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IRTSA submits memorandum to Finance Minister

Requested for expediate action on revision of Pay Level for SSEs



IRTSA submitted memorandum to Smt. Nirmala Setharaman Hon'bel Finance Minister on 22nd October during her visit to Chennai.

K.V.Ramesh Sr.JGS IRTSA requested for Finance Minister's intervention on the issue of Pay Level revision of Senior Section Engineers (SSEs) working in Railways. He said proposal send by Railway Ministry is available with Finance Ministry and requested the minister for approval of the proposal with modification suggested by IRTSA. Finance Minister gave a patient hearing and assured that she will take appropriate action.

Memorandums on Revision of Pay Level of Senior Section Engineers (SSEs) working in Railways and memorandum on Recommendation of 110th Report on the Subject 'Pensioner's Grievances-Impact of Pension Adalats and Centralized Pensioners Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPENGRAMS)' Submitted to parliament on 10th Dec 2021 were submitted to Finance Minister.

Er.B.Saravanan, Er.Raghupathy and Er.Jagadeesh Kumar were also present during the meeting.

57th ALL INDIA CONFERENCE & CGB OF IRTSA WILL BE HELD AT BABA MAKHAN SHAH LOBANA BHAWAN CHANDIGARH ON 29th & 30th NOV, 2022

Nationwide protest against privatization of Railways & manufacturing cum maintenance agreement for Vande Bharat Train sets

Railway unions and Associations held nationwide protest in all zones and production units against Government's decision on privatization of Railway activities. Unions were reflecting widespread anger and frustration among the employees against the proposal of the Railway Ministry for handing over passenger train operation to private. It was said that privatization of Railway activities will not only jeopardies Railway men career, passenger and freight fairs will also shore.

They were protesting Railways proposal for inviting bids from private companies for manufacturing cum maintenance contract for semi high speed Vande Bharat express train sets.

Railways issued notification for invitation of tender for 200 coach sets. Selected bidders have to manufacture 200 Vande Bharat Train Sets of sleeper version (16 coach formation) at Indian Railways Production Units Marathwada Rail Coach Factory (MRCF) Lathur and Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai.

Scope of contract includes design, manufacture, supply, testing and commissioning of 200 train sets spread over 3 to 5 years and maintenance thereof for a period of 35 years.

Private bidders have to manufacture 120 train sets to be at MRCF Lathur and 80 train sets at ICF Chennai. Supplied train sets should be maintained in six to eight Government depots situated in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Jodhpur, etc.

Private bidders will be allowed to use and modify Railway civil infrastructure and other requirements. For Mechanical system, bidders must have experience of carrying out vehicle design, manufacture, supply, testing and commissioning of minimum total 250 coaches in EMU based train sets during the last ten years. For propulsion system, traction motors at to operate at the speed of 130 kmph or more. 25% of traction motors to operate the train at the speed of 176/160 kmph.

Unions and Associations are protesting that, proposal given for private bidders can be done by Railways itself by its own, instead of making Railways fully dependent on private train operators for 35 years, which will increase the passenger fair, risk in safety, exploitation of Railway resources, human resources, etc. ♦

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"SUCCESS COMES TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE"



Editorial**Manufacturing cum maintenance agreement for Vande Bharat Train sets will harm Railways**

Railways issued Notification for invitation of tender for manufacturing and maintenance of 200 coach sets of Vande Bharat Train sets. Selected bidders shall manufacture 200 Vande Bharat Train Sets of sleeper version (16 coach formation) at Indian Railways Production Units Marathwada Rail Coach Factory (MRCF) Lathur and Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai.

Because of this move by Railways, its Production Units, workshops, coaching depots, etc will lose their work loads. Integral Coach Factory, Chennai has developed indigenous capability & capacity to produce semi high speed 'Vande Bharat' train sets and every rake being inaugurated enthusiastically by Hon'ble Prime Minister. Other three Coach Production units RCF-Kapurthala MCF-Raebareli and MRCF-Lathur are having state of art technologies to manufacture Vande Bharat train sets that can run at a speed of 180 kmph with minimum additional inputs.

Railway workshops will lose their POH work. All these PUs & workshops have developed medium & small industries around them as their suppliers and future of these industries will be in danger. Staff both in Railway and private will lose their work load.

Possibility of continuous updation of technologies and facilities as claimed cannot happen. Private operators will try to utilize their rolling stock for all 35 years of contract period, depriving Railways and its passengers new technologies and facilities.

Maintenance depots will lose their work load since train maintenance will be the duty of private entities. IR will have to provide berth/ space to private entity in the existing maintenance depots or space in a proximate area on 'as is where basis' for up-gradation or setting up its maintenance depot. Private entity will bring its manpower, tools and plants as required for undertaking the maintenance obligations. This clause will leave no scope for Indian Railways to improve its own man power, infrastructure in the future, since portion of already constrained maintenance depots will be taken over by private entities.

Since the responsibility of final certification before ever trip has to be done by Indian Railways, departmental inspectorial staff who certifies the rolling stocks of private operators will be scapegoats for all failures & accidents.

Any one inefficient private managed bunch will have serious implications in operation of trains in high density route the bunch is positioned. Any failure or accident happens to private train will adversely affect the punctuality of IR trains. Even for the accidents caused because of private trains, responsibility of rescue operation rests with IR and loss to Railway property has to be borne by Indian Railways.

In nut shell, manufacture and maintenance of Vande Bharat Train Set may not achieve financial, operational & technological objectives projected by Government. Passenger fares for proposed train sets will be high and at the same time subsidies for lower classes operated by IR will also remain high. No transfer of technology or updation will happen. Level of passenger satisfaction will come down. Capacity addition may not happen at the expected level. Production Units, Workshops & maintenance depots will lose their work load. Most of the work force will be made as daily wage earners. Indian Railways setup will be fragmented. ♦

Memorandum submitted to Finance Minister on 22nd October**Smt. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN****Honorable Finance Minister**

Respected Madam,

Sub: Revision of Pay Level of Senior Section Engineers (SSEs) working in Railways.

Ref: 1) Ministry of Railways' O.M dated 17.09.2021.

2) Memorandums submitted to Hon'ble Finance and Railway Ministers by IRTSA.

1) During the last one-year Members of Parliament are writing to Hon'ble Finance Minister and Hon'ble Railway Minister towards settling the issue of Pay Level revision of Senior Section Engineers (SSEs) working in Indian Railways.

2) Proposal sent by Minister of Railways for upgradation of 50% of supervisory cadres working in Railways through their O.M dated 17.09.2021 is still with Department of Expenditure. Quite a few rounds of clarifications & discussions were happened between DoE and Railway Board to find a solution, particularly for revision of Pay level of SSEs.

3) SSEs were paid higher pay scale from 1971 to 1996 due to the award of Special Pay by Justice N.M.Miabuoy Tribunal. This special pay element went out of sight of 5th, 6th and 7th Pay Commissions. Hence categories who are in lower grade are either paid equal or more than SSEs.

4) SSE category which is entry grade for Engineering Graduate got no upgradation in any Pay Commission or cadre restructure.

5) Ministry of Railways in its proposal sent to Ministry of Finance after 6th CPC O.M. No. PC VI/2009/DAC/1 (Pt2) dated 11.06.2010, has asked approval for 100% upgradation for SSEs.6) 7th CPC accepted that there is an element of stagnation for SSEs without even one promotion and the Pay Level of SSEs were listed in the National Anomaly Committee.

7) In the NC-JCM held on June 2021, Cabinet Secretary asked Railways and DoE to resolve their issue.

8) There are 70,000 posts available in Pay Level-7 covering all categories, out of which 42,000 is technical cadre. Railways send an Office Memorandum for approval dated 17.09.2021 to DoE recommending upgradation of 35,000 posts (50%) from Pay Level-7 to Pay Level-8 and further upgradation to Pay Level-9 on non-functional basis after 4 years of service in Pay Level-8 (para-3 of Railways O.M).

9) This proposal will not bring relief to the category of SSEs. It will not restore the parity of SSEs with accounts staff who were two grades lower earlier are now given two grades higher than SSEs.

10) It is requested for suitable amendment of para-3 of existing Railway Board proposal that, all the posts of SSEs/Technocrats may be placed in Pay Level-8 and further upgradation to Pay Level-9 on non-functional basis after 4 years of service in Pay Level-8 on par with accounts. Or 50% of the posts may be placed in Pay Level-8 and 50% may be placed in Pay Level-9.

Thank you

Yours' truly
M.SHANMUGAM**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.**
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New office bearers of IRTSA/RCNK, NR

General body meeting was held on 26.09.2022 in the presence of Er. Anoop Bajpai, Central Sr. Vice President, IRTSA and Er. Akilesh Viswakarma regarding election of the office bearers of IRTSA of RCNK Sonipat Workshop, NR. The following office bearers of IRTSA have been elected unanimously.

Chief Advisor	Er. Virender Dahiya	SSE
President	Er. Narineder Arya	SSE
Vice-President	Er. Vinay	CMS
Vice-President	Er. Arun Saini	SSE
Vice-President	Er. Satvir Singh	SSE
Vice-President	Er. Sumit Dhalora	SSE
Vice-President	Er. Rahul	SSE
Secretary	Er. Dipak Rana	SSE
Treasurer	Er. Lokesh Thakkar	SSE
Auditor	Er. Ramesh Chawdra	SSE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Jitender Kumar	SSE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Ankesh Bhaskar	SSE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Purshotam	JE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Mahinder Singh	SSE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Partibha	SSE

New office bearers of Electrical Branch IRTSA/JUDW, NR Zone.



General body meeting of IRTSA Electrical branch, Jagadhri Workshop was held on 07.10.2022 in the presence of Er. Anoop Bajpai, Central Sr. Vice President, IRTSA, Er. P.K. Shukla Zonal President IRTSA/NR and Er. Akilesh Viswakarma. Er. Anil Kumar Sharma sub-unit President has appreciated the efforts of central office bearers in pursuing the issues pertaining to Rail Engineers / Technical Supervisors. On behalf of IRTSA/Jagadhri he promised all the support for CEC IRTSA in all activities.

Following office bearers of IRTSA have been elected unanimously.

Chief Patron	Er. Lalit Kumar Singh	SSE
Patron	Er. Ram Bhoor	SSE
Chief Advisor	Er. Rakesh Gera	SSE
Advisor	Er. Elam Chand	SSE
President	Er. Anil Kumar Sharma	SSE
Working President	Er. Dinesh Choudhary	SSE
Vice President	Er. Mohit Kumar	SSE
Vice President	Er. Mandeep Singh	SSE
Vice President	Er. Sunku Ram	SSE
Vice President	Er. Vikas Sharma	SSE
Vice President	Er. K.K. Sharma	SSE
Secretary	Er. Shashi Bakshi	SSE
Treasurer	Er. Harish Bakshi	SSE
Auditor	Er. Ravindra Kumar	SSE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Ravi Bhushan	SSE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Keshav Lavania	SSE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Amit Kumar	SSE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Shuham Sibbal	SSE
Org. Secretary	Er. Anil Kumar	SSE
Org. Secretary	Er. Parveen Kumar	SSE



Engineers' day celebrated by IRTSA/ER at Liluha New office bearers of Mechanical Branch IRTSA/JUDW, NR Zone.

General Body meeting of Mechanical Branch IRTSA Jagadhri work shop on 13/10/22 in Jagadhri Workshop, Northern Railway. Supervisors from various sections took part enthusiastically and with commitment to form body & stand together to raise voice for supervisors on root level. All supervisors in a meeting unanimously elected Shri. Vivek Kumar Sharma as President and Shri. Avinash Kumar as a General Secretary. Shri K.S. Kataria former Secretary/IRTSA JUDW explained the various achievements, activities and goals of IRTSA on national level.

General body meeting was held in the presence of Er. Anoop Bajpai, Central Sr. Vice President, IRTSA and Er. Akilesh Viswakarma regarding election of the office bearers of IRTSA of Electrical branch, Jagadhri Workshop.



Following office bearers of IRTSA have been elected unanimously.

Chief Patron	Er. K.S. Kataria	SSE
Patron	Er. K.P. Singh	SSE
Chief Advisor	Er. Mandeep Singh	SSE
Advisor	Er. Pradeep Kumar	SSE
President	Er. Vivek Sharma	SSE
Working President	Er. Vinaya Kumar Sharma	SSE
Vice President	Er. Amit Kumar	SSE
Vice President	Er. Jaswant Lal	SSE
Vice President	Er. Pawan Saini	SSE
Vice President	Er. Sunil Kumar	JE
Vice President	Er. Shiv Agnihotri	SSE
Vice President	Er. Kurdeep Singh	SSE
Vice President	Er. Anil Kumar	JE
Secretary	Er. Avinash Kumar	JE
Treasurer	Er. Rohit Yadav	SSE
Auditor	Er. Kalam Singh	SSE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Mohit Kumar	JE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Himanshu Sharma	SSE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Aashutosh Meena	SSE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Rajeev Kumar	SSE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Tushar Bali	SSE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Narpal	JE
Asst. Secretary	Er. Jaykrit	JE
Org. Secretary	Er. Beant Singh	SSE

MEMORANDUMS SUBMITTED BY IRTSA**Sub: Grant of financial upgradation under MACPS for the employees promoted between 01.01.2006 and 29.08.2008 with the benefit of pay fixation in pre-revised pay scale which are merged by the 6th CPC.**

- Ref: 1) Railway Board letter No.PC-V/2016/MACPS/11 (RBE No.31/2021) dated 22.04.2021.
 2) PCPO/RCF letter No.2021-E/RCF/SUP/MECH/PAY FIXATION dated 16.09.2021.
 3) RBE - 33 / 2016 - Cases of promotion taking place in the pre-revised pay structure between 1.1.2006 and the date of notification of CCS (RP) Rules, 2008.
 4) Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, O.M. No.F-2-1/2015-E.III (A), dated 16th October, 2015

1) We would like to draw your kind attention on denial of granting 3rd MACPS for Senior Section Engineers, who received promotional pay-fixation on promotion from Section Engineer to Senior Section Engineer in the 5th CPC scales between 01.01.2006 and 29.08.2008. They have opted for 6th CPC Grade Pay after their date of promotion. Pre-revised scale of SE in Rs.6500-10500 and SSE in pay scale Rs.7450-11500 were merged and given Grade Pay Rs.4600 in PB-2.

2) Denial of 3rd financial upgradation violates basic MACPS principal. Stand taken by the RCF administration will deprive seniors the 3rd financial upgradation, while juniors appointed later in the same entry grade will be eligible for 3rd financial upgradation. Illustration given in the annexure.

3) RBE No 33/2016, dated 08.04.2015 cited in reference No.2 implemented O.M. of Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure dated 16.10.2015 cited in reference No. 3 in Railways. The O.M. allowed pay fixation "in cases where promotion took place in the pre-revised pay structure between 1.1.2006 and the date of notification of Revised Pay Rules, 2008, when the pre-revised and revised pay scales were different and the posts carried the character of feeder and promotional grades", with the following conditions,

- Where posts being promotional grade for the feeder grade from where the promotion took place and where the posts were subsequently merged into a single post / grade.
- Where FR 22 (I) (a) (1) was applicable for fixation of pay on promotion before promulgation of Revised Pay Rules in 2008.
- Where the concerned employee had opted to come over to the revised pay structure from date occurring (i.e promotion)
- Where concerned Recruitment Rules have been amended subsequently to provide for merger of these grades into a single grade/post.

4) Accordingly, chance for revised pay option was given to all those employees who earned their promotions from the pre-revised feeder grades to promotional grades which were subsequently merged into one common grade pay.

5) But, Clarification issued in Railway Board letter RBE No. 31/2021 is specifically with reference to para 8.1 of RBE No 101/2009 not for the Finance Ministry O.M. dated 16th October, 2015.

6) RBE No 101/2009, para 8.1 states that, Grade Pay of 5400 in PB-2 and Grade of Rs.5400 in PB-3 shall be treated as separate grade pays for the purpose of grant of upgradation under MACPS.

7) Moreover, Railway Board not used to give clarification independently for Finance Ministry's O.M.

8) It is therefore requested that, RBE No. 31/2021 applicable for a specific Grade Pay in the pre-revised pay band structure

should not be made applicable universally for all pre-revised feeder and promotional grades, where promotion took place in the pre-revised pay structure between 1.1.2006 and the date of notification of Revised Pay Rules, 2008.

- 9) Not only serving employees, some of the employees retired/retiring are also affected because more than one year passed since the reference made by RCF to Railway Board.
 10) An expedite action is solicited from Railway Board.

Annexure**Illustration**

promotion / financial upgradation under MACPS in 6 th & 7 th CPC	Employee-1	Employee-2	Employee-3
Appointment grade	Appointed as JE prior to 6 th CPC	Appointed as JE prior to 6 th CPC	Appointed as JE in 6 th CPC GP
Seniority based on date of appointment	Senior to employee-2 & 3	Senior to employee-3, but junior to employee-1	Junior to employee-1 & 2
	Promotion to JE-I ignored due to the merger of JE-II and JE-I by 6 th CPC	Promotion to JE-I ignored due to the merger of JE-II and JE-I by 6 th CPC	6 th CPC fixation for JE w.e.f. 01.01.2006
1 st promotion	Promoted from SE to SSE before 01.01.2006	Promoted from SE to SSE between 01.01.2006 and 29.08.2008. Promotional fixation in 5 th CPC Scale.	Promoted from JE to SSE after 29.08.2008 and fixation in 6 th CPC GP
	6 th CPC fixation w.e.f.01.01.2006 in GP 4600	Opted for 6 th CPC GP system from the date of promotion.	Promotional fixation from the date of promotion in GP 4600
2 nd MACPS	GP 4800 or PL-8	GP 4800 or PL-8	GP 4800 or PL-8
3 rd MACPS	GP 5400 or PL-9	Denied in RCF & PLW	GP 5400 or PL-9

Promotions earned in merged grades are not counted for the purpose of financial upgradation, since senior employees should not be put in disadvantageous position than junior employees recruited in the same grade.

Junior employee (cited as employee-3) appointed in 6th CPC GP system will be eligible for 3rd financial upgradation under MACPS in Pay Level-9.

Senior employee appointed prior to 6th CPC (cited as employee-1) and promoted as SSE prior to 6th CPC, who received promotional pay fixation from SE to SSE in 5th CPC period will be eligible for 3rd financial upgradation under MACPS in Pay Level-9.

Denial of 3rd financial upgradation for employees (cited as employee-2) who also received promotional pay fixation for SE to SSE in the 5th CPC scale is against the basic principle of ACP and MACPS.

Railway Board Orders

Railway Board letter No. 2022/E(W)/01/08/1, RBE No.136/2022 dated 28.10.2022

Sub: Travel entitlement on Passes/PTOs integrated with Class & Booking Codes issued by Commercial Directorate.

Ref: (i) Board's letter No. E(W)2016/PS5-1/10 dated 12.07.2017.

(ii) Board's letter No. E(W)2016/PS5-1/8 dated 31.01.2019.

(iii) Board's letter No. 2021/TG-I/20/P/2 dated 30.07.2021.

(iv) Board's letter No. TCII/2910/18/Train18 dated 12.02.2019.

Instructions were issued vide letter cited under Ref.(i) above validating Passes/PTOs in all the trains and stamping the physical Passes on the basis of type of trains viz. Mail/Express or Rajdhani/Duronto type or Shatabdi type. However, with the introduction of E-Pass/PTO Module under HRMS with e-ticket booking facility and issuance of independent Booking Codes for different type of coaches by Commercial Dte, vide their letter cited under Ref.(iii) above, Clarifications are being sought regarding travel entitlement in AC 3-Tier Economy Coach, Vistadome (AC/Non-AC) Coach, Anubhuti Coach, etc. Both the recognised Federations i.e. All India Railway men's Federation and National Federation of Indian Railway men have also requested Board to continue the extant travel entitlement based on type of trains.

2. In order to bring in more clarity and to maintain uniformity, it has been decided with the approval of Competent Authority to integrate Commercial instructions with the travel entitlement issued vide Board's letter cited under Ref.(ii) above. Integrated travel entitlement accordingly framed is enclosed as Annexure-I (for Duty Passes) and Annexure-II (for Privilege/Post-Retirement Complimentary/Widow Passes). In case two types of trains are operated (viz. Rajdhani type Tejas Express train and Shatabdi type Tejas Express train, etc), travel entitlement in such trains will be as per respective type of train. This supersedes all previous instructions regarding travel entitlement on Passes/PTOs.

3. CRIS/PRS and CRIS/HRMS will immediately make necessary modifications in PRS & E-Pass/PTO Module of HRMS, respectively.

Railway Board letter No.2022/TG-I/20/85, dated 12.10.2022
Sub: Reservation on Railway Passes/PTOs

Ref: Letter No. 94/TG-I/20/P/14 dated 28.08.2009 (CC No. 39 of 2009)

Instructions were issued vide letter referred to above, stipulating detailed guidelines on booking of tickets on railway Passes. Consequent to introduction of facility for online booking of reserved tickets on railway Passes/PTOs issued through HRMS and also on receipt of requests for revising the guidelines for ticket booking on PTOs, the matter has been reviewed and it has been decided that the procedure to be followed for booking reserved tickets on the authority of Railway Pass/PTO will be as under:-

i. Pass/PTO holders or their representatives should present their passes/PTO along with the requisitions duly filled in to the Reservation Clerk who will issue ticket on realization of due fare, if any, and make endorsement on the face of the pass/PTO indicating the PNR number, the train number, date of journey, status of tickets, etc.

ii. The option to book reserved tickets online on the authority of Railway Pass/PTOs can also be availed for that category of pass/PTO for which the same has been provided by CRIS/IRCTC.

iii. Holders of Privilege, Duty, Post Retirement, Complimentary, Metal and other passes/PTOs may be allowed to seek fresh reservation only if the earlier reservation is cancelled before preparation of first reservation charts. The ticket booked across the computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counter can also be cancelled through website of IRCTC within the stipulated time period prescribed in the Refund Rules. In such cases, it will not be mandatory to surrender the ticket across the PRS counter, if no refund is due. However, in case of due refund amount involved on tickets booked on pass/PTOs, surrender of original ticket across the reservation counter within the prescribed time limit shall be mandatory.

iv. In case of confirmed reservation on privilege, Post retirement, complimentary and other passes/PTOs, the pass/PTO holder can make maximum three times reservations provided the earlier one has been cancelled before preparation of first reservation charts, failing which the pass/PTO will be treated as used.

v. There will be no restriction in number of cancellations in case of Duty Pass, Metal Pass and in case of tickets having a status of fully/partially waiting list (at the time of cancellation) against Privilege, Post Retirement and Complimentary passes/PTOs. However, fresh reservation will be given only after the earlier one has been cancelled within the normal prescribed time limits, which at present for waitlist/ RAC/ partially confirmed tickets 1s 30 minutes before scheduled departure of train.

vi. Telephonic requests for reservation and cancellation will not be entertained.

vii. The portion of break journey will be treated as separate journey i.e. instructions contained at para (iii) and (iv) will be applicable for each leg of journey Separately.

viii. It will be the responsibility of officer/staff making reservation on Metal/Duty Passes to ensure that between the same stations and on the same date, reservation should not be made in two separate trains.

ix. The facility of modification of tickets booked on PTOs will not be available.

x. In case of PTOs, cancellation/clerkage charge as applicable shall be levied on each time of cancellation as per existing principles on cancellation of tickets booked on PTOs. However, after enabling of this option no modification option shall be allowed on PTOs issued across HRMS.

2) CRIS will make necessary modifications in the software as required.

3) Necessary instructions may be issued to all concerned accordingly.

Railway Board letter No. No.2011/C&IS/PRS/NCR/12, Dtd 08.07.2022

Sub: Enabling of non-cash counter for booking of Privilege Ticket Order (PTO) and differences of passes.

Ref: Railway Board's letter No.2013/CIS/PRS/Non-Cash/04 dated 15.07.2015.

Vide above referred letter, powers were delegated to General Managers to sanction non-cash/enquiry PRS terminals in the premises of the Railway establishment for ticketing convenience of the railway officers/staff, if demand for such terminal is justified. These non-cash terminals were set up booking of tickets on Privilege pass only.

In this connection, representations have been received from zonal railways requesting for enabling of non-cash counter for booking of Privilege Ticket Order (PTO) and differences of passes.

..... Continued on page-6

Railway Board orders Continued from page-5

The matter raised by zonal railways has been examined in Board's office in the context of extant policy guidelines issued vide above referred letter. In a slight modifications to Board's letter referred above, it has now been decided to enable non-cash counter for booking of Privilege Ticket Order (PTO) and differences of passes only for which the cash should be accepted only in online mode. Rest of the conditions mentioned in Board's above referred letter will remain the same.

This issues in consultation with Commercial Directorate of Railway Board and has the approval of AM(M&BD).

S.No. PC-VII/ 200, No. PC-V/2016/A/Med/I(FMA)(E), RBE No. 137/2022, dated 27-10-2022

Sub: Grant of Fixed Medical Allowance to Railway pensioners/family pensioners — change in option.

In terms of Railway Board's letter No. PC-V/98/I/7/1/1 dated 15-7-2002 (RBE No. 107/2002), the Railway pensioners/family pensioners eligible to opt for FMA had been provided, once in a life time, an opportunity to change their option to avail the benefit of FMA or otherwise on furnishing proof of change in residence. The issue of allowing this one time opportunity to change option for FMA/OPD facility had been under consideration with DoP&PW for quite some time. It has now been decided that the Railway pensioners/family pensioners residing beyond 2.5 kms from Railway Hospital/Health Unit and eligible for RELHS shall be allowed opportunity to avail change in option, once in a life time, from FMA to OPD or a vice versa without linkage to change in residence.

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

4. This will come into effect from the date of issue of this letter.

Railway Board letter No. E(NG)I-2018/TR/8, Dated: 26.10.2018

Sub:- Mutual Transfer involving employees working in two different grades.

In terms of para 310 of IREM Vol. I 1989 Edition, Railway Servants can seek mutual transfer in the corresponding cadre of two Divisions/Offices/Railways and retain the seniority of the junior employees in their respective new units. The procedure for mutual transfer have recently been further simplified vide:-

(i) Board's letter No. E(NG)I-2017/TR/24 dated 22.09.2017 (RBE No. 131/2017) which delegates powers to Divisional Railway Managers in respect of mutual transfer, and

(ii) Board's letter No. E(NG)I-2017/TR/19 dated 06.07.2018 (RBE No. 99/2018) which enabled employees working in Level-I (GP Rs. 1800) belonging to any department/cadre to go on Mutual Exchange basis transfer with another employee working in Level-I (GP Rs. 1800) irrespective of cadre.

2. With a view to further enable employees to seek Mutual Exchange Transfer and in view of clarifications sought by some Zonal Railways in this regard and the demand of both and Federation e.g. NFIR and AIRF, Board have considered the matter. It has been decided that Mutual Transfers may also be permitted between staff in two different grades but only in the recruitment grade of the cadre and not in intermediate grades.

3. Both the employees seeking mutual exchange shall have to give a written undertaking accepting reversion unconditionally and willingly in their own interest to the recruitment grade and bottom seniority in their respective

new Unit in order to avoid future litigation. The expression mentioned in preceding lines, should necessarily be incorporated in the application submitted by the employee concerned. The "Note" below para 2(b)(iii) of Board's letter No. E(NG)I-2017/TR/24 dated 22.09.2017 as mentioned in para 1 above stands deleted.

4. Other terms and conditions for mutual exchange including community restrictions contained in Board's letter No. E(NG)I-2004/TR/16 dated 14.08.2017 and 22.10.2007 remain.

Railway Board letter No: S.No.PC-VII/198, No.PC-V/2017/A/AT/1(E) RBE No131/2022, dated 17.10.2022

Sub: Irregularities in payment of Transport Allowance during nation-wide lockdown due to Covid-1 9 pandemic.

Attention is invited to para 4(a) of Board's letter dt. 03.08.2017(RBE No.80/2017) wherein it is stated that Transport Allowance will not be admissible for the calendar month(s) wholly covered by leave. Further, vide Ministry of Finance/ Department of Expenditure OM dated 01.12.2020, which has been circulated vide Board's letter dated 03.12.2020 (RBE No.104/2020), the different situations during lockdown period under which Transport Allowance is not admissible have been clarified. During course of Audit it has been noted that irregular payments against Transport Allowance has been made by one of the Zonal Railway in violation of the clarifications communicated vide MoF/DoE OM dated 01.12.2020. In this context, it has further been recommended as under :-

"Railway Board may get the issue examined in various Zones/other offices, to assess whether similar nature of irregular payment towards Transport Allowance has been made, and effect recoveries under intimation to Audit".

In view of the above Zonal Railways and PUs may assess the payments made against Transport Allowance to the employees during the nation-wide lockdown period and if any irregular payment has been made, remedial action may be taken to recover the same.

Railway Board letter No. E(GP)2022/2/4, dated 7/10/2022

Sub.: Promotions to Group 'B' posts on Indian Railways – Introduction of Centralized Computer Based Objective type examination (CBT) in all departments having Organised Services.

Ref: Board's letter nos.E(GP)2022/2/4 dated 28/06/2022, 06/09/2022 & 4/10/2022.

Please refer to this office letter of even number dated 28/06/2022 & 4/10/2022 wherein it has been advised that the 70% Selections & 30% LDCes for promotion to Group 'B' posts in all organised departments will be conducted through Centralised CBT w.e.f.1.1.2023.

2. With the introduction of Multiple-choice Objective type questions in the 70% Selections for promotion to Gr. B posts in terms of instructions contained in Board's letter No.E(GP)2018/2/31 dated 19.03.2019, following pattern of examination has been adopted for 70% Selections in all departments except Accounts and the same shall continue for the 70% Selections to be conducted through Centralised CBT in all Departments except Accounts:

a) Professional Subject including optional questions of 10 marks on Official language policy & Rules	70 Marks
b) Establishment and Financial Rules	30 Marks
c) Qualifying marks	60 Marks with relaxation as per extant rules

..... Continued on page-7

Railway Board orders Continued from page-6

3.0 Duration of the examination for 70% Selections through Centralised CBT shall be two hours.

3.1 Structure of the 30% LDCEs in all Departments has already been prescribed in terms of Board's letters of even number dated 28/06/2022 & 6/09/2022.

Railway Board letter No. No. E(W)2018/PS 5-2/6, dated 06.09.2022

Sub: Clarification regarding travel on Residential Card Pass (RCP) in AC EMU Suburban trains.

Ref: (i) Commercial Circular (CC) No.85/2017 dated 22.12.2017.

(ii) Western Railway's letter Nos. C.175/A(AC EMU trains) dated 18.01.2018 and E(Pass)768/64Vol.IV dated 18.05.2022.

(iii) Letter No. AIRF/88(217) dated 14.06.2022 of AIRF.

With reference to CC No.85/2017 cited under Ref.(i) above, clarification has been sought by Western Railway vide their letters cited under Ref.(ii) above regarding eligibility to travel in AC EMU Suburban trains by First Class RCP holders. AIRF, vide their letter cited under Ref.(iii) above have also requested Board to issue clarification in this regard. The matter has been examined in consultation with Commercial Directorate who have indicated that no restriction has been imposed in the instructions (i.e.CC No.85/2017) for travel of Railway Servants in AC ordinary services. Accordingly, it is clarified that First Class/First Class 'A' RCPs are valid for travel in AC-EMU Suburban trains.

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

Railway Board letter No.E(NG)II/2019/RR-1/SPL, dated 03.10.2022

Sub: Filling up of vacancies in a mission mode – Regarding

As you might be aware that DoP&T vide O.M. dated 12.09.2022 has directed filling up of vacancies including promotional vacancies in mission mode. DoP&T has specifically sought regular uploading of data regarding offers of appointment issued and ready to be issued against direct recruitment quota vacancies.

As has been repeatedly emphasized there has to be a constant monitoring of filling up of promotion quota vacancies and the monthly targets in this regard which have been furnished earlier by the zonal Railways need to be achieved to fulfil the overall target of approximately 1,48,000 promotions upto march 2023.

RRBs have already furnished panels against additional and isolated categories and have completed the examination process for CEN 01/2019 (NTPC) and CBT of CEN RRC-01/2019 (Level-1) is nearing completion. Accordingly, the Zonal Railways/Units are required to complete the empanelment process and also be ready with offers of appointment for all the approximately 1,52,713 direct recruitment intake by March/April, 2023. Further this process has been projected suitably staggered month-wise for readiness of offer of appointment and promotions finalised.

Zonal Railways are advised to gear up their machinery in all aspects to ensure timely Physical Efficiency Test (PET), Document Verification (DV), Medical Examination and appointment formalities for all their candidates expected from RRBs and RRCs. Especially

..... **Continued on page-8**

Railway Board letter No. E(GP)2022/2/4, dated 18/10/2022 Sub.: Promotions to Group 'B' posts on Indian Railways - Introduction of Centralized Computer Based Objective type examination (CBT) in all departments having Organised Services.

Ref.: Board's letter no.E(GP)2022/2/4 dated 28.06.2022, 1.7.2022, 31.8.2022 & 7.10.2022.

Please refer to this office letter of even number dated 07.10.2022 advising that all 70% Selections & 30% LDCEs for promotion to Group 'B' posts in Organised departments will be conducted through Centralised CBT by NAIR w.e.f.01.01.2023. Board(CRB & CEO) has now decided that the 70% Selection will be conducted through Centralised CBT on 22/01/2023 and shall be followed by a Supplementary examination on 29.01.2023. Therefore, to ensure smooth conduct of the examination, a Model Calendar has been prepared and is enclosed as Annexure-1. It is requested that the time frame given in the said Calendar may please be adhered to ensure timely conduct of the examination.

It is further advised that details of all candidates participating in the said 70% Selection should be furnished to NAIR well in advance.

ANNEXURE-I

1) CALANDER FOR FINALISATION OF 30% LDCE TO BE CONDUCTED THROUGH CENTRALISED CBT BY NAIR AND THEREAFTER FOR ISSUING OF FINAL PANELS BY ZONES/PUs

By NAIR

Activity	Date
Exam date for 30% LDCE	20/11/2022
Result preparation	30/11/2022
Result validation and submission	1/12/2022

By Zones

No	Steps	Time period
I	Declaration of result by NAIR	1/12/2022
II	Issuing of panels by zones	15/12/2022

2) CALANDER FOR 70% SELECTION TO BE CONDUCTED THROUGH CBT FOR 2023-2024

Steps	Time line (For deptts not participating in CBT)	Steps	Time line (For deptts participating in CBT)
Issuing of modified/unified syllabus for 70% selection & 30% LDCEs for organised departments	31 st October 2022		
Notofication of 70% selection (where LDCE through CBTT is not going to be conducted)	10 th Nov 2022	Notification of 70% selection (where LDCE through CBT is to be conducted)	19 th December 2022
Finalisation of PPT for 70% selection ##	31 st Dec 2022	Finalisation of PPT for 70% selection ##	20 th January 2023
Main Examination	22 nd Jan 2023	Main Examination	22 nd Jan 2023
Supplementary Result by NAIR	29 th Jan 2023	Supplementary	29 th Jan 2023
Finalisation of panels by zones	10 th Feb 2023		
	25 th Feb 2023		

the PPT for reserved candidates may please be conducted for 60 hours/15 working days/online/offline. ◆

Railway Board orders Continued from page-7

regarding Level-1, on release of the CBT results RRBs within Dec 2022, the examination process would have to be taken to conclusion by RRCs of the respective Railways. This would entail conduct of PET as early as January 2023 and completion of Document Verification and Medical Examination within Feb 2023 so as to thereafter be ready with offers of appointment by March /April 2023. Thus Railways would have to cover a minimum of 4000 candidates per day for PET and 500 candidates per day for DV and Medical Examination.

Kindly direct your Departmental Heads especially PCPOs & PCMDs to liaise effectively, plan in advance, coordinate with DRMs, and make all necessary arrangement for enabling this targeted exercise to be successful.

The PCPOs have already been briefed in this matter and instructed to ensure weekly/monthly submission of correct data, both for recruitments and promotions, in the prescribed formats. Further, details of all appointment offer letters already issued and further in readiness will have to be consolidated at Zonal Headquarters for making available for Unified Integrated Digital Issuance as directed by DoP&T.

Memorandum on grievances of pensioners**Dr. Jitendra Singh****MoS DoPT & DoP&PW**

Respected Sir,

Recommendation of 110th Report on the Subject 'Pensioner's Grievances-Impact of Pension Adalats and Centralized Pensioners Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPENGRAMS)' Submitted to parliament on 10th Dec 2021.

We seek your kind attention on the recommendations of 110th Report of Parliamentary committee on the Subject 'Pensioner's Grievances-Impact of Pension Adalats and Centralized Pensioners Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPENGRAMS)' submitted to parliament on 10th Dec 2021. The committee proposed as many as 31 recommendations on following four main headings are given in Annexure-1,

1. Effectiveness of CPENGRAMS and pension Adalats.
2. Grievances pertaining to Pension Policy, Pension Structure and other Retirement Benefits.
3. Grievances pertaining to Authorization, sanction and processing of pension Authorization, Sanction and Processing of pension.
4. Grievances pertaining to disbursement of pension.

We request the Government to accept the recommendations of the committee except the recommendations on proposed monthly contribution of Rs.5000, Rs.2500 and Rs.1500 and proposed change in the ratio of Savings Fund to Insurance Fund in CGEGIS in sl.no. 7 & 8 of Annexure-1.

Memorandum on Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme (CGEGIS) – Revision of coverage & monthly subscription is attached in Annexure-2.

We request for earlier action and favourable decision on the recommendations.

(For annexures please visit www.irtsa.net)

MoU ENDANGERS RAILWAYMEN MEDICAL FACILITIES SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

MoU signed between National Health Authority (NHA) & Ministry of Railways for empanelment of Railway Hospitals for common citizens will jeopardise the medical facilities available for Railway employees and it's pensioners.

1) As part of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) nearly 50 crore beneficiaries from the poor citizens will be entitled to get medical treatments upto five lakh rupees at 91 nominated Railway hospitals on cashless basis.

2) Railway Hospitals will be reimbursed the cost at the rates defined by NHA/SHA.

3) Indian Railways Medical Service (IRMS) is spread across the length and breadth of the country. IRMS is having 125 hospitals and 586 dispensaries, manned by 33,300 medical staff catering to approximately 66 lakh beneficiaries including 12.27 lakh serving employees. In a year Railway Hospitals are treating more than 2.01 crore OPD patients, 5.08 lakh in-patients and performing 1.02 lakh major and specialty surgeries.

4) Existing medical facilities for Railway men are part of their service condition. Retired employees and their dependents are covered under RELHS on onetime payment.

5) Unable to cater all the beneficiaries, Railways itself proposed for Medical Insurance Scheme for Railway employees. No meaningful advancement is made in this proposal so far.

6) For many specialty treatments which are not available in Railway hospitals, Railway beneficiaries are being referred to empaneled hospitals. Existing list of empaneled hospitals are inadequate and Railways is struggling to give reasonable treatment to its beneficiaries, particularly during emergency.

7) While existing railway medical facilities are grossly insufficient to cater existing 66 lakh Railway beneficiaries, adding 50 crore beneficiaries on cashless basis will make Railway Hospitals entirely not available for Railway beneficiaries.

Hence MoU signed between NHA & Railway Ministry should be withdrawn.

List of diverse services performed by Indian Railways Medical Service (IRMS)

- 1) Attending Railway accidents and similar incidents
- 2) Emergency medical treatment for sick passengers
- 3) Pre-employment medical examination for prospective employees
- 4) Periodical medical examination for employees
- 5) Medical boards and other medical certification for employees
- 6) Safe water supply at Railway stations
- 7) Safe food supply at Railway stations
- 8) Running medical first-aid posts for IR factories under the Factories Act
- 9) Certification of dead bodies
- 10) Certification of perishable goods
- 11) Curative health-care and
- 12) Preventive health-care.

RAIL ENGINEERS ATTEND ENMASS

57th ALL INDIA CONFERENCE & CGB OF IRTSA AT BABA MAKHAN SHAH LOBANA BHAWAN CHANDIGARH ON 29th & 30th NOV, 2022

MAIN DEMANDS

- 1) **Recognition of IRTSA.**
- 2) **Higher Pay Level for Technical Supervisors / Rail Engineers.**
- 3) **Withdrawal of NPS for post 2004 recruits.**
- 4) **Withdrawal proposal for Private Passenger train operation.**
- 5) **No Corporatization of Indian Railways PUs.**
- 6) **Withdrawal proposal for manufacturing and maintenance contract for Vande Bharat Train Set.**
- 7) **Combined "Cadre Restructuring" of posts in Group 'A', 'B' & 'C' in technical departments of Railways.**
- 8) **Classification of SSE/CMS/CDMS/SE(IT) in Group B Gazetted.**
- 9) **No surrender of safety posts in Zonal Railways & PUs.**
- 10) **Classification of the posts of Technical Supervisors and Technicians in PUs as safety category.**
- 11) **Implementation 7th CPC report PL-7 for CMA & PL-8 for CMS.**
- 12) **Removal of pay ceiling for payment of Night Duty allowance & NDA for all SSEs irrespective of MACPS Pay Level.**
- 13) **NH Allowance at double the wages including DA.**
- 14) **Risk & Hardship Allowance for open line Engineers.**
- 15) **Restoration of PCO Allowance @ 7.5% for SSE & 15% for JE.**
- 16) **Withdrawal of ceiling limit for PLB.**
- 17) **No Deduction of income tax on allowances.**
- 18) a) **Implementation of MACPS w.e.f. 01.01.2006.**
 - b) **Grant of financial upgradation under MACPS for the employees promoted between 01.01.2006 and 29.08.2008 with the benefit of pay fixation in pre-revised pay scale**
 - c) **Counting of initial training period for the purpose of MACPS.**
 - d) **Promotion through LDCE as initial appointment for the purpose of MACPS.**
 - e) **MACPS to all DR Engg. Grad. in Design cadre from GP 4600.**
 - f) **Withdrawal of Benchmark of "Very Good" for MACPS.**

Issued by Indian Railways Technical Supervisors' Association (IRTSA)

INDIAN RAILWAYS TECHNICAL SUPERVISORS' ASSOCIATION

CHQ. 32, Phase 6, Mohali, Chandigarh-160055. Email-gsirtsa@yahoo.com (Ph:0172-2228306, 9316131598)

No. IRTSA /CGB/CEC/1/2022

Date:-11.10.2022

NOTICE FOR 57th ALL INDIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & CENTRAL GENERAL BODY MEETING, IRTSA TO BE HELD AT CHANDIGARH ON 29th & 30th NOVEMBER, 2022

- i. 57th Annual Conference & Central General Body Meeting of Indian Railways Technical Supervisors Association shall be held at Chandigarh on 29th & 30th November, 2022.
- ii. CEC Meeting of IRTSA shall also be held in conjunction thereof, as per following programme.
- iii. All the Members of CGB & CEC, all Zonal / Unit Secretaries IRTSA, are requested to attend the meeting(s) positively, along with other active members and Sub-unit Secretaries of their Zone.
- iv. **AGENDA OF THE MEETING**

1) Welcome address by Chairman Conference Committee	8) Update on Court Cases
2) Inauguration	9) a) Discussion on the problems of Rail Engineers of Workshops, Production Units, Open Line Depots, Diesel & Electric Loco / EMU Sheds, C&M Labs, Drawing & Design Offices, IT & Store Depots etc.
3) Address by President IRTSA	b) Resolutions of Demands.
4) a) Report of General Secretary IRTSA	c) Resolution on Line of Action for realization of demands.
b) Report of Account by Central Treasurer IRTSA	d) Resolutions on Organisational Matters.
5) Report by Sr.JGS Reg. Intensive persuasion made by IRTSA on the issue of revision of Pay Level for Technical Supervisors / Rail Engineers.	- Holding CGBM at RWF, Bangalore in 2023.
6) Report by Zonal Secretaries & CEC Members	- Holding CGBM at Secunderabad SCR in 2024.
7) Amendments in Constitution of IRTSA.	10) Election of CEC, IRTSA.
	11) Any other point with the permission of the Chair.

V. DETAILED PROGRAMME

1.	a) Inauguration & CGB Meeting	29.11.2022 from 10.00 hours to 17.00 hours Lunch: 2 to 3 PM Tea: 5 to 6 PM
	b) CEC Meeting	29.11.2022 from 18.00 to 21.00 Hrs
2.	a) Extended CEC Meeting (if required).	30.11.2022 from 9 AM to 10 AM
	b) CGB Meeting	30.11.2022 10:00 hours onwards
	c) Election of CEC & Lunch	30.11.2022 from 13.00 hours onward.
3.	Venue	Baba Makhan Shah Lobana Bhawan, Sectro-30A, Chandigarh. Phone-0172-2657340.
4.	Accommodation	1) Baba Makhan Shah Lobana Bhawan & 2) Shri Sidh Baba Balak Nath Mandir, Plot No. 3, Ordinance Cable Factory Colony, 29a, Sector 29, Chandigarh-160030
5.	Delegation fee	Rs. 500 per Delegate
6.	Chairman Conference Committee	Sh. Darshan Lal, Working President IRTSA Mob. No. 8437043089 & 9463183922
7.	Convener, Conference Committee	Sh Jagtar Singh Zonal Secretary IRTSA RCF Zone. Mobile: 8437043338
8.	Treasurer, Conference Committee	Sh. Surjit Singh Central Treasurer IRTSA 9714301044
9.	Information/Detailed Schedule	www.irtsa.net, Voice of Rail Engineers, e-mail, WhatsApp & Facebook
10.	Reception Counter at Venue	Sh. Bhatnagar Mobile: 84370 43273

All Zones / sub-units are requested to deposit of membership subscription, Struggle fund, donations, etc in IRTSA central account Name: IRTSA, Account No: 10083429358, IFSC: SBIN0050540, State Bank of India, RCF, Hussainpur, Kapurthala. (Branch Code-50540)

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