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CEC IRTSA appeals for acceptance of genuine demands of IRTSA

Minutes of virtual CEC meeting of IRTSA held on 20.06.2021

Keeping in view the extraordinary circumstances created due to the spread of pandemic COVID-19, the Meeting of CEC IRTSA, which was earlier proposed to be held at RCF Kapurthala on 20.06.2021, was 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. Last year CEC IRTSA met virtually through Whatsapp group on 23.08.2020.

Welcome Address

Convenor of the meeting K.V.Ramesh Sr.JGS welcomed Central President, General Secretary and all CEC office bearers for the meeting. On behalf of IRTSA also paid homage all those died due to Covid-19 and homage to all the office bearers and members of IRTSA passed away during this period.

President's Address

Er. M.Shanmugam in his inaugural presidential address said even though virtual CEC meeting is held for the second time in the pandemic having no opportunity to conduct physical meeting, communication is flowing then and there with members. He paid homage to 2800 Railway employees lost their life due to corona serving the country. He said freezing of rates of DA for one and half years is unjust since payment of DA is an accepted principle of Government and it is the compensation for price raise in essential commodities. He also said that DA payment will increase the flow of money into the micro economic structure of the country.

He strongly condemned the decision of Government to convert 41 Defence Ordinance Factories into Corporations despite of Government's assurance to the recognized unions these factories will not be corporatized. He asked members of IRTSA to support and leaders of JCM particularly for the forth coming meeting going to be chaired by Cabinet Secretary. He conveyed his best wishes to Er.M.Bhatnagar, Zonal Secy RCF on his superannuation from the Railway service and requested to continue his service in IRTSA and thanked for his full cooperation given to the central leadership during all the agitations, seminars and other programmes. Motivating all the zones for enrollment of membership, he appreciated membership drive taken by ICF Zone. (Continued on page-3)

IRTSA DELEGATES VISIT NEW DELHI FOR THE PERUSAL OF MAIN DEMANDS

M.Shanmugam Central President along with K.V.Ramesh Sr.JGS, A.N.Ganesh Babu JGS & G.Aranganathan JGS camped New Delhi to pursue issues with Government & Federations.

IRTSA delegates led by M.Shanmugam Central President visited New Delhi to pursue main demands of the category and other burning common issues.

- 1) Payment of additional installments of DA & DR due on 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 & 01.01.2021 as arrears.
- 2) Corporatization of Production units (PUs) of Rolling Stock of Indian Railways – Appeal for reconsidering the decision.
- 3) Justified Pay Level compared to the duties and responsibilities shouldered by JE & SSE for safe, punctual and comfort train operation and disturbance of horizontal parity and vertical relativity.
- 4) Combined Cadre Restructuring of Group A, B and C services on the Railways. Combined cadre strength of Technical Departments including all posts in Group- A, B and C on Indian Railways may please be restructured as comparable with the all India Average % age of Group A, B & C of Central Government employees in other Departments.
- 5) Classification of posts as Group 'B' (Gaz.) on par with our counter parts in other Central & State Government departments.

Meeting with General Secretaries of AIRF & NFIR

Central President held intensive discussion with Dr.M.Raghavaiah GS NFIR and Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra GS AIRF about the main demands. While thanking both the GS for placing the subject in NC JCM meeting for creation of posts in GP Rs.4800 & 5400 for Technical Supervisory category and for supervisors of other departments, he impressed upon the merits for upgrading Pay Level of JE & SSE in Indian Railways.

President IRTSA extended invitation to both the General Secretaries to Grace 56th All India Conference and CGB of IRTSA to be hosted by IRTSA RCF Kapurthala at RCF.

Submission of Memorandum to Hon'ble Finance Minister & Secretary Expenditure

Detailed memorandums on the above mentioned five demands were submitted to Hon'ble Finance Minister & Secretary Finance through their directorates after a brief explanation to the Deputy Director. (Continued on page-3)

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"SUCCESS COMES TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE"



Editorial**Justified Pay Level for JE & SSE is long due**

Technical Supervisors (JE & SSE) are shouldering the direct responsibility of safe, efficient & 'Failure-proof' production, repair, maintenance and operation of Rolling Stock, Loco, P-Way, Bridges, S&T, OHE and other assets and equipment on the Railways.

Their main duties and responsibilities are

- Creation of assets and their maintenance in Indian Railways
- Responsibility of fitness for operational safety and safe working of all the assets.
- Responsibility of achieving Production targets and Train schedules.
- Inventory control, material management & their safe custody.
- Ensures Optimum utilisation of Resources.
- Disaster management.
- Human Resources Management, training of staff & maintenance of staff discipline.
- Continuous upgradation of Technology & knowledge: Technical Supervisors being the first level of management, control the field and have to update their knowledge and skills and to acquire new ones to adapt to new technology and to guide / train the staff working under their control.

Railway Ministry based on decision taken in the Departmental Anomaly Committee through its OM dated 11.06.2010 asked for the approval of Finance Ministry to upgrade the Grade Pay of JE from Rs.4200 to Rs.4600 and SSE from Rs.4600 to Rs.4800. Railways justified that, Technical Supervisors have superior recruitment conditions, duties & multifarious responsibilities to ensure out-turn targets, optimum productivity, quality control, safety, material management, optimum utilization of man power, machinery, equipment, rolling stock and other resources for efficient train operation. They are given induction training after recruitment which is much longer as compared to other categories. After prolonged delay CAT Chennai in an O.A. IRTSA Vs Union of India, directed Finance Ministry to consider the O.M of Railway Ministry. But Finance Ministry disposed it on very unjust and unreasonable grounds by subverting the basic facts and settled law.

Historically, pay scales allotted to Technical Supervisors are higher than the pay scales of all other departments including nurses, teachers and supervisors of accounts department. In due course of time, horizontal parity of Pay Scales of Technical Supervisors got affected by upgrading the Pay Scales of nurses, teachers and accounts supervisors without extending the upgradation to Technical Supervisors. Pay Scales of SSO/Accounts in 3rd CPC was Rs.500-900 (functional) and Rs.775-1000 (non-functional) was upgraded to GP Rs.4800 in 6th CPC and in 7th CPC Pay Matrix accounts cadre sanctioned non-functional Pay Level-9 (GP Rs.5400). Whereas Pay scales of Foreman / SSE who were in Rs.840-1040 during 3rd CPC were only allotted GP Rs. 4600 in 6th CPC and Pay Level-7 in 7th CPC. All other categories who were placed in Pay Scales one or two levels below SSE were brought on par with them and placed in Pay Level-7, severely disturbing relativity.

JEs who are supervising Senior Technicians are placed in same Pay Level-6, violating fundamental law "An equal cannot be over an equal, Promotion' implies advancement -

Indian Railways Technical Supervisors Association (IRTSA) Welcomes, MR & MoSRs



Hon'ble Minister for Railways

Shri. Ashwini Vaishnaw

Hon'ble Minister of State for Railways

Shri. Danve Raosaheb Dadarao

Hon'ble Minister of State for Railways

Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh

Indian Railways Technical Supervisors Association (IRTSA) congratulates Hon'ble MR & MoSRs for the prestigious assignment of heading Indian Railways and on behalf of our members extended warm welcome. The wealth of experience they possess will be tremendously beneficial to the Indian Railways and the Nation. Members of IRTSA, working as Senior Section Engineers & Junior Engineers in Indian Railways are excited to have an eminent Engineer taking over charge at Railway Ministry and hope with his experience and dedication, Nation can look forward to accelerated growth of Indian Railways

- to a higher grade & Supervisor should be in a scale higher than Supervised'.

Disturbance of parity & relativity in the pay scales of supervisors of Railways which is having multi-disciplinary functions in various departments are affecting the morale of supervisors and administrative efficiency. Disparity in Pay Scales of Technical Supervisors are affecting coordination & synchronization among the departments which are adversely affecting the work of Railways.

7th CPC recommended Pay Matrix with two dimensions, horizontal & vertical range. It recommended that on recruitment an employee joins at a particular Pay Level, progresses within the level as per vertical range. When the employee receives promotion, he progresses one level ahead on the horizontal range i.e to the next Pay Level. In case of promotion to JE from Senior Technician promotion happens in same Pay Level-6, advancement to next Pay level doesn't happen violating basic recommendation of 7th CPC.

Hence Government & Ministry of Railways should not delay in the grant Pay levels 7, 8 & 9 for JE & SSEs.

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

Minutes of virtual CEC meeting of IRTSA

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He said that on his appeal, office bears and Zonal Secretary made a intensive drive through online payment. He thanked all the ICF members for their spontaneous response for his appeal.

General Secretary's Address

Er. Harchandan Singh, General Secretary in his address said that, introduction of about 151 trains under private operations in 12 clusters across the country and corporatization of the Production Units of IR are two major threats for Railway employees and for the country. It is high time that Railway men unitedly make the government to further think and reconsider this proposal. IRTSA stands with the decision of reconstitution of "National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle" (NCCRS) to lead united struggle against privatization and corporatization of Indian Railways with the participation of 17 major Unions and Associations including IRTSA. Shri. S.G.Mishra GS AIRF and Dr. M. Raghavaiah GS NFIR will be Convener and Co-Convener respectively. Planning committee of NCCRS was formed with eight members including Shri Shiva Gopal Mishra, Dr. M.Raghaviah, Shri K.V. Ramesh and Shri L.N. Pathak.

GS IRTSA expressed his anguish over one of the unprecedented actions of Government freezing of rates of DA & DR for the central government employees and the pensioners for one and a half year from 01.01.2020 to 30.06.2021. Government is not heeding to the voice of all central Government unions demand to defreeze the rates of DA and DR. He further said that, main demands of the category for higher Pay Level and Classification of Posts of SSEs in Group B Gaz and demands on MACPS, ex gratia payment for the families of employees died due to Covid and many other demands are not getting resolved.

He appealed to the members to strengthen the central fund by raising membership and send central quota for current and previous year also to the Central Treasurer as well as for Voice of Rail Engineers. I particularly appreciate valid efforts made by the ICF Zone in ensuring collection of membership subscription even during the Covid-19 pandemic.

On behalf of CEC IRTSA K.V.Ramesh, greeted Er.M.Bhatnagar Zonal Secretary IRTSA RCF on his superannuation from Railway service in the month of June 2021.

Address by Patrons & Working Presidents

Er. K.V.Surendrannathan Chief Patron IRTSA in his address said that a request has been put forward for many of the young Engineers to change the name of the Association from Supervisors Association to Engineers Association. This could be the reason for not getting engorging memberships from some zones. He expressed his hope that change in the name will bring more members and representation from all over Indian Railways.

Er. L.N.Pathak, Patron IRTSA wished grand success for virtual CEC meeting of IRTSA. He said IRTSA is the only platform established by Er Harchandan Singh in the year 1965 in STC /N.Rly/CB/LKO is shining even today in 2021 having lot of achievements since 3rd CPC till date and having good tuning with Organized Labour all over Indian Railways. IRTSA is now playing important Role in " SAVE RAILWAY - SAVE NATION" call given by NCCRS, he added.

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Submission of Memorandum to Director General (HR) and discussion held with Principal Executive Director (IR)

Memorandums on demands were submitted to Director General (HR) and detailed discussions were held with Principal Executive Director (IR) and Director (IR). During the discussion it was learned that Railway Board is about to finalize the proposal for introduction of Pay Level 8 and 9 (Grade Pay Rs.4800 & Rs.5400) for Technical Supervisors and other department supervisors.

IRTSA delegates impress upon the exclusivity of JE & SSE, higher duties & responsibilities shouldered by them, historical backgrounds on higher pay scales given to SSE before 5th CPC, higher recruitment qualifications, decision taken by Railway Ministry to place JE & SSE in Grade Pay Rs.4600 & Rs.4800 after 6th CPC, Railway Board proposal sent to Finance Ministry to place SSE and other department supervisors in GP Rs.4800 after 7th CPC, stagnation of Graduate Engineers in the entry grade, meagre percentage of gazetted posts available in Indian Railways etc.

IRTSA delegates requested for individual proposal for upgrading the Pay Level of Technical Supervisors by highlighting the specific recommendation of the 7th CPC for SSE.

Apprehensions and much heartburning among the Railway employees about their survival besides possibility of causing serious loss to the nation on the proposals for Corporatization of Production Units (PUs) of Rolling Stock of Indian Railways was highlighted.

Absence of recognised staff forum at Integral Coach Factory ICF, since 2014 was also discussed. It was apprised that many decisions including statutory requirements of discussion with elected staff forum is not being followed in ICF.

Issue of grant of Pay level-8 & 9 for the Technical Supervisors was also highlighted to EDPC-I.

Memorandum submitted to MoSR I & II and CRB & CEO

Detailed memorandum of IRTSA was submitted to MoSR I & II after briefing the issues with respective secretaries. Memorandum was submitted to Chairman & CEO Railway Board.

Meeting with Sri.G.K.Vasan Hon'ble Member of Parliament & Former Union Minister and Sri.M.Shanmugam Hon'ble Member of Parliament

Issues of Payment of additional installments of DA & DR due on 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 & 01.01.2021 as arrears, Corporatization of Production units (PUs) of Rolling Stock of Indian Railways – Appeal for reconsidering the decision and Justified Pay Level compared to the duties and responsibilities shouldered by JE & SSE for safe, punctual and comfort train operation and disturbance of horizontal parity and vertical relativity were highlighted to both the Parliamentarians.

Both MPs understood the issues and agreed to write to Finance Minister & Railway Minister forwarding IRTSA's memorandum with their recommendations.

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

Minutes of virtual CEC meeting of IRTSA

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Er. Darshan Lal Working President said entire country and the world is struggling because COVID-19 pandemic. Life has become very difficult for many citizens across the country. Government has taken many steps to overcome the universal crisis. As essential Government employees, Railway men contributed for ensuring movement of essential goods, passengers, etc across the country. It was hard time for Railway employees and good number of Railway employees sacrificed their lives while serving because of deadly infection got in the course of their duty. He said apart from various demands of the category not settled for years, this Virtual CEC IRTSA need to deliberate and work hard on the issue of "Save Railway, Save Nation", to prevent privatization of train operation and corporatization of Production units of Indian Railways.

He thanked and warmly greeted Er.M.Bhatnagar Zonal Secretary IRTSA RCF Zone superannuating from Railway service. As Zonal Secretary he carried out all the instructions of central leadership in organising IRTSA programmes at RCF and at New Delhi on behalf of CEC IRTSA. His sincere efforts and commitments raised RCF Zone to new height, Darshan Lal added.

He said that, after improvement in the pandemic conditions RCF Zone will host All India Conference & CGB on 26th and 27th November 2021 at RCF. He further said membership drive is in full swing at RCF and one lakh will be deposited by RCF as Central Quota. He thanked Central President, General Secretary and office bearers for organising Virtual CEC meeting to discuss important demands of the category, central Government employees and Railways.

Er. K.Gobinath Working President said that during Covid pandemic Railways operated passenger special, goods & oxygen express. Freezing of rates of DA should be withdrawn and arrears should be paid from 1st Jan 2020. He briefed about the efforts taken by ICF Zone to enrol IRTSA membership online even during pandemic. ICF zone already submitted Rs.50,000 towards central quota, he added.

Er. B.Inbanathan said that payment of Salary/Pension and DA/DR to employees and Pensioner are not a matter of bounty. It is a vested right of employees and Pensioners to receive the salary and pension. Pension is a deferred wage as held by the Apex Court and right to receive Salary and Pension every month is part of the service conditions emanating from Article 309 of the Constitution of India. Therefore, orders for freezing of Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief should be withdrawn and eligible arrears may please be paid from 01.01.2020.

Report of Central Treasurer

Er. O.N.Purohit Treasurer IRTSA placed the balance sheet of CEC IRTSA ending 31.12.2019. After submitting the accounts statement, he appealed to all the zones for vigorous enrolment of membership.

Position of Court case for Higher Pay Level for JE & SSE:

K.V.Ramesh briefed that, case filed by IRTSA in CAT Chennai, for higher Pay Level to JE & SSE unfortunately progressing in snail speed, due to the non-functioning of the CAT for the last two to three years due to the unavailability of the judge and now due to Covid lockdown and restrictions. But we have prepared our case well, when the courts open our case will be persuaded for a favorable judgement for raising the pay level of the Technical Supervisors, SSEs & JEs shall be taken as pleaded by us from 01.01.2006 & from 01.01.2016 onwards.

Report of Zonal Secretaries/Presidents

Er. V.P.Abdul Salam Zonal Secretary S.Rly in his report said that Railwaymen including Technical Supervisors have raised to the occasion in operating passenger specials, goods & parcel service and Oxygen specials. There was around 4500 Railwaymen last their life due to corona infection. During the pandemic some of the important issues were represented to GM S.Rly and to other appropriate authorities. Open line Engineers are required to work more than 48 hours a week with less staff strength during the pandemic. Vacancies arose during the pandemic and in previous years are not filled, resulting in more than 30% vacancies particularly in Technical Supervisors category. He also asked for change of name of the Association taking into consideration many of the zones are supporting it.

Er. Ashok Chowdhery Zonal Secretary CLW in his report told that the situation is slowly improving despite pandemic. He expressed his sorrow for the lose of former Zonal Secretary Er.Sugato Dutta due to Covid. During the pandemic WhatsApp remains the main communication mode among the IRTSA members, he added.

Er. Mayank Bhatnagar, Zonal Secretary, RCF said that, At RCF, the IRTSA Unit Team Members interacted with brother engineers regularly and resolved their problems under the leadership of Er. Darshan Lal, President IRTSA, even during the pandemic situation of Covid 19. He informed the CEC that, RCF zone will deposit Rs. One lakh towards central quota within this month. He thanked Er. K. V Ramesh for conducting virtual CEC meeting successfully. He also conveyed special thanks for Er.Harchandan Singh & Er.M.Shanmugam for their contribution to the community.

Er. Akilesh Viswakarma Zonal Secretary Northern Railway in his report applauded the hard work put up by Railway men during the Pandemic crisis. He said that, IRTSA NR zone released Technical Diary for the year 2021 in a simple function. Jagadhri workshop and Amristar workshop of Northern Railway have conducted their General Body and elected new office bearers, but Alambagh Diesel shed physical meeting couldn't be conducted because of pandemic situation, he added. He briefed about the meeting of IRTSA office bearers with Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, GS AIRF highlighting main issues of the category including Group 'B' status and freezing of DA & DR. He said that with the help of Sri.Shyaram Vajpayee, Er.P.K.Shukla, Er. R.M.Meena and others local issues like issue of promotion orders from Senior Technician to JE, JE to SSE are being settled. He also briefed about the interaction held with the Trainee JEs and introduction about IRTSA given to them.

He thanked M.Shanmugam Central President, Harchandan Singh General Secretary, K.V.Ramesh, Sr.JGS and Ashok Chowdhery Sr.JGS for organising Virtual CEC meeting of IRTSA during the pandemic situation.

Er. K.Gobinath Zonal Secretary ICF said that, due to the Covid pandemic situations, ICF unit could not undertake membership during the year 2020. This year due to online membership drive more than 700 members enroll/renew in shortest period of time. Y.R.S.Benarjee, Zonal Treasurer/IRTSA/ICF unit has deposited Rs. 50,000- as a first installment towards Central quota of membership for the year 2021 to CT/IRTSA. He also mentioned about M.Shanmugam, CP/IRTSA and office bearers of ICF Zone meeting held with Dr.M.Raghavaiahji, General Secretary/NFIR during his visit at Chennai.

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Er. Mruthyunjaya Bapat Secretary/IRTSA/RWF, said that, whole year passed through pandemic covid 19 and on response to the central call our members of RWF unit came forward and collected Rs 25000/- for prime minister's care fund and sent to central unit during April 2020. On behalf of IRTSA he expressed his deep condolences to the bereaved family members of shri Murgendraswamy SSE/utility, shri Kushal Kumar Ex.Zonal secretary IRTSA/RWF, shri Bharath Kumar Dalai JE/Civil, shri Ravindranath SSE/Drawing and shri Kannan SSE/Elect passed away due to covid.

Er. M.V.Ramanmoorthy Zonal Secretary S.C.Rly in his report paid his homage to Shri. G.Krishna Rao Zonal President and other office bearers who passed away during the pandemic. He briefed about contribution made by employees of SC.Rly including IRTSA members for the relief fund collected in favour of families of deceased SSEs. He briefed about the representation made to GM SCR on the issue of "Training Module & Refresher Course (RC) for Supervisors of Mechanical Engineering Dept (Diesel)"

Er. K.L.Vinod Kumar Zonal Secretary SWR said that, IRTSA SWR executed two virtual all-member meetings, another one webinar series and other online educational events. He further said, IRTSA/SWR has cordial relation with associations and federations at zonal & Branch levels. Continuous persuasion, struggle and sincere efforts have brought many achievements to our zonal and branch units. Subject of PCO allowance to Cadre PCO staff of Mysore workshop has materialized by the active negotiation with administration with the help of recognised federation's workshop branch.

Er. R.B.Singh Zonal Secretary Western Railway, said that IRTSA/WR took all necessary steps to extend support to Engineers affected by Covid. He briefed about the representation made to HODs on the regional issues of Technical Supervisors. He also promised to submit central quota of membership in a short period of time.

Views of other CEC Members

Er. E.Ramesh Vice President welcomed all the members to second virtual CEC meeting of IRTSA. He said that for survival of PUs and workshops of IR and to stop private train operation focused action must be taken. He further briefed on eradication of unmindful outsourcing of various IR activities, filling up of vacancies in the category of Rail Engineers, inclusion of training period for the purpose of MACPS and revision of Group Insurance Scheme for the Railway employees. He also suggested that as per constitution of IRTSA subscription for VRE is Rs.80 and suggested that the VRE membership fee may be given to the respective sub-units or Units, for doing other organisational activities.

Er. G.Aranganathan JGS citing Tamil poem Thiruikkural wanted the Government to take care of its employees. He condemned the decision of converting Defence PUs into Corporations. None of the demands of Technical Supervisors are agreed by Government while non-technical cadres are given Grade Pay Rs.5400.

Er. Aribaskar JGS said that, ever growing contract work will be a major threat to Railways and for technical supervisors. Number of contractor engaged employees are getting increased dynamically in Railways. The system of 'supply and installation' and contracts on 'turn key' basis make the number to grow still larger. It may be assumed that these works never return to Railwaymen since know-how and technical knowledge are not shared with Railways.

Er. S.Gopi, Member CEC condemned the decision of restriction of payment of night duty allowance to the basic pay of Rs.43,600. He briefed the health issues linked with night duty working and necessity for compensation for working in night shift in the form of night duty allowance.

Er. Zaheer Hussain, JGS & President GOC briefed on the ill-effects of outsourcing of activities like cleaning, painting, welding etc awarded on lowest bidder basis. These contractors engage unskilled & untrained employees who don't bother about quantity, quality, industrial safety, etc. Supervisors are required to put more efforts not only during the execution of work, but made answerable for any failures on service. He demanded that strength of Technical Supervisors should not be reduced.

Er. V.Jaya Krishna, JGS said that, Indian Railways have launched e-Privilege Pass/PTO module during August 2020 through Human Resource Management System. Instead of creating a hassle-free system, employees are put into severe hardship due to multiple problems faced by them in getting their privilege passes and PTOs, He demanded that, Issue of manual Pass & PTO may please be permitted as per employees' choice and Lacunas of e-Privilege Pass/PTO in HRMS Module be cleared.

Er. Mahalingam, Org.Secy said that, PCO allowance granted to SSE & JE at the rate of 6% and 12% is inadequate and should be paid on par with Shop floor SSEs & JEs. He further said that digital propaganda should be done in a big way to fight against privatization & corporatization and recent move by Railways to hand over major Railway sports complexes to RLDA should be stopped.

Er. Raghupathy, Org Secy highlighted 7th CPC recommendation that, amount of NDA should be worked out separately for each employee. With the computerization of pay rolls, working out the amount of NDA automatically for each employee every month will not entail any difficulty. This formulation will extend to all employees across all ministries/departments who were already in receipt of Night Duty Allowance. He demanded that, all the non-gazetted staff who are booked to perform night duty, should be allowed to claim Night Duty Allowance without any upper pay ceiling, and orders of recovery should also be withdrawn.

Er. Rajagopalan GOC, S.Rly demanded that all SSEs & JEs working in PCO wings and CDMS, DMS, CMS & CMA should be covered under incentive scheme.

Er. Suresh Kumar President, BBQ/SR said that as front line engineers role of open line SSEs and JEs are most important in safe running of train whether the rolling stocks are new or old. Huge shortage of supervisors particularly in coaching depots like BBQ, SR causing serious problem and all vacancies in safety categories should be filled with out any delay.

Er. B,Saravanan, Org Secy spoke about the demand of design allowance not materialising inspite of demanding it for more than two decades. He briefed on difficult working conditions in the design wing by having multiple heads.

Er. Shangaragurunathan, Org Secy demanded that, Junior Engineers, Senior Section Engineers and Technicians working in all Production Units need to be classified as safety category since they have direct responsibility in safe functioning of locomotives, coaches and Wheel & Axles produced by them.

Er. Singaravelan, JGS said that Senior Section Engineers (SSE) in the category of Technical Supervisors were given no improvement in the Cadre Restructuring since 1984 and

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Junior Engineers (JE) are eligible for only one promotion in their cadre as apparent from the following table - in spite of manifold increase in duties and responsibilities of the Technical Supervisors / Rail Engineers. There has been no upgrading or Cadre Restructuring of the Apex Grade of Group 'C' ever on the Railways – (either in 1979, 1984, 1993, 2003 or 2013). Consequently, there is extreme stagnancy & resultant frustration amongst the incumbents of the Apex Grade 'C' – especially amongst the Technical Supervisors / Rail Engineers on the Railways. Hence Combined Cadre Restructuring of Group A, B and C services on the Railways should be done.

Er. Tavit Raju Secretary Tirupathy SC.Rly expressed his grief over loss of precious lives during the pandemic and paid homage to office bearers of SC Rly who passed away. He briefed about the social work done the Tirupathy Rail Engineers during the pandemic. Need of furniture for SSEs & JEs, transfer of supervisors, excluding SSEs from bio metric attendance, etc were some of the achievements of Tirupathy workshop unit, he said. One of the long pending issue of seniority of Electrical Technical Supervisors are under persuasion.

Er. MMVGK Raju Secretary Lalguda workshop said that we are in grievous situation and all should adhere to the Covid protocol. He appealed to all to take vaccination which is one of the main weapon to fight against corona virus.

Er. Syed Azamathula, Advisor said that CMT supervisors Pay level demand should be persuaded vigorously, should be granted PCO allowance and they should be classified as safety category.

Er. Vetri Vel Secretary BBQ depot expressed his anguish over step motherly treatment to open line staff & Engineers, who worked 100% during pandemic to operate freight & passenger trains. But they have received nil support from administration even in supply of corona safety kits. He demanded that all supervisors posts should be filled as per bench mark and other department works should not be forced on Mechanical supervisors.

Er. Vignesh Kumarn, Member CEC demanded for the withdrawal of Railway Board letter on Annual target of surrenders through Work Studies by Zonal Railways for the year 2021-22, since fixing target for surrender of posts without any scientific study about the work content and without taking into account forecasted increase in Railway business after Covid pandemic is not desirable

Er. Yoga Sreenevasa, Member CEC said that, Execution of work through employees hired by Railway contractors who are neither qualified nor trained is more difficult and involves high risk. In the absence of Railway Technicians or a smaller number of them available, most of the responsibilities & accountabilities fall on the heads of JE & SSE. Employees hired by Railway contractors are grossly under paid so they cannot form a reliable competent workforce. Tendency to bypass or skip procedures and to push in inferior quality materials or services are major threat not only for this category employees but for Railways and its customers.

Er. Karthikeyan EWS/AJJ/ S.Rly demanded full of actual medical expenditure incurred by serving Railway employees for self-medical treatment at private hospitals against emergency medical treatment for COVID-19 recovery.

Er. Ravi, JGS highlighted Hazardous & strenuous working conditions and its related allowances and demanded Grant of

Risk & Hardship allowance for JEs & SSEs as applicable from the Risk & Hardship Matrix recommended by 7th CPC.

Member Engineers, Kalyan Banerjee CLW, Dayananda Rao RWF, YRS. Bajerjee ICF, Surjit Singh RCF, Pavithran SWR, Harminder Singh RCF, Anup Baipai NR, K.Subramaniam SCR, Jatana RCF, Sekar ICF, Suresh SWR, Hari WR, Subir Rai WR, Baldev Raj RCF, Nanya Naik, Ramakrishnan SWR, Thirumaran GOC S.Rly, K.Sreedharachari SCR, Amith Rathi RCF, Tamilaran S.Rly, Bedi Amristar NR, S.K.Bharh RCF and others participated actively in the deliberations.

For point of redistribution of Funds of VRE, CEC office bearers Ashok Chowdrey & Ragupaty suggested for continuance of hard copy of VRE since it is a handy reference document to keep. K.V.Ramesh clarified that subscription for VRE is not part of membership contribution of IRTSA under constitution of IRTSA and submitted that annual membership subscription for IRTSA is Rs.200 only. Subscription for Voice of Rail Engineers Rs.100 is to contributed separately.

Line of action for pursuance of demands

K.V.Ramesh proposed the line of action, Virtual CEC Meeting of IRTSA held on WhatsApp on a dedicated platform titled as "Virtual CEC Meet IRTSA" on 20th June 2021 resolved for

1) Joining Railwaymen struggle in protest against Privatisation of Trains & Corporatisation of PUs and release of arrears of DA/DR from 1.1.2020.

2) CEC resolved to urge up on the government for acceptance main demands adopted in the meeting.

3) Considering the condition prevailing in the country as a whole, Further line of action will be decided by Central President in consultation with General Secretary for pursuance of demands. – Line of action was adopted by CEC IRTSA unanimously.

M.Bhatnagar in his thanks giving speech said, Respected President, General Secretary, Er Darshan Lal President RCF unit. I am overwhelmed by your kind words for me. I owe my gratitude to all CEC member & Respected speakers who shared their views in this meeting. I humbly accept the responsibility you have given to me. I also thank Er K V Ramesh for beautifully conducting this virtual meeting. I also thank the IRTSA RCF Unit for their co-operation. I thank the Almighty for giving me an opportunity to work with such great Association and great leaders of IRTSA. With warm wishes I thank everyone.

President and General Secretary in their concluding speech called upon all the members to motivate all Rail Engineers to participate in all the programmes going to be organised in the future and also appealed to make all out effort to complete the membership drive and send the central quota.

K.V.Ramesh Convener thanked all the members CEC IRTSA for participating in the virtual CEC meeting with enthusiasm even during the pandemic. He posted the message of General Secretary that the issue of change of name of the Association will be discussed in the physical meeting. All the views expressed by the members will be taken into consideration.

Finally, he thanked Patrons, Central President, General Secretary, Working Presidents, Sr. Vice Presidents, Zonal Secretaries and all the CEC office bearers for making this virtual CEC meeting a grand success.

□□□□□□□□□□□□

RAILWAY BOARD ORDERS

Railway Board letter No. K(MPP)/2021/1/17 (RBE No. 45/2021) dated 06.07.2021

Sub: Safety and Other Safety Categories – Revision of list & Format.

Railway Board vide letter no H(NG)1/2018/PM1/51 dated 19.02.2019 (RBE no. 28/2019), E(NG)1/2010/PM1/19 dated 06.05.2019 (RBE no.74/2019), E(NG) 1/2010/PM1/19 dated 06.01.2020 (RBE no. 02/2020) & E(NG) 1/2010/PM1/19 Duplicate dated 23.02.2021 (RBE no.11/2021) has made revision in list of "Safety Categories". The revised lists are enclosed as Annexure I and Annexure II.

All Zonal Railways/PUs are requested to feed the requisite safety category data as given in the enclosed Annexure I and Annexure II. The revised lists become operative for the data of April 2021 onwards, each month data for PCDO items should be fed at the Railway's website at url: 10.50.19.91/mpptrial by 15th of the next month.

Annexure-I

Revised safety categories posts

Annexure-VI (Safety categories)

Railway
CATEGORY
A1. All Non-gazetted station Masters/Station Managers performing duties in platforms, yards, cabins and online (including those still designated as Dy. Station Supdt./Station Supdt., Yard Master/Assistant Yard Master, Cabin Master, Traffic Transportation/Movement Inspectors).
A2. Controllers (All Grades) Section Controllers/ Chief Controllers
A3. Guards (All Grades) Guards (Goods/Passenger/Mail Express). Asstt. Guards/Brakes man
Total (A1-A3)
A4. Gateman/Gatekeeper (Traffic)
A5. Cabin man/Leverman/Pointsman, Pointsman 'A' & Pointsman 'B' (including those still designated as Taken Porter/Traffic Porter//Switchman/Leverman/Cabin man)
Total Pointsman (A4-A5)
B1. Loco Pilots (Mail/Express/Passenger/Goods/Shunting)
B2. Shunting Master/Shunting Jamadar
B3. Asstt Loco Pilots
B4. Loco inspectors/ Driving instructors
B5. Crew controllers (all grades)
B6. Power controller/ Traction Loco Controller/Traction Power controller/Traction sub-station Operator.
Total Loco Running (B1-B6)
C1. JE/SSE (P Way)
C2. JE/SSE (Track Machine)
C3. JE/SSE (Bridges)
C4. JE/SSE (Works)
Total JE/SSE (Civil Engineering (C1-C4))
C5. Track Maintainer G , II,III, V (Mate, Keyman, rack man, Gateman, Patrolman, Trolley man)
C6. Blacksmith, Welder
C7. Technician (Track Machine)
C8. Bridge Technician (Saran, Rivetter, Welder, Blacksmith, Grinder, Fitter, Machinist, Turner, Driller)
C9. Helper of Blacksmith/Welder
C10. Helper (Bridge Technician)
C11. Helper (Track Machine)
Total Engineering except Supervisors (C5-C11)

D1. JE/SSE (Signal)
D2. Signal Maintainer
Total Signal Dept (D1-D2)
E1. JE/ SSE (C&W)
F1. Counsellors of all Depts
All Other Safety Categories
Total

Annexure-2

Annexure VIA (Other Safety Categories)
A. Operating
B. S&T
B.1 Technician (Tele)
B2. Technician/Signal, including Blacksmith (Signal)
B3. SSE/JE (Workshop) [Axle Counter Production and Inspection, Production & Overhauling of relays Tokenless Block Instrument testing] (Only those posts which require field visits for installation, testing and measurement)
B4. SSE/JE (Tele)
B5. Assistant (S&T) [attached to Technician (Signal) and Technician (Tele)]
C. Electrical
C1. Tower Wagon Driver
C2. SSE (TRD)
C3. JE (TRD)
C4. SSE (TRS)
C5. JE (TRS)
C6. SSE (Electrical)
C7. JE (Electrical)
C8. Fitters AC Sheds
C9. Fitters TL/AC
C10. Sr. Elect Foreman/Chargeman
C11. Sub station Operator for General Services
C12. Shop Suptlt, /sstt Shop Supdt (Mech/Elect)
C13. Auto/ Forklift/Crane/Traverser Drivers, Slingers, Gunners
C14. SSEs/JEs (Elect)[Open line/Workshop including Loco sheds and depots]
C15. Assistants in Level-1 (erstwhile Helper Grade-II and Grade-I Khalasi/Khalasi helper) attached to Supervisors and Technicians listed in No. C14.
C16. Technicians (including Sr. Technicians) or all grades in trades of fitter, Electrician, Machinist/Turner, Riveter, Blacksmith, Motor vehicle Driver, Tower wagon driver, Motor Trolley Driver in open line and workshop/ Depot, Loco sheds/DEMU/ MEMU Sheds, in TRD and TL/AC of Elect. (G)
C17. Technicians of TRD (all grades)
D. Mechanical
D1. SSE (Loco)
D2. JE (Loco)
D3. Fitters DSL Sheds
D4. Fitters C&W
D5. Fitter Mill Wright
D6. Fitter Welders
D7. Crane Driver
D8. Fitter Loco
D10. Chemical & Met. Asstt.
D11. Chemical & Met. Supdt. (CMS)
D12. SSEs/ JEs (Mech/Elect) [Open line/workshop including Loco sheds and depots]

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D13. Assistants in Level-1 (erstwhile Helper Grade-II and Grade-I Khalasi/ Khalasi helper) attached to Supervisors and Technicians listed in No. D12.
D14. Auto/Forklift/Crane/Traverser Drivers, Slingers, Gunners
D15. Technicians (including Sr. Technicians) of all grades in trades of fitter, Electrician, Machinist / Turner, Riverter, Blacksmith, Motor vehicle Driver, Tower wagon driver, Motor Trolley Driver in open line and workshop/ Depot, Loco sheds/ DEMU/ MEMU Sheds, in TRD and TL/AC of Elect. (G)
D16. SPA/Machine, Pump, Compressor Operator.

**Rate of Interest on GPF and other similar funds w.e.f. 1st July, 2021 for 2nd Quarter of financial year 2021-2022
Dept of Economic Affairs Resolution F.NO. 5(4)-B(PD)/2021 dated 5th July 2021**

It is announced for general information that during the year 2021-2022, accumulations at the credit of subscribers to the General Provident Fund and other similar funds shall carry interest at the rate of 7.1% (Seven point one percent) w.e.f. 1st July, 2021 to 30th September, 2021.

This rate will be in force w.e.f. 1st July, 2021. The funds concerned are:

1. The General Provident Fund (Central Services).
2. The Contributory Provident Fund (India).
3. The All India Services Provident Fund.
4. The State Railway Provident Fund.
5. The General Provident Fund (Defence Services).
6. The Indian Ordnance Department Provident Fund.
7. The Indian Ordnance Factories Workmen's Provident Fund.
8. The Indian Naval Dockyard Workmen's Provident Fund.
9. The Defence Services Officers Provident Fund.
10. The Armed Forces Personnel Provident Fund.

Railway Board letter No. E(W)2020/PS5-2/7 (RBE No. 43/2021) dated 30.06.2021

Sub: Extension of validity of Passes/PTOs consequent to lockdown measures notified to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The demands received from National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR), All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF) and others for extending the normal validity period of Passes/PTOs consequent to lock down measures notified by State Governments to contain the spread of second wave of Covid-19, have been examined in consultation with Commercial & Finance Directorates of Railway Board.

2. Keeping in view the exceptional circumstances, the Competent Authority has accorded approval for extension of validity of unused Privilege Passes (PP)/PTOs, Post Retirement Complimentary Passes (PRCP) and Widow Passes (WP) (i.e. Passes/PTOs) of Calendar Year 2020 & 2021 drawn from 01.11.2020 onwards and for issue of Year Ending Passes/PTOs of Calendar Year 2020, upto 30th Sep 2021.

3. While extending the validity of Passes/PTOs, the following guidelines may be kept in view:-

- (i) Even in cases where ticket booking has been made but no journey is actually performed on the already drawn Passes/PTOs, validity extension upto 30th Sep. 2021 may be granted by Pass Issuing Authorities (PIA), after obtaining necessary declaration in this regard.
- (ii) The Year Ending Passes/PTOs of 2020, if due, may be issued till the last date of extended validity period i.e. 30 Sep

. 2021. However, such Passes/PTOs shall be valid for travel upto 30th Sep. 2021 only, irrespective of the date of issue.

(iii) The Railway Servants, who had retired during the lockdown period and could not draw PP/PTOs as per entitlement while in service, may be permitted to draw PPs/PTOs as admissible under the Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, 1986 (Second Edition — 1993), as a special dispensation. PP/PTOs in such cases may be issued on the above lines, reckoning the date of retirement as notional date of issue of PP/PTO.

(iv) In case of full set Passes/PTOs, whose validity expired but only half-set has been used for onward journey, the validity of such Passes/PTOs may be extended upto 30th Sep, 2021. If the beneficiary is stuck in outstation, the validity extension may be done by the nearest PIA.

(v) The validity of Transfer Passes, Kit Passes, Settlement Passes, School Passes and Special Passes on medical grounds, etc. which have already been issued but unused may be extended upto 30th Sep. 2021, taking due note of associated conditions of such Passes and requirements in view.

(vi) The validity of Passes/PTOs, etc issued to the officials of Railway Audit Department and also the officials of other Departments serving Indian Railways on deputation, may also be extended upto 30th Sep. 2021.

(vii) The validity of Complimentary 'Admin' Cheque Passes admissible to non-railway servants viz., Staff of Commission of Railway Safety, Sahayaks (Licensed Porters), full time regular staff employed in quasi-Railway Institutions/Federations/Recognized Unions/SBF Units, etc with validity period at par with Railway Servants, may also be extended upto 30th Sep. 2021.

4. The Zonal Railways & PUs may advise all the PIAs under their control to take necessary action accordingly and not to stipulate any specific date/time limit on their own for receiving requests for validity extension, issue of Year Ending Passes/PTOs of 2020 etc and to entertain the same till the last day of extended validity period i.e. 30th Sep 2021 to avoid crowding and rush in Pass Sections.

5. Fresh Passes/PTOs to be issued henceforth against the current calendar year (i.e. 2021) account shall be for the normal validity period (i.e. Five months) only.

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

Railway Board letter No No. PC-VII/2020/HRMS/16, dated: 25.06.2021

Sub: Implementation of various modules of HRMS- reg.

In view of surge in COVID-19 cases, all the Field Units were allowed to operate various modules of HRMS as per manual practice also till 30.06.2021 while keeping HRMS as preferred option vide Board's letter dated 19.05.2021.

2. Considering the present situation, it has now been decided by the Competent Authority that the present practice as advised vide Board's letter dated 19.05.2021 may continue till 31.07.2021.

Railway Board letter No. E(NG)I-2021/CR/1, RBE No 42/2021, dated 22.06.2021

Sub:- Extension of timeline for submission of Annual Performance Assessment Report (APAR) in respect of Group 'C' personnel of Indian Railway for the year 2020-21 – regarding.

Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training) vide their Office Memorandum No. 21011/02/2015-Estt.(A-II)- Part. II dated

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14.04.2021 have extended the timeline for submission of Annual Performance Assessment Report (APAR) in respect of Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' officers of Central Civil Services for the year 2020-21. The same is enclosed for necessary action and compliance. The instructions/guidelines contained therein will apply mutatis mutandis on Zonal Railways also.

**No. 2018/TransCell/Health/CGHS (eOff.No.3270783)
Dated: 16.06.2021**

Sub: Implementation of Health Delivery System & Emergency Treatment in Railway Empanelled Private Hospitals Revised Instructions.

Ref: Board's letters no: 2018/TransCell/Health/CGHS dated 28.12.2020 and 15.06.2021

In order to improve the health delivery system and emergency treatment in railway empanelled private hospitals, Board had approved a policy vide letter dated 28.12.2020 at Reference, above. Thereafter, a number of suggestions have been received. Based on these suggestions, Board (Member Finance and Chairman & CEO) have approved a policy, as detailed in subsequent paras.

(This is in supersession of instructions contained in Board's letter No. 2018/TransCell/Health/CGHS (eOff.No.3270783) dated 28.12.2020 & 15.06.2021, as referred above.)

1) Railway medical beneficiaries (serving/retired) under emergency condition can get admission in any railway empaneled hospital without any prior referral. The empaneled hospital should not insist on referral from railway hospitals or demand advance in emergency conditions and the hospital will provide cashless/Credit medical facilities to patients.

2) The emergency conditions are defined in Memorandum of Understanding between CGHS empaneled hospitals and Government of India (CGHS Authorities) (Annexure-I) or as amended by CGHS from time to time and same will be applicable in Indian Railways.

3) The valid UMID Card/CTSE Card issued will be treated as identification as Railway Medical Beneficiary. Railways have to make sure that these cards are accepted in the empaneled hospital under the jurisdiction/empanelment.

4) Situation may arise where Railway hospital, after scrutinizing admission report submitted by empaneled hospital, finds that the patient is not suffering from an emergency. In such cases, the hospital bills upto the stage of such determination, shall be paid by Railway directly to Hospital. However, the patient can continue to avail treatment at the empaneled hospital, if so desired, by paying CGHS rates or hospital rates, whichever is less on the patient's cost, thereafter.

5) The nature and appropriateness of the emergency is subject to verification, which may be verified, inspected or medically audited by the nominated authority on random basis at its own discretion.

6) The Hospital will intimate all instances of patients admitted as emergencies (without prior permission) to the Railway authorities, at the earliest and within 24 hours and Railway will revert within next 24 hours, otherwise it will be treated as deemed approval. The empaneled hospital will clearly mention/certify the emergency condition as per MoU.

7) Railway Hospital as well as empaneled hospital will share the contact number and email address for communication for this purpose and will ensure to put on the website of Railways as well as of the hospital. The documents and approvals will be shared on the email to save the time and difficulties faced by the patients. The empaneled Hospital will not insist to

patients to get the approval of referral/extension from the Railway Hospital. Same will be coordinated and approved on the contact number and email by the empaneled Hospital and Railway Hospital.

8) Railway hospitals shall refer to the empaneled hospital for appropriate duration as per the package. In case of additional stay for treatment, same procedure will be followed as per para 6 & 7 above.

9) Also, the empaneled hospitals will provide the necessary treatment in OPD or otherwise to valid Railway Medical Beneficiary at the CGHS approved rates or hospital rates, whichever is less for the treatment in non-referral and non-emergency case at Railway Medical Beneficiary's cost.

10) Zonal Railways shall include provisions for conditions given from Para 1 to 9 above, in their MoU with the referral hospitals and also include that refusal to provide treatment to bonafide railway medical beneficiaries in emergency cases without valid ground would attract disqualification for continuation of empanelment. Also, MoU to be updated including removal of ambiguities accordingly.

11) The Zonal Railways shall keep above provisions in view, while projecting budget requirement under relevant head. Since expenditure is to be borne by Railways, the bills shall be paid by the Railway Unit which had empaneled the hospital, without making any reference or debit etc. to the Railway Unit to which beneficiary may belong.

12) Proper accountal & record of such payments may be maintained by Health Department to facilitate audit of such expenditure. (Railway Board Orders continue on page-11)

Cabinet Secretary & Chairman JCM asked CRB & Department of Expenditure (DoE) to resolve the issue of grant of Group-B & GP Rs.5400 to SSEs & similarly placed supervisors in Railways.

Ref: Minutes of 48th meeting of NC (JCM) held on 26.06.2021 – Item No NC-48/12/21

Grant of Gazetted status to Senior Section Engineers (SSEs) of Ministry of Railways

Chairman Railway Board informed that Railway management is keen to resolve the issue. The number of employees involved in the decision is about 70,000, for whom the 7th CPC did not recommend the gazetted status. A committee of secretaries also examined this issue, but it could not be resolved. He stated the element of direct recruitment in the SSE grade is from highly qualified candidates, but they currently stagnate at a low level without appropriate status.

Leader staff side, in his remarks, mentioned that the representation given to the 7th CPC by the Railways was erroneous, which has resulted into this injustice. The SSEs function 24 hours and have no proper career progression. The Direct Recruits SSEs appointed in Rs.4600 GP only get MACPS and no promotion, which is unfair. Secretary, Staff Side, also stated that SSEs are highly qualified and occupy a critical role, but the treatment given to them has always been unfair. He further said that when SSO's in Audit / Accounts and Railways have been given GP of Rs.5400, it should not be denied to the SSE's and the similarly placed supervisors in Railways. He also informed that earlier SSE's and Chief Controllers were getting grade of 840-1200 which has been down-graded.

Decision:- Chairman asked Chairmn Railway Board and DoE to resolve the issue expeditiously.

INDIAN RAILWAYS TECHNICAL SUPERVISORS' ASSOCIATION

CHQ. 32, Phase 6, Mohali, Chandigarh-160055. Email-gsirtsa@yahoo.com (Ph:0172-2228306, 9316131598)
No. IRTSA /CHD/AGM(CGB/CEC)/11/2021 Dated:27-08-2021

NOTICE FOR 56th ALL INDIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF IRTSA TO BE HELD AT RCF KAPURTHALA ON 27th & 28th NOVEMBER, 2021

- 56th Annual Conference & Central General Body Meeting of Indian Railways Technical Supervisors Association shall be held at RCF Kapurthala on 27th & 28th November, 2021.
- CEC Meeting of IRTSA shall also be held in conjunction thereof, as per following programme.
- 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.

AGENDA OF THE MEETING

1) Inauguration 2) Address by President IRTSA 3) a) Report of General Secretary IRTSA b) Report on Account by Treasurer IRTSA 4) Report by Zonal Secretaries & CEC Members 5) Amendments in Constitution of IRTSA, if any. 6) Seminar on Role of Engineers in Railways 7) Update on Court Cases	8) 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. b) Resolutions of Demands. c) Resolution on Line of Action for realization of demands. d) Election of CEC, IRTSA. 9) Any other point with the permission of the Chair.
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DETAILED PROGRAMME

1	CEC Meeting	26.11.2021 from 06.00 PM to onwards
2	a) Open Session & CGB Meeting	27.11.2021 from 10.00 AM to 05.00 PM
	b) Technical Seminar	27.11.2021 from 6:00PM to 09:00 PM (Followed by Dinner) Cultural Program
3	a) CEC Meeting	28.11.21 from 09.00 to 10:00 AM
	b) CEC & CGB Meeting:	28.11.21 from 10:00 AM to 01:00PM
	c) Election of New CEC & Lunch	28.11.21 from 01.00PM to Onward
4	Venue	Waris Shah Hall & Community Hall, Rail Coach Factory Kapurthala-144602
5	Accommodation	Hotel: Best Western and Hotel: Ramneek Kapurthala
6	Delegation fee	Rs. 500 per Delegate
7	Chief Guests of the Occasion	Sh. Shiv Gopal Mishra General Secretary AIRF & Dr. M. Raghavaiah General Secretary NFIR
8	Guest of Honour:	Sh. Harchandan Singh General Secretary IRTSA & Sh. M. Shanmugam President IRTSA Sh. Sarvjit Singh General Secretary IREF
9	Chairman Conference Committee	Sh. Darshan Lal, Zonal President RCF Mob. No. 8437043089 & 9463183922
10	Convener, Conference Committee	Sh Mayank Kumar Bhatnagar Zonal Secy RCF Mob. 8437043273
11	Conference Committee	Sh. Jagtar Singh W/President RCF Mob No. 9875914065 & 8437043338 Sh. Baldev Raj Mob No 9875914415 & 843703510 Sh. Harminder Singh Mob No 8437043117 Sh. Surjit Singh Mob No 8437043119 Sh. Rajesh Jatana Mob No. 8437043118 Sh. G P Singh Mob No. 8437041323 Sh. S K Bharti Mob No.9417911717 Sh. Gurjeet Singh Mob No.8437043069 Sh. Surjeet Singh SSE/RCF Mob No. 9714301044
12	Treasurer, Conference Committee	Sh. Amrit Lal Chaudhary Mob No. 9816653951 & 8437053951
13	Information/Detailed Schedule	www.irtsa.net, e-mail, WhatsApp, Facebook
14	Transportation (From Jalandhar City Rly Station (JUC) To Venue / Residence/Accommodation)	Will be arranged on prior intimation one week before the Conference to: Sh. Surjeet Singh SSE/RCF Mob No. 9714301044 Sh. Harinder Singh Mob No. 8437041378 Sh. Jagmohan Singh Mob No.8437043479
15	Reception Counter(s) at Jalandhar Rly Station & Venue	Sh. Gurvinder Singh Mob No. 8437043074 Sh. Iqbaljeet Singh Mob.No.7589418992 Sh. Amit Rathi Mob.No. 8427713488

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Railway Board Orders Continued from page-11

In E-Pass Module of HRMS, all E-Passes, including partly used 'E-Passes have been revalidated in the system itself for booking of tickets including for unused portion, upto 30.09.2021. Considering the instructions issued vide Board's letter ibid and also in order to follow uniformity with E-Passes, the validity of Physical Passes should also be extended similarly. Accordingly, PIAs may be advised to take-necessary action to revalidate the partly used Physical Passes also upto 30.09.2021, if not already done.

Railway Board letter No. E(NG)II/2018/RR-1/31, RBE No 59/2021

Sub: Restoration of Direct Recruitment to the posts in Level-7 of Senior Section Engineer (SSE).

Ref: Railway Board's letters of even number dated 25.10.2018 & 2.9.2019.

Attention is invited to Board's aforementioned letters under reference conveying Board's decision to provisionally discontinue direct recruitment in the post of Senior Section Engineer (SSE).

2. The decision has since been reviewed and it has been decided to resume direct recruitment in this post.

Ref: DoPT O.M No.35034/3/2015-Estt.(D), dated 13th July, 2021.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Cases pending or decided by Hon'ble High Courts/Central Administrative Tribunals regarding preponement of effective date of Modified Assured Career Progression Scheme – Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.4.2021 in CA No. 1579/21 (SLP (C) No. 15572/2019) of Union of India v/s R.K. Sharma & others – reg.

The undersigned is directed to say that vide O.M. of even number dated 30.9.2020, Ministries/ Departments were advised to defend all cases or challenge the Orders of Court/Tribunal, as the case may be, which are contrary to Modified Assured Career Progression Scheme (MACPS) guidelines, since the matter relating to preponing the date of effect of the MACPS from 1.9.2008 (as provided in the scheme) to 1.1.2006, was sub-judice in a number of cases pending in the Apex Court, which have been tagged with SLP No. 10811-13/2018 of Uol v/s Ranjit Samuel, and that all similar matters were being heard together.

2. Though decision in the above mentioned cases is still awaited, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in a related matter, has held that benefits under the MACPS cannot be claimed w.e.f. 1.1.2006. In its Order dated 28.4.2021 in Civil Appeal No. 1579/2021 [arising out of SLP (C) No. 15572/2019] of Union of India v/s R.K. Sharma & Others, the Hon'ble Apex Court has held as under:-

"7. For a better understanding of the dispute in these cases, it is necessary to examine the judgments of this Court in Balbir Singh Turn (supra) and M.V. Mohanan Nair (supra). The point that was considered by this Court in Balbir Singh Turn (supra) relates to the applicability of the benefit of MACPS from 01.01.2006. The Respondents therein approached the Armed Forces Tribunal which held that the benefit of ACP granted to an employee is part of the pay structure which affects the pay and also his pension. The Armed Forces Tribunal held that an ACP is not an allowance but a part of pay and therefore, in terms of the Government resolution, the employees were entitled for MACP w.e.f. 01.01.2006. This Court in Balbir Singh Turn (supra) upheld the said finding recorded by the Armed Forces Tribunal. Instructions issued on 30.05.2011 were found to be contrary

to the resolution dated 30.08.2008 as, according to the resolution 01.01.2006 was the effective date for implementation of MACPS in matters relating to pay and dearness allowance.

8. In MV. Mohanan Nair (supra) a three Judge Bench of this Court considered the ACPS as well as the MACPS to hold that the schemes are in the nature of incentive schemes which were brought into force to relieve stagnation. This Court was of the considered view that the Respondents therein were entitled only to the benefit of next grade pay in the pay band and not to the benefit of grade pay of next promotional post. As the MACPS is a matter of Government policy pursuant to the recommendations made by the Pay Commission, this Court refused to accept submissions of the employees that MACPS should be made applicable w.e.f. 01.01.2006.

9. In view of the judgment of this Court in M.V. Mohanan Nair (supra), the Respondents and other similarly situated employees are entitled for financial upgradation under MACPS only to the next grade pay and not to the grade pay of next promotional post. It is clear from the resolution dated 30.08.2008 that the recommendation of the 6th Pay Commission was accepted by the Government and was made effective from 01.01.2006 in respect of civilian employees with regard to revised scales of pay and dearness allowances. In so far as the revised allowances other than dearness allowance, recommendation of the 6th Pay Commission were given effect from 01.09.2008. The judgment in M.V. Mohanan Nair (supra) clinches the issue. Benefits flowing from ACP & MACP Schemes are incentives and are not part of pay. The resolution dated 29.08.2008 is made effective from 01.09.2008 for implementation of allowances other than Pay and DA which includes financial upgradation under ACP & MACP Schemes. Therefore, the Respondents and other similarly situated officers are not entitled to seek implementation of the benefits of MACPS w.e.f. 01.01.2006 according to the resolution dated 29.08.2008. Moreover, the implementation of MACPS by granting financial upgradation only to the next grade pay in the pay band and not granting pay of the next promotional post w.e.f. 01.01.2006 would be detrimental to a large number of employees, particularly those who have retired. We find force in the submission made by the learned Additional Solicitor General that uniform implementation of MACPS for civilian employees w.e.f. 01.01.2006 would result in large scale recoveries of amounts paid in excess.

10. In view of the above, we set aside the judgment of the High Court and allow these Appeals."

3. Accordingly, in terms of the existing MACP guidelines, and in light of above mentioned order dated 28.4.2021, all Ministries/Departments are, therefore, advised to dispose of all pending grievances seeking grant of benefit w.e.f. 1.1.2006 under the MACP Scheme, and also. to 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 Finance, Department of Expenditure ID Note No. 2/5/2017-EII (B),pt, dated 04.08.2021

Subject: Implementation of recommendations of 7th CPC relating to grant of House Rent Allowance (HRA) for central Government employees.

O/o Controller General of Accounts may refer to their ID

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Railway Board Orders Continued from page-12

Note No TA-2-01001/3/2020-TA-II/(E-4434)/610 dated 02.08.20121 seeking clarification whether a separate order is to be issued by D/o Expenditure for grant of increased House Rent Allowance to Central Government Employees or not with the increase of Dearness Allowance from 17% to 28% w.e.f.01.07.2021'

2. The matter has been examined in this Department and it is clarified that this Department's O.M No 2/5/2017-E.II(B) dated 07.07.2017 is very clear and no separate order is being issued by Department of Expenditure.

Ref: Railway Board letter No. E(W)2021/FU-1/6, dated 14.05.2021.

Sub: Staff Benefit Fund (SBF) – Relaxation of ceiling for re-appropriation of Funds.

Ref: Board's letter No.E(W)2008/FU-1/2 dated 29.01.2009.

The exceptional need of funds to meet the requirements of all COVID related medical aid, treatments and vaccination of Railway employees and their families during the on going COVID-19 pandemic and the suggestions received from the recognised Federations i.e. AIRF & NFIR for utilization of funds for COVID-19 vaccination from SBF have been considered in detail. In order to facilitate utilization of the unspent amount lying in SBF, the Competent Authority has approved enhancement of the limit of re-appropriation from 25% to 100% as per existing terms. The re-appropriation will be made with the approval of General Manager/Director General as per local needs.

The aforesaid relaxation of ceiling for re-appropriation of SBF Funds will be in force only during the Financial Year 2021-22. Railways & PUs will maintain complete data/information of re-appropriation made under this dispensation.

CAT Principal Bench New Delhi directs to give increment for employees retiring on 31st December & 30th June.

Pension has to be revised accordingly with arrears payable without interest.

This verdict is subject to the outcome of Supreme Court judgment in SLP 4722/2021.

Highlights of the Judgement

For employees who retired on 30th June of any particular year, increment payable on 1st July shall be extended. Their pensions shall also be revised, subject to their fulfilling other conditions which are applicable. The arrears that become due shall be paid without interest.

Similarly for employees, who retired on 31st December of a particular year, the increment payable on the 1st January of the next year shall be extended and pension revised, subject to same conditions in the same manner.

While extending such benefits, a clause shall be incorporated to the effect that in case the Hon'ble Supreme takes a different view in the Civil Appeal arising out of SLP No. 4722/2021, they shall be under obligation to refund the entire benefit without any demur. The aforesaid exercise shall be completed within a period of three months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

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

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Memorandums Submitted by IRTSA

28.08.2021

Memorandum submitted to Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

Subject: Implementation of recommendations of 7th CPC relating to grant of House Rent Allowance (HRA) for central Government employees.

Ref: 1) Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure OM No.2/5/2017-E-II (B), dated 7th July 2017.

2) Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure ID Note No. 2/5/2017-EII (B),pt, dated 04.08.2021

1) After freezing payment of increased rates of Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) for 18 months, Government decided to pay additional installments of Dearness Allowance (DA) for Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for Central Government pensioners & family pensioners due on 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 and 01.01.2021. DA & DR are paid at the rate of 28% pay & pension w.e.f. 1st July 2021.

2) While reiterating our demand for payment of frozen additional installment of DA & DR, 4% from 01.01.2020, 7% from 01.07.2020 and 11% from 01.01.2021 as arrears to the central Government employees and pensioners, we bring to your notice regarding payment of HRA at increased rate whenever rates of DA crosses 25%.

3) MoF, DoE O.M. dated 23rd April 2020 stated that, additional instalments of Dearness Allowances payable to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief payable to Central Government pensioners due on 1st January 2020, 1st July 2020 and 1st January 2021 shall not be paid. This order is specific only about nonpayment of additional instalments of DA & DR for the period of 18 months, not mentioned about freezing increase in rates of any other allowances.

4) MoF, DoE O.M. dated 7th July 2021, clearly states that rates of HRA will be revised to 27%, 18% and 9% for X, Y & Z class cities whenever rates of DA crosses 25%.

5) MoF, DoF, in its ID Note No. 2/5/2017-EII (B),pt, dated 04.08.2021 told that no separate order will be issued to its O.M dated 7th July 2021 for increasing the rates of HRA whenever rates of DA crossed 25%. i.e HRA should be paid at increased rates w.e.f. 1st January 2021, the date on which rates DA crossed 25%.

6) But, contradicting its own orders dated 7th July 2017, ID Note of DoE allows increased rates of HRA only from 1st July 2021.

7) It is therefore requested that, Rates HRA shall be revised to 27%, 18% and 9% for X, Y & Z class cities w.e.f. 1st January 2021, the date on which rates of DA crossed 25%.

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28.07.2021

Memorandum submitted to Hon;ble Finance Minister & All Hon'ble Members of Parliament

Subject: Payment of additional installments of DA & DR due on 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 & 01.01.2021 with arrears.

Ref: 1) Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure OM No.1/1/2020-E-II (B), dated 23-04-2020, 20.07.2021

2) Dept of pension & pensioners' welfare OM No.42/07/2021-P(P&W)D 22.07.2021

1) Government decided to pay additional installments of Dearness Allowance (DA) for Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for Central Government pensioners & family pensioners due on

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Payment of additional installments of DA & DR

..... Continued from page-13

01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 and 01.01.2021 vide O.Ms cited in reference. DA & DR are revised from existing 17% to 28% w.e.f. 1st July 2021.

2) O.M. says that, Rates of DA & DR from 01.01.2020 to 01.07.2021 remains 17%, depriving the Central Government Employees and Central Government Pensioners & Family Pensioners compensation for the price rise during these 18 months.

3) Employees retired during this period were put in adversity by getting reduced retirement gratuity, service gratuity, death gratuity, leave encashment, etc.

4) All Central Pay Commissions and fair wages committee have recommended clear necessity for continuing payment of DA & DR to neutralize substantial increase in cost of living. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India also ruled that, salary & pension are not a bounty, it is matter of right protected by the constitution.

5) In its recent judgement on SLP (C) NO.12553 of 2020 Hon'ble Supreme Court ordered that ***"The direction for the payment of the deferred portions of the salaries and pensions is unexceptional. Salaries are due to the employees of the state for services rendered. Salaries in other words constitute the rightful element of the employees and are payable in accordance with law. Likewise, it is well settled that the payment of pension is for years of past service rendered by the pensioners to the state. Pensions are hence a matter of a rightful entitlement recognized by the applicable rules and regulations which govern the service of the employees of the state."***

6) Hon'ble Supreme Court further ordered that, ***"the Government of Andhra Pradesh shall pay simple interest computed at the rate of 6% per annum on account of deferred salaries and pensions within a period of thirty days"***.

7) In the above mentioned case between Government of Andhra Pradesh and its employees/pensioners, State Government deferred salary & pension due to economic consequences of the lockdown because of COVID-19. Both High Court & Supreme Court not agree with the decision taken by the state Government to defer the salary & pension due to cessation of the revenue inflows and extra burden imposed on state's resources to contain the epidemic & to provide relief to the people.

8) Hardship faced by citizens of the country due to spread of Corona Virus, lockdown & restrictions imposed by Government are being faced by Government employees also. Infact employees and their families are affected in large numbers, since many of the employees have to deliver their responsibilities braving the risk of corona virus. It is evident from the fact that nearly 1.2 lakh employees of Indian Railways were infected by corona virus and 3000 employees died due to the virus.

9) Government extended stimulus packages, concessions and aids for Industrial houses, corporates, MSMEs, farmers, traders, etc. At the same time Government employees were put in severe hardship by deferring the due DA, HRA and TA. It is also pertinent to note that these employees paid their income tax promptly during pandemic and at all times.

10) Hence, you are kindly requested to impress upon the Government to make payment of frozen additional installment of DA & DR, 4% from 01.01.2020, 7% from 01.07.2020 and 11% from 01.01.2021 as arrears to the central Government employees and pensioners.

31.05.2021

**Memorandum submitted to chairman & CEO, Rly Board
Sub: Annual target of surrenders through Work Studies
by Zonal Railways for the year 2021-22.**

Ref: Railway Board letter No. 2020/E&R/2(8)/1, dated 20.05.2021.

Railway Board letter RBE No.24/2021 dated 25.03.2021.

Railway Board letter RBE No.48/2020 dated 02/07/2020.

1) IRTSA would like to submit the following for your kind notice on important issue of surrender of posts proposed by Railway Board and request not to implement any surrender of posts.

2) Railway Board in their letter dated 20.05.2021 directed 16 Zonal Railways to surrender 13,450 posts by re-assessing the staff requirements through work studies. The posts identified for surrender after completion of the said work studies should not be taken to the pool of surrender of posts by the Zonal Railways and their money value should be credited to the vacancy bank as per extent orders in terms of para C, item vii of RBE No. 127/2016.

3) Para C, item vii of RBE No. 127/2016, dated 28.10.2016 states that, ***"Posts identified for surrender by Railway Board or identified for surrender due to Work Study Reports, shall not be used for creation on the basis explained in para (C) herein. On surrender, their money value shall continue to be credited to the vacancy bank as per extant orders with 25% share going to Railway Board"***.

4) Creation of both safety and non-safety posts for new assets cannot be done by Zonal Railways, since RBE No.48/2020 dated 02/07/2020 given direction for freezing new posts creation except safety, reviewing/surrendering of posts created in last two years and surrendering of 50% of existing vacancies. In its letter RBE No. 24/2021 dated 25.03.2021, Railway Board conveyed to zonal Railways that, creation of non-gazetted safety posts will require the approval of Department of Expenditure (DoE).

5) In Railways, yardstick for some of the activities are arrived on approximation, for many activities no yardstick is available. The said release of manpower due to technological advancements is a misleading term, since implementation and maintenance of technological advancements itself requires new manpower & new skill set.

6) Main objectives of technological advancements in Railways are increasing the speed, safety, comfort, efficiency and economy in train operation, not reduction of staff, who are asset of the Railways. Excluding for the Covid-19 pandemic period, all along Railway business both in Passenger and Freight are always increasing year by year. Increase in passenger and freight business is being achieved by lesser number of staff, putting the system in tremendous pressure.

7) Important performance indices of Railways between the year 2010-11 and 2018-19 have registered good increase. Passenger KM and Net freight tonnes registered more than 18% increase. Between the year 2010-11 and 2019-20 track KM has increased by 10.8%. Number of rolling stock in possession i.e. locos, coaches & wagons have increased more than 26%. But staff strength has been reduced by 5.9%. Fixing target for surrender of posts without any scientific study about the work content and without taking into account forecasted increase in Railway business after Covid pandemic is not desirable.

Continued on Page-15

Annual target of surrenders

..... Continued from page-14

8) It is therefore requested that,

a) Railway Board letter No. 2020/E&R/2(8)/1, dated 20.05.2021 on “Annual target of surrenders through Work Studies by Zonal Railways for the year 2021-22” may please be withdrawn and staff side may please be consulted and taken into confidence about scientific work study, if Railways proposes to conduct any.

b) GM & DRM may be delegated powers to reallocate and redistribution of the posts from one activity to another on 1:1 basis and creation of posts for new assets.

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01.06.2021

Memorandum submitted to chairman & CEO, Rly Board
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.

Pay Level of Technical Supervisors working in Railways

Detailed memorandum on Pay Level of JE & SSE was submitted to Hon'ble Minister for Railways and CRB & CEO Railway Board.

Detailed justification was given in the memorandum for grant of Pay Level-7, Pay Level-8 and Pay Level-9 for Technical Supervisors working on Railways.

To view full memorandum, visit www.irtsa.net

Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare O.M.No. 42/07/2021-P&PW(D) dated July 22, 2021

Subject: Revised rates of Dearness Relief to Central Government Pensioners/Family Pensioners w.e.f. 01.07.2021

The undersigned is directed to refer to Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) Office Memorandum No. 1/1/2020-E-II(B), dated 23.04.2020, vide which instalments of Dearness Relief to pensioners/family pensioners due from 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 and 01.01.2021, were frozen and to say that the President is pleased to decide that the Dearness Relief admissible to Central Government pensioners/family pensioners shall be enhanced from the existing rate of 17% to 28% of the basic pension/family pension (including additional pension/family pension) with effect from 1st July 2021. The increase subsumes the additional instalments arising on 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 and 01.01.2021. The rate of Dearness Relief, earlier determined vide this Department's OM No. 42/04/2019- P&PW(D) dated 21.10.2019, shall remain at 17% of basic pension/family pension for the period from 01.01.2020 till 30.06.2021.

2) These rates of Dearness Relief will be applicable to:

- Civilian Central Government Pensioners/Family Pensioners including Central Government absorbed pensioners in PSU/Autonomous Bodies in respect of whom orders have been issued vide this Department's OM No. 4/34/2002-P&PW(D) Vol.II dated 23.06.2017 for restoration of full pension after expiry of commutation period of 15 years.
- The Armed Forces pensioners/family pensioners and Civilian pensioners/ family pensioners paid out of the Defence Service Estimates.
- All India Services pensioners/family pensioners.
- Railway pensioners/family pensioners.

..... Continued on page-16

Department of Personnel and Training O.M.No. 13020/1/2019-Estt.(L), Dated 7th June 2021

Subject- Treatment/ regularization of hospitalization/ quarantine period during COVID-19 Pandemic – regarding.

This Department has been receiving several references/queries requesting for clarification relating to treatment of the hospitalization/quarantine period during the COVID-19 pandemic. The matter has been considered, and keeping in view the hardships faced by the Government servants, it has been decided to treat the period of absence, in relaxation of CCS (Leave) Rules, 1972, as under:-

(1) When the Government servant himself is COVID Positive and is in home isolation/ quarantine

i) Shall be granted Commuted Leave up to 20 days, if due and admissible, without Medical Certificate, on mere production of his COVID positive report.

(ii) If Commuted Leave is not available, he shall be granted Special Casual Leave (SCL) for 15 days, followed by Earned Leave (EL) or Half Pay Leave (HPL) of 5 days and, in case of EL/HPL is also not available, he shall be given Extra Ordinary Leave (EOL) without insisting on production of Medical Certificate, and the period shall also be counted for qualifying service.

(2) When the Government servant himself is COVID positive, and is in home isolation and has also been hospitalized.

(i) Shall be granted Commuted Leave/SCL/EL for a period up to 20 days starting from the time having tested COVID positive, if the period of home quarantine/discharge from hospital falls within 20 days, as per Sl.No. 1 above.

(ii) In case of hospitalization beyond the 20th day from his testing COVID positive, he shall be granted Commuted leave, on production of documentary proof of hospitalization.

(iii) If, however, after discharge from the hospital, the Government servant is required to remain at home for post-COVID recovery, he may be granted leave of any kind due and admissible to him, with the approval of the concerned Competent Authority, as per the CCS (Leave) Rules, 1972. It is only when the Commuted Leave is not available to the credit of the Government servant that SCL of 15 days or EL or EOL shall be considered.

(3) When a dependent family member of Government servant is COVID-positive or parents, whether dependent or not, living with him are COVID positive

(i) Shall be granted SCL of 15 days on production of COVID- positive report of dependent family member/parents.

(ii) In case of active hospitalization of any of the family member/parents even after 15 days of the expiry of SCL, the Government Servant may be granted leave of any kind due and admissible beyond 15 days of SCL till their discharge from hospital. After discharge from the hospital of dependent family member/parents, if the Government servant wishes to avail further leave, he shall be considered for the leave due and admissible as per the CCS (Leave) Rules, 1972, subject to functional requirements and sanction of leave by the Competent Authority. The Competent Authority is advised to take a liberal view in such cases and its decision in the matter shall be final.

(4) When the Government Servant comes into direct contact with a COVID-positive person and remains in Home Quarantine.

He shall be treated as on duty/Work from Home for a period of seven days. For any period beyond that, his attendance shall be regulated as per the instructions given by the Ministry/Department/Office concerned, where he is working.

(5) The period of Quarantine spent by Government servant, as a precautionary measure, residing in the Containment Zone.

He shall be treated as on duty/Work from Home till the Containment Zone is de-notified.

2. These orders shall be applicable w.e.f. 25.03.2020 and shall continue until further orders. The past cases, wherever settled, shall be re-opened if the same is beneficial to the Government servant, and where he makes a request in writing for review.

Revised rates of Dearness Relief

... Continued from page-15

v. Pensioners who are in receipt of provisional pension.

vi. The Burma Civilian pensioners/family pensioners and displaced pensioners/family pensioners from Pakistan, in respect of whom orders have been issued vide this Department's OM No. 23/3/2008-P&PW(B) dated 11.09.2017.

3) The payment of Dearness Relief involving a fraction of a rupee shall be rounded off to the next higher rupee.

4) Other provisions governing grant of Dearness Relief in respect of employed family pensioners and re-employed Central Government Pensioners will be regulated in accordance with the provisions contained in this Department's OM No. 45/73/97-P&PW (G), dated 2.7.1999, as amended from time to time. The provisions relating to regulation of Dearness Relief where a pensioner is in receipt of more than _ one pension will remain unchanged.

5) In the case of retired Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, necessary orders will be issued by the Department of Justice separately.

6) It will be the responsibility of the pension disbursing authorities, including the nationalized banks, etc. to calculate the quantum of Dearness Relief payable in each individual case.

7) The offices of Accountant General and authorised Pension Disbursing Banks are requested to arrange payment of Dearness Relief to pensioners/family pensioners on the basis of these instructions without waiting for any further instructions from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and the Reserve Bank of India in view of letter No. 528-TA, 11/34- 80-11, dated 23/04/1981, of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India addressed to all Accountant Generals and Reserve Bank of India Circular No. GANB No. 2958/GA-64 (ii) (CGL)/81 dated the 2 P1 May, 1981 addressed to State Bank of India and its subsidiaries and all Nationalised Banks.

8) In their application to the persons belonging to Indian Audit and Accounts Department, these orders are issued under Article 148(5) of the Constitution and after consultation with the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

9) These issues in pursuance of Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure's OM No. 111/2020-E. II(B) dated 20th July, 2021.