

INDIAN RAILWAYS TECHNICAL SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION

(Estd. 1965, Regd. No.1329) Website <http://irtsa.net>

C.Hq. 32, Phase 6, Mohali, Chandigarh-160055.

No:IRTSA/CHQ/Memo. 2021-8

Date:01.06.2021

CHAIRMAN & CEO

Railway Board,
New Delhi.

Sub: Procedure order on regularization of absence during Covid-19 epidemic full lockdown period as well as lockdown with specific relaxation.

Ref: DoPT O.M. No.13020/1/2019-Estt(L), dated 01.03.2021.

- 1) DoPT has issued O.M. on “Clarification on regularization of absence during Covid-19 pandemic” dated 28.07.2020 and Railway Board issued compliance letter for the same dated 06.08.2020.
- 2) Further, Railway Board issued “Interim Procedure Order on regularization of absence during Covid-19 pandemic lockdown period” dated 03.09.2020, stating that it was an interim measure till further clarification issued by DoPT.
- 3) In response to several references from various departments DoPT issued O.M. on “Clarification on regularization of absence during Covid-19 pandemic lockdown period” dated 01.03.2021. In that, DoPT clarified that, “O.M. dated 28.07.2020 may not touch all specific circumstantial problems faced by all employees under the Government of India; however, an interpretation of such circumstances in congruence with the clarification made in the above OM is adoptable”.
- 4) Level of corona spread in the second wave is much higher and severe than in the first wave. All medical facilities including Railway medical facilities are very much stressed and struggling to treat large number of Covid patients besides patients with other illness.
- 5) According to CRB & CEO’s press statement on 24th April around 93,000 Railway employees were infected by corona virus. Being a public transport provider and condition prevailing in many parts of the country the numbers will go up in coming days. While more than 1000 employees are getting infected by corona virus the figures might be much higher now. Around 2000 Railway employees died due to Corona infection. Some employees tested positive for Covid-19 more than once and had to stay in isolation each time.
- 6) While complimenting Railway men, for showing an extraordinary resilience at the time of pandemic, Railway Minister in his press statement issued on 26th May said, “History will remember Indian Railways for its immense contribution to the fight against Covid. While maintaining National supply chains, it has ensured that wheels of progress keep moving at fast pace”. The Minister also said that Nation is full of gratitude for all of those Railways employees who lost their lives while serving the Nation and offered condolences.
- 7) Apart from giving good medical treatment for Covid infected employees granting them sufficient SCL for keeping them in isolation will help in preventing the spread of virus.
- 8) Procedure order on regularization of absence during Covid-19 epidemic full lockdown period as well as lockdown with specific relaxation need to be issued by Railways considering the existing conditions, since Railways is working all these periods.
- 9) Interim procedure order issued by Railway Board dated 03.09.2020 is not implemented uniformly throughout Indian Railways. Some Railways extended SCL for Covid affected employees while some Railways & PUs did not, even though letter clearly states that

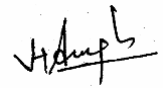
employees advised by Railway Medical Authority to remain in quarantine shall be granted SCL.

10) **It is therefore requested that,**

- a) **While interim procedure order issued by Railway Board dated 03.09.2020 for treating the absence as duty or grant of SCL for various situations stands good, Specific orders may please be issued by Railway Board to grant SCL for the period of absence for employees tested Positive for COVID-19 and who were, either admitted in the hospital or asked to be in home isolation.**
- b) **Accounting of SCL granted for Covid may be done afresh for the calendar year 2021.**

Thank you

Yours' faithfully,



**HARCHANDAN SINGH,
General Secretary.**