) Cut-off date for final submission of bills 31st March 2021 may please be extended by up to 31st December 2021.**2) Instead of addressing above points, in the clarification issued on 04.03.2021, Railway Board came out with a rider stating that, **“Surrender of Privilege Passes of 2020 and issuance of PPSC for the year 2020 is not permissible in the calendar year 2021”**.3) In para-5 of Ministry of Finance, Dept. of Exp. O.M. No.F.No.12(2)/2020-EII(A) Dated 12th Oct 2020, it is clearly mentioned that, the Special Cash Package will be in force during the current financial year till 31st March 2021. Hence Railway Board's clarification violates Ministry of Finance order.4) Further in its clarification for 4th set of LTC in Query No. 4 of FAQ, Department of Expenditure vide their O.M.No12(2)/2020/E-II.A, dated 10.03.2021, allowed employees to avail cash package for the year 2020 in 2021 (upto 31.03.2021) even if the item is purchased after 31.12.2020 but before 31.03.2021. The order says that, *“A newly recruited employee, whose LTC expires in December 2020 which remains unutilized, may be allowed to claim the cash package in lieu of that LTC till 31st March 2021.”* In similar principle Railways should allow special cash package in lieu of surrender of privilege passes for the year 2020, even if PPSC is issued after 31.12.2020.

5) Many of the Zones, Divisions & PUs issued their local circulars and procedure orders very late, employees didn't get sufficient time to get PPSC before 31.12.2020.

6) Many teething issues beyond the control of employees during Introduction of e-Privilege Pass/PTO in HRMS Module is another main cause for issue of delay in PPSC.

7) Scheme of optional 'All India Leave Travel Concession' (AILTC) facility, once in a block of four years (i.e. 2018-2021 onwards) on surrender of Privilege Passes was introduced in Railways for the first time vide Railway Board letter No.E(W)2017/PS5-1/3 dated 10.09.2018. Many of the Railways & PUs haven't issued any procedure order to implement the scheme till now. Hence administration is not in readiness to implement the special cash package scheme in a short span of time.

8) Announcing 31.12.2020 as cut-off date for PPSC through clarification dated 04.03.2021 makes no logic. It has created different uneven conditions which cannot be settled logically and employees will be made to suffer,

a) Employees already availed Special Cash Package or Advance by surrendering passes of 2020 account, applying PPSC before 31.12.2020, but PPSC issued after 31.12.2020.**b) Employees already availed Special Cash Package or Advance by surrendering passes of 2020 account, but PPSC applied & issued after 31.12.2020.****c) Employees issued PPSC after 31.12.2021 for passes of 2020 account and their Special Cash Package application or Application for advance is under process.****d) Employees got PPSC after 31.12.2021 for passes of 2020 account, but waiting for submission along with expenditure vouchers.****9) Advancing the cut-off date from 31.03.2021 to 31.12.2020 on 04.03.2021 will not only put the employees in hardship, zones, divisions & PUs will have administrative complications.****10) It is therefore requested to withdraw clarification issued on 04.03.2021 and demands mentioned in para-1 may please be agreed.****To - CABINET SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA****Sub: Bearing of Railway Pension Fund by Ministry of Finance.****Ref: Standing committee on Railways 3rd Report 209-20 & 7th Report 2020-21.**

1) Over a period of a long time, due to various reasons Indian Railways could not develop infrastructure it should have developed, that has created a serious problem.

2) Indian Railway's earnings got affected in the recent past for reasons such as slump in demand for loading of core commodities resulting from slowdown in the economy, developmental priorities of the Government like expansion of road sector & low cost airlines affecting competitiveness of Railways' freight and passenger business. Railways' efforts towards improving the finances and internal generation earnings have been adversely affected under the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on rail operations and revenue.

3) Moreover, ever growing Net Social Service Obligation borne by IR which is assessed at Rs. 45,542 crores in 2019-20 and law and order cost of Rs. 5,282 crores add to the financial burden of Railways. These burdens increase the operating ratio of Railways and decline in generating adequate internal resources forcing the Railways to fund their capital expenditure through GBS and EBR.

4) Standing committee on Railways in its 3rd Report - 2019-20 (Related para enclosed as Annexure-I) find that Railways is the only department of the Government of India which meets the pension expenditure of its retirees from its own receipts while in respect of all other Departments, the share is met by the Ministry of Finance. Railway Ministry, therefore, submitted that it is increasingly becoming difficult to bear the pension expenditure from Railway revenues, more so when the Social Service Obligations have crossed Rs.50,000 cr in 2018-19. The committee recommended for bearing at least part of pensionary liabilities by Finance Ministry to provide some relief to the Railways till 2034-35.5) Again, Standing committee on Railways in its 7th Report - 2020-21 (Related para enclosed as Annexure-II) submitted to Lok Sabha on March 2021 has observed that, Railways have estimated to appropriate Rs. 53,300 crores from Railway revenues to Pension Fund in BE 2021-22 to meet the estimated pension expenditure. The committee reiterated the recommendations of 3rd Report (17th LS) on bearing at least a part of the Railway's pensionary liabilities by the Ministry of Finance and asked Railways to vigorously pursue the matter with Finance Ministry.**6) It is therefore requested that entire pensionary liabilities of Indian Railways may please be borne by Ministry of Finance.**

**MACPS NOT ON PROMOTIONAL
HIERARCHY, DATE OF EFFECT FROM
1.1.2006 IS SUBJUDICE & OTHER
CLARIFICATIONS ISSUED BY DoPT**

**O.M. F.No .22034/4/2020-Estt.(D), Department of
Personnel & Training, Dated; 05th April, 2021**

**Subject: Order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated
05.03.2020 in SLP (C) No.21803/2014 Uol Vs. M.V.
Mohanan Nair & Ors. regarding benefits in promotional
hierarchy under MACP Scheme – other issues arising out
of Order dated 05.03.2020 -regarding.**

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Department's O.M. of even number dated 23.03.2020, which was issued as per Order dated 05.03.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in SLP (C) No.21803/2014, Uol Vs. M.V. Mohanan Nair & Others wherein the Hon'ble Apex Court had held that benefits under the Modified Assured Career Progression Scheme (MACPS) cannot be granted in the promotional hierarchy, and that it would be in the standard hierarchy of Grade Pay/Pay Levels in the Pay Matrix as per the existing MACP guidelines.

2. The Hon'ble Apex Court, in para 53 of aforementioned Order dated 05.03.2020, further directed that some anomalies, which were brought before the Joint Committee, constituted in Department of Personnel & Training (DoP&T) to examine the MACPS, as indicated in paras 47 to 50 of the Order dated 05.03.2020, be considered as deemed appropriate, and a decision taken in accordance with law.

3. Accordingly, in compliance of the directions of Hon'ble Apex Court, as indicated in paras 47 to 50 of the Order dated 05.03.2020, the issues arising out of deliberations of the Joint Committee constituted to examine the MACP Scheme, and which were not finally disposed of, have been examined in consultation with Department of Expenditure. It is also to be noted that revised guidelines on MACPS, as per recommendations of the 7th CPC, have been issued vide DoP&T's OM No.35034/3/2015-Estt.(D) dated 22.10.2019.

4. The decisions taken on these issues, item-wise, are as follows:

Item No. 1: To provide Grade Pay of the next promotional post under the MACPS (Item No.1 of Minutes of the meeting of Joint Committee held on 15.09.2010).

Item No. 2: Anomaly on introduction of the MACPS – Option may be given to the employees to continue in the old ACP Scheme even after 01.09.2008 (Item No. 8 of Minutes of the meeting of Joint Committee held on 15.09.2010).

Item No. 3: Continuation of the ACP Scheme beyond 31.08.2008 by giving an option to choose either benefits under the ACPS or the MACPS, whichever is more beneficial (Item No.3 of Minutes of the meeting of Joint Committee held on 15.09.2010).

Decision: The issue of grant of benefits in the standard hierarchy of Grade Pays/Pay Levels as per the MACPS guidelines has already been settled by the Hon'ble Apex Court in its Order dated 05.03.2020. Moreover, the matter of replacement of the ACPS with MACPS has also been settled by the Apex Court. As such, as clarified to the staff side vide letter dated 4.11.2013, the solution lies in cadre review to address issues relating to stagnation. Therefore, the demands of the Staff Side for grant of benefits in the promotional hierarchy or continuation of the ACPS beyond 31.08.2008 by giving option to either choose between ACPS or MACPS,

whichever is more beneficial; cannot be agreed to. Hence, action on these items is treated as closed.

Item No. 4: Revision of date of introduction of the MACPS (Date of Effect) – Date of effect of the MACPS to be made as 01.01.2006, instead of 01.09.2008 as provided in the scheme (Item No.2 of Minutes of the meeting of Joint Committee held on 27.07.2012).

Decision: The issue is presently sub-judice before the Hon'ble Apex Court in SLP Nos. 10811- 10813/2018 in the matter of Uol Vs. Ranjit Samuel. Hence, no decision can be taken at this stage. As and when the main and tagged cases are disposed of by the Hon'ble Apex Court, the decision would be communicated to all Ministries/ Departments.

Item No. 5: Applicability of the MACPS to Group 'D' employees who have been placed in the Grade Pay of Rs.1800/- in PB-I (Item No.4 of Minutes of the meeting of Joint Committee held on 15.09.2010).

Decision: It has been clarified in DoP&T's O.M. No.35034/3/2008-Estt.(D) dated 16.11.2009 that promotions earned or upgradations granted under the ACP Scheme of August, 1999, in the past to four pay scales (S-1, S-2, S-2A and S-3), which now carry the grade pay of Rs.1800/-, shall be ignored for the purpose of the MACPS. Therefore, no further action is required. Hence, the item is treated as closed.

Item No. 6: Counting of 50% of service rendered by casual labour who attained temporary status for reckoning the 10, 20 and 30 years of service under the MACPS (Item No.5 of Minutes of the meeting of Joint Committee held on 15.09.2010).

Decision: As per para 5(v) of the Appendix pertaining to the Casual Labourers (Grant of Temporary Status and Regularization) Scheme, 50% of the service rendered under temporary status is to be counted only for the purpose of retirement benefits after their regularization. The temporary service rendered does not count for any other purposes. Moreover, under the ACPS also, no provision was made for counting of temporary service as 1st and 2nd financial upgradation was being granted to an employee on completion of 12/24 years of regular service. Therefore, the proposal cannot be agreed to. Thus, action on this item is treated as closed.

Item No. 7: Supervised staff placed in higher Grade Pay than that of the Supervisor – The stepping up of pay of seniors with that of juniors getting higher pay in different cadres and introduction of Grade Pay of Rs.5400 on completion of 4 years of service in the pre-revised pay scale of Rs.6500-10500 (Item No.6 of Minutes of the meeting of Joint Committee held on 15.09.2010).

Decision: As per the fundamental principles of the Scheme, financial upgradation granted under the MACPS is purely personal to the employees, and has no relevance to his seniority position. It has already been provided in the Scheme itself that there shall be no additional financial upgradation to the senior employee solely on the ground that his/her junior in the grade has been granted higher pay or grade pay under the Scheme. This has been reiterated in the instructions issued by this Department from time to time, including OM No. 35034/1/97-Estt.(D) dated 04.10.2012 and No. 35034/3/2015-Estt.(D) dated 22.10.2019. Therefore, the proposal cannot be agreed to. Thus, action on the item is treated as closed.

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MACPS DoPT's Clarifications - continued from page-4

Item No. 8: Option for pay fixation on grant of financial upgradation under the MACPS between 01.01.2006 and 31.08.2008 (Item No.7 of Minutes of the meeting of Joint Committee held on 15.09.2010).

Decision: In terms of para 9 of the MACPS guidelines (DoP&T's OM dated 19.05.2009), the benefits of the ACP Scheme of August, 1999 would be continued I applicable till 31.08.2008. If the Government employees, who have opted for fixation of their pay in the revised pay-structure w.e.f. 01.01.2006 under the CCS (RP) Rules, 2008, then no arrears of pay would be granted. However, if he has opted for pay fixation from the date of financial upgradation under the ACP with reference to the pre-revised pay scale, then arrears of pay would be granted from the date of his option, i.e., the date of financial upgradation under the ACP. Para 6 of Annexure-I to DoP&T's OM dated 19.05.2009 already provides for this benefit. Hence, there is no requirement for issue of any further instructions on the said issue. Thus, the item is treated as closed.

Item No. 9: Employees who got one promotion or 1st ACP prior to 01.09.2008 and have completed over two decades of service without benefit of promotion may be granted third upgradation under the MACPS on 1.9.2008 (Para 12 of Minutes of the meeting of Joint Committee held on 27.07.2012).

Decision: As per the MACPS guidelines, there shall be three financial upgradations under the MACPS, counted from the direct entry grade on completion of 10, 20 and 30 years of service respectively, or after 10 years of continuous service in the same Grade Pay or Pay Level in Pay Matrix, whichever is earlier. Thus, those employees who got either one promotion or 1st ACP before 1.1.2006 and who did not earn any promotion or 2nd ACP during 1.1.2006 to 31.8.2008, are eligible for 2nd MACP on or after 1.9.2008 (i.e. due on completion of 20 Years) and 3rd MACP after 30 years of service or 10 years in the same Grade Pay/Pay Level, as the case may be, if found otherwise eligible. Hence, there is no ground for grant of 3rd MACP straight away on 1.9.2008, without the employee earning 2nd MACP, as per provisions of the MACPS. Therefore, the request of the Staff Side cannot be acceded to and the item is treated as closed.

7. All Ministries/Departments are advised to dispose of all pending representations /references from Staff Associations etc. seeking revision in the instructions/guidelines on the MACPS relating to the above items and also defend the various pending Court Cases or to take immediate suitable action for appealing against such judgments which are contrary to the existing policy, as upheld by the Hon'ble Apex Court in the instant case.

**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Directorate General of CGHS O.M. Z
15025/12/2020/DIR/CGHS, Dated 15th April, 2021**

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Reimbursement of cost of OPD Medicines: Special Sanction in view of COVID-19- till 31st July 2021- regarding

In view of the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19), all out efforts are made by the Government to contain its impact by instituting measures at community as well as at individual level.

2. In this regard the undersigned is directed to draw attention is the OM of even number dated 27.03.2020 , 29.04.2020 , 29.05.2020 , 24th August 2020, 30th September 2020 and

29.12.2020 vide which an option has been provided to CGHS beneficiaries getting medicines for Chronic diseases, to purchase medicines based on the prescription held (prescribed by CGHS Medical Officers/ CGHS Specialists/ other Govt. Specialists/ Specialist of empanelled hospital) till 28th February 2021, irrespective of Non-Availability certificate from CGHS or otherwise. However, several representations are received in the Ministry seeking extension of the period in view of the COVID-19 Pandemic resurgence.

3. The matter has been reviewed by the Ministry and it is now decided, in continuation of the earlier OM on the subject, that CGHS beneficiaries getting medicines for Chronic diseases shall be permitted to purchase medicines based on the prescription held (prescribed by CGHS Medical Officers/CGHS Specialists /other Govt. Specialists/ Specialist of empanelled hospital) till 31st July, 2021 on the same conditions as per the earlier OM dated 27.03.2020. It is also clarified that the CGHS Wellness Centres are functional and CGHS beneficiaries also have the option to collect medicines through CGHS Wellness Centres as per normal practice, instead of purchasing from market.

4. These orders shall be valid from date of issue till 31st July 2021.

Govt reaffirms its stand on freezing of rates of DA & DR in the Parliament

Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, Rajya Sabha

Unstarred Question No. 1669, To be answered on Tuesday, 9th March, 2021, Phalgun 18, 1942 (Saka)

Freezing of DA

1669: Shri Naranbhai J. Rathwa:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

- whether freezing of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees/pensioners till July, 2021 has subjected them to undue hardship;
- if so, the reasons for not restoring DA to Central Government Employees and pensioners before July, 2021; and
- whether Central Government employees and pensioners are not entitled to three installments of DA and, if so, whether Government would also release these installments and, if not, reasons therefor?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance

(Shri Anurag Thakur)

(a, & b) In view of the crisis arising out of COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has decided to freeze three instalments of Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief to Central Government employees and pensioners due from 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 & 01.01.2021. The amount Rs.37530.08 crores saved on this account will help to tide over the economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic

(c) As and when the decision to release the future installments of Dearness Allowance due from 01.07.2021 is taken, the rates of DA as effective from 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 and 01.01.2021 will be restored prospectively and will be subsumed in the cumulative revised rates effective from 01.07.2021.

**All Zones & sub units to send the details of Central Quota to the Central Treasurer
ER O. N. PUROHIT, 106, SURAJ NAGAR,
JODHPUR-342008**

RAILWAY BOARD ORDERS

Railway Board RBE No. 24/2021, No. E(MPP)/2021/1/13, Dated: 25.03.2021

Sub: Creation of Non-Gazetted safety posts.

Ref: GM/SCR letter no. SCR/P-HQ/39/HQrs Bank/Policy dtd. 14/12/2020.

GM/SCR, vide his letter addressed to the Chairman Railway Board has mentioned that proposals for creation of posts have been withheld on account of instructions issued by Ministry of Finance and circulated, vide Board's letter no.2015-B-235 dated 10/09/2020. Further, the request for continuation of the earlier process of creation has been made.

2. The matter has been considered by Board and it has been decided that in view of Department of Expenditure (DoE) letter, creation of posts will require the approval of DoE. However, GMs may explore the possibilities of redistribution of posts at their end taking into account existing vacancies on the Railways, in terms of SOP 2018, wherein full powers have been delegated regarding "variation and redistribution of non-gazetted posts within the sanctioned strength of the grade" as well as "Transfer of posts and grades". This interim arrangement for redistribution of posts may be made for a period of one year in consultation with PCPOs & PFAs, where after the posts would stand restored to the concerned department.

3. This disposes off GM/SCR's proposal under reference and also all the proposals received from Railways/PUs for creation of posts in Board office.

Railway Board RBE No. 27/2021, No. D-43/12/2018-F(E)III, dated: 07.04.2021.

Sub:- Coverage under Railway Services (Pension) Rules, 1993, in place of National Pension System, of those Railway employees whose selection for appointment was finalized before 01.01.2004 but who joined Railway service on or after 01.01.2004 – regarding.

A copy of Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DOP&PW)'s O.M. No.57/04/2019-P&PW(B) dated 31st March, 2021 is enclosed for information and guidance. These instructions shall apply mutatis mutandis on the Railways also. The Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 correspond to the Railway Services (Pension) Rules, 1993. DOP&PW's instructions No. 57/04/2019-P&PVW/(B) dated 17.02.2020, mentioned in the DOP&PW's O.M. dated 31.03.2021, were circulated on Railways vide this office's letter of even number dated 03.03.2020.

2. The Accounting procedure with respect to para 9 of DOP&PW's O.M. dated 17.02.2020, adopted on Railways vide letter of even number dated 03.03.2020, has been prescribed vide Board's letter No. 2020/AC-II/21/7 dated 18.09.2020 read with letter dated 12.10.2020.

O.M.No. 57/04/2019-P&PW(B), Department of Pension and PW, 31st March, 2021

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Coverage under Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 of those Central Government employees whose selection for appointment were finalized before 01.01.2004 but joined Government service on or after 01.01.2004.

In continuation to this Department's O.M of even number dated 17.02.2020 providing one-time option to Government servants for coverage under Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 in place of National Pension System who were declared successful for recruitment in the results declared on or before 31.12.2003 against vacancies occurring before

01.01.2004 and are covered under the National Pension System on joining service on or after 01.01.2004.

2. The said Office Memorandum provides for cut off dates for various activities involved in the process of exercising of option, deciding representations by appointing authorities and closure of NPS accounts of the concerned Government servants.

3. In view of the country-wide lockdown in the country due to outbreak of Covid -19 pandemic and references received from some Ministries I Departments for extension of time schedule prescribed in the said OM, in partial modification of this Department's OM of even number dated 17.02.2020, it has been decided to extend the above cut-off dates as under:

S. No.	Activity	Last date mentioned in OM dated 17.02.2020	Revised last date
1.	Exercise of option by Government servant for coverage under old pension scheme	31.05.2020	31.05.2021
2.	Examination and decision on the representation by the appointing authority	30.09.2020	30.09.2021
3.	Closure of NPS accounts of Government servants on acceptance of their option	01.11.2020	01.11.2021

4. There would be no change in other terms and conditions in this Department's O.M dated 17.02.2020.

Railway Board letter No.:E(P&A)II-2017/HW-I, dated 11.03.2021

Sub: Entitlement of Night Duty Allowance (NDA) to Railway Employees-Imposition of Basic Pay Ceiling limit of Rs.43,600/-

Please refer to Board's letter of even number dated 29.09.2020 (RBE No.83/2020) whereby instructions prescribing a ceiling limit of Basic Pay of Rs.43600/- for entitlement to Night Duty Allowance (NDA) have been issued. Against which several references were received from Federations and in view thereof, Board decided to take up the matter with DoPT.

With a view to further examine the matter, Northern Railway is requested to furnish the categories of employees along with their Pay Level(s) which has been left out for entitlement of Night Duty Allowance (NDA) due to imposing a ceiling limit of Basic Pay of Rs.43600.

Cancellation of Periodical Transfer of Staff in view of the ongoing pandemic situation: Railway Board Order RBE No. 28/2021. Railway Board has issued the order to intimate the decision of competent authority that periodical transfer orders of the staff working on sensitive posts be pending till 30th June, 2021.

Railway Board letter No. PC-VII/2020/HRMS/23, dated: 16.04.2021

Sub: Operationalisation of e-APAR module of HRMS-uploading of APAR on HRMS -reg

Ref: Board's letter No. PC-VII/2020/HRMS/23 dated 17.11.2020

As advised vide Board's letter under reference, APARs of all Group 'C' employees for the year 2020-21 onwards shall invariably be initiated through e-APAR module of HRMS only and no physical APAR for 2020-21 shall be done.

... Continued on page-7

Railway Board orders continued from page-6

Further, the process of uploading the APAR of all Group 'C' employees for the last 10 years upto 2019-20 may please be fast tracked.

2. In this context, CRIS has also been advised to initiate the necessary steps for making this process seamless.

Railway Board RBE No. 28/2021, No. E(NGJI-2020/TR/2, 31.03.2021

Sub: Cancellation of Periodical Transfer of Staff.

Ref: Board's letter of even number No. dated 12.05.2020 & 07.08.2020.

Reference Board's letter of even No. dated 07.08.2020, vide which Railways were advised that the unimplemented periodical transfer orders of the staff working on sensitive posts be reviewed and pending till 31.03.2021 due to the extra ordinary situation created by the pandemic COVID-19.

2. In view of the ongoing pandemic situation, on request from both the Federations i.e. AIRF & NFIR, the matter has been further reviewed by the Board, and it has been decided by the Competent Authority that the periodical transfer orders of the staff working on sensitive posts be pending till 30th June, 2021.

Railway Board RBE No. 29/2021, No. E(W)2020/PS5-1/9, dated 13.04.2021

Sub: Clarification regarding Pass/travel entitlement.

Ref: Board's letters No. E(W)2016/PS5-1/8 dated 31.01.2019 and 26.07.2019.

Consequent upon operationalisation of E-Pass module as a part of HRMS, Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) have sought for clarifications on certain issues in connection with Board's letters cited above.

2. The matter has been examined in consultation with Commercial and P&A Directorates and the following clarifications are issued:-

(i) All First Class 'A'/First Class/Second Class 'A' Pass holders are entitled to travel in 3-AC Class as well as Chair Car Class of all Mail/Express type Trains. Accordingly, in the table of travel entitlement contained in Annexures I & II of Board's letter dated 31.01.2019 quoted above, 'CC' may be added along-with 3-AC and may be read as "3-AC/CC" in the column under "Berth/Seat Entitlements of Mail/Express Trains".

(ii) The post of Assistant Library & Information Officer at Railway Board, National Rail Museum and IRICEN in Pay Level in Pay Matrix (PLPM) 7 has since been upgraded as a Group 'B' Gazetted post. Accordingly, in the Board's above cited letters dated 31.01.2019 & 26.07.2019, PLPM 7 may be added in all places along with 'Group B Gazetted Officers in PLPM 8'.

3. This issues with the concurrence of the Finance Directorate of Ministry of Railways.

Railway Board OO No. 22 of 2021, No.2021/0&M/2/6, Dated, 2/04/2021

Sub: HRMS- Validation of Data

Attention is invited to Office Order No. 16 of 2021 requesting all officers to login in HRMS portal and check their service related data including dependents and family details for rectification of errors if any, to avoid problem while applying for Pass/PF.

2. Despite extant instructions, it has been observed that in majority of cases, officials are reporting HRMS help desk at eleventh hour when they are to undertake journey or to get the reservation raising problem in generation of pass through HRMS with request to allow manual generation of pass as their pass related data are not correct or validated in HRMS.

3. In terms of Board's Order dated 26.03.2021, generation of Privilege Pass/PTO through manual mode would stop w.e.f 30.04.2021. Accordingly, to facilitate issue of passes through HRMS, following information exclusively related to Pass may be checked and in case of discrepancies, same may be reported to HRMS helpdesk through mail @ hena.akhtar[at]gov.in. in or phone to get the data validated as per schedule at Annexure-I:-

S. No.	Data to be checked	Where to look for
i.	PIA assigned or not (If '0' or 'NA' appears, plz report)	Dashboard
ii.	Designation & Railway Unit(It should reflect your correct designation and Unit as Railway Board)	Dashboard
iii.	Family Details (Name, Age Gender, Dependency, Dependency for Pass)	IRHRMS-ESS>View/Edit my Details>Family
iv.	Pay Level	e-SR
v.	No.of Passes/PTO available	Pass>Apply for Pass/PTO> Pass/PTO> Click on drop-down (If not visible, plz report with message displayed)
vi.	Family details are declared or not	Pass> Apply for Pass/PTO > Family Declaration (Read the message carefully)

***** (For checking above details, HRMS is to be accessed in either Phone/System Browser and not in App.

Before all these steps, please ensure whether you are able to login to HRM or not. Please report immediately for Mobile No. discrepancy/OTP not received/Other login issue.

3.1 It may be noted that in case both the option as advised vide Office Order No.16 of 2021 and as per para 3 above is not resorted to, post 30.4.2021 when manual pass would not be issued, it would not be possible for the administration to attend at eleventh hour any issue related to generation of pass through HRMS for the defaulting officials nor any requests for manual passe would be entertained.

4. Cooperation of all concerned is solicited to ensure generation of pass through HRMS & towards use of H.R.MS. For any technical query HR.MS help desk at first floor Room No 110-A may be consulted. Phone No's for helpdesk are 5407/5408/5409(IP No's)

Railway Board letter No. PC-VI/2020/CC/13, dated: 13.04.2021

(Attn.: All PCPOs)

Sub: Grant of notional increment (as due on 1st July) for the pensionary benefits to those employees who had retired on 30th of June before drawing the same – Clarification reg.

Ref: Board's letters No. PC-VU2020/Misc/01 dated 01.03.2021 & PC-VU2018/R-U1 Pt. dated 21.05.2020.

A number of cases have been filed across all Indian Railways by various retired employees who had retired on 30th of June of a year seeking the benefit of notional increment (as due on 1st July of the retirement year) for the purpose of pensionary benefits primarily relying upon the judgment of Hon'ble High Court of Madras in W.P. No. 15732/2017 in the matter of Sh. Ayyamperumal.

.....Continued on page-8

NOTICE FOR VIRTUAL MEETING OF CEC IRTSA*Continued from page-1*

9. Steps for Organisational mobilisation: a) Complete Membership Drive b) Central Quota for 2019, 2020 & 2021 to Central Treasurer IRTSA early.

10. Adoption of Resolution of Demands & Line of Action for pursuance of Demands: i) Joining Railwaymen in protest against Privatisation of Trains & Corporatisation of PUs. ii) Follow-up with the Govt. for acceptance of Main Demands.

11. Any other point may be sent in advance to the General Secretary & the Central President for consideration, followed by Vote of Thanks.

NOTE: i) Central President, Patrons, Working President, C.T & all ZS are requested to send their Recorded Audio &/or written Reports/Messages (as per details indicated in the above agenda).

ii) The said Reports & Messages may please be sent latest by 19.06.2021 to the GS IRTSA on his WhatsApp No. 9316131598 with copies to Convener Er. KV Ramesh (on his WhatsApp No. 9003149578) and to the Co-Convener Er. Ashoke Chowdhari on his (WhatsApp) No. 9434123105.

iii) Please mobilize Sub-units in your region to complete the Membership @ Rs.200 PA and pursue them to send the Central Quota for 2019, 2020 & 2021 early to the Central Treasurer ER O. N. PUROHIT, 106, SURAJ NAGAR, JODHPUR-342008 (PH: 09828024476) or to deposit the Central Quota in the Bank Account of IRTSA: State Bank of India, Jodhpur, Account No. 10083429358 IFSC: SBIN0004913 in favour of Indian Railways Technical Supervisors Association.

iv) Mobilize subscription for "Voice of Rail Engineers" @ Rs.100 PA & remit to Er. KV Ramesh Manager "VRE", G3 – Likith Homes, 3, Lakshmanan Nagar West Street, Peravallur, Chennai – 600082. Mobile:09003149578. Email: rameshirtsa@yahoo.co.in.

Harchandan Singh,
General Secretary, IRTSA

Grant of notional increment *Continued from page-7*

2. Keeping in view the intricacies involved and the cascading effect of any adverse judgement in the aforesaid cases; relevant guidelines of DOP&T in the matter were circulated to all Zonal Railways/PUS vide Board's letters under reference with a request to dispose all pending representations/ defend pending court cases, if any, on the issue accordingly .

3. In one such case viz. SLP © No. 004722 – /2021 (Union of India & Ors Vs M. Siddaraj) filed before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide Dy. No. 5821/2021, Hon'ble Supreme Court vide their order dated 05.04.2021 (copy enclosed) have granted stay on implementation of Hon'ble CAT/ Bangalore Bench's order while observing as under:

"Issue notice returnable after three weeks.

In the meanwhile, there will be stay of operation of the order dated 18th December, 2019 of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Bangalore Bench in Original Application No. 170/00677/2019, affirmed by the judgement and order impugned. The Petitioners shall, however, in the meanwhile without prejudice to the rights and contentions of parties pay retiral dues of the Respondent computed on the

basis of the last pay drawn by him on the date of his retirement, that is, 30.06.2014."

4. The above factual position/ observation of Hon'ble Supreme Court may be brought to the notice of respective Hon'ble Tribunals/ Courts by filing an appropriate application. Further, the same shall also be invariably incorporated in the counter reply/ parawise comments in further cases, if any, filed on the similar issue to safeguard the interests of Union of India effectively.

5. It may be ensured that the nominated Railway Advocates are properly & timely briefed on the matter.

CLOSURE OF RAILWAY PRINTING PRESS KEPT IN ABEYANCE

In view of present covid pandemic situation, Railway Board through its communication dated 26.04.2021 to GMs of CR, ER, NR, SR and SCR advised to keep its letter No.2019/RS/(Ptg)/15/17, dated 09.04.2021 on closure of printing press in abeyance.

IRTSA BBQ S.RLY FARWELL FUNCTION FOR ENGINEERS RETIRED DURING LOCKDOWN
Er.Nirmal Chandran, JGS IRTSA & Wkg President IRTSA S.Rly felicitated



Please send Annual Subscription @ Rs.100 PA for "Voice of Rail Engineers"

To: Er. K.V.Ramesh, G3 – Likith Homes, 3, Lakshmanan Nagar West Street, Peravallur, Chennai 600082. (9003149578) rameshirtsa@yahoo.co.in

**Rail Engineers visit IRTSA Website:
<http://irtsa.net> for latest updates**

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