

Relief for Safety Categories from Surrender of posts

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAILWAY BOARD**

No. E(MPP)2026/23/9

New Delhi, Dated 31.08.2026

The General Secretary,
AIRF,
4, State Entry Road,
New Delhi-110055.

Sir,

Sub: Rationalization of manpower for FY 2026-27- reg.

Ref: AIRF letter no. AIRF/159 dated- 22.06.2026

I am directed to refer to the Federation's letter cited above and to state that with regard to subject instructions issued to Railways, following is advised:

Effective manpower planning in Indian Railways necessitates periodic assessment of the sanctioned strength to keep pace with changes in workload, adoption of modern technologies, evolving work practices, and commissioning of new assets. Consequently, creation, redistribution, and surrender of posts is an ongoing process on Indian Railways.

In this connection, vide Railway Board letter dated- 24.04.2026, targets for manpower rationalization (Redistribution + Surrender) for FY 2026-27 were issued to railways. This exercise enables railways to redistribute redundant category posts from non-safety to safety categories in the same pay grade, thereby, ensuring optimal utilization of manpower. From FY 2024-25 onwards, target for manpower rationalization consists of both Redistribution and Surrender of posts. Redistribution is the focus. There is NO REDUCTION of sanctioned strength in redistribution. It involves transfer of posts from redundant, non-safety and non-essential categories to critical, operational and safety categories. Further, it is re-iterated here that only 2550 and 694 posts have been surrendered in the FY 2024-25 and 2025-26 respectively.

Your faithfully



Deputy Director/ E(MPP), Railway Board

Railways surrendered more than 1,34,700 posts between 2014 and 2024 through work study as per the target fixed by Railway Board to Zonal Railways and PUs. Surrender includes 27,043 posts surrendered in 2022 and proposal to surrender 28,815 posts in 2024.

Federations and IRTSA are continuously representing against surrender of manpower through work study and demanding creation of posts according to increase in work load particularly in safety categories.

Railway Board in its letter dated 31.08.2026 on rationalization of manpower for the FY 2026-27, communicated to GS/AIRF mentioning about change in the policy of surrender of posts.

The letter says, From FY 2024-25 onwards, target of manpower rationalization consists of both Redistribution and surrender of posts. Redistribution is the focus. There is no reduction of sanctioned strength in redistribution. It involves transfer of posts from redundant non-safety & non-essential categories to critical operational and safety

categories. In FY 2024-25 only 2550 and in FY 2025-26 only 694 posts were surrendered.

ie. surrender of posts has come down to 694 posts in last year from average 13,400 posts surrender per year during previous ten years. There may not be surrender of posts in safety category posts and marginal increase likely to happen in some safety categories.

Thank You

K.V.Ramesh
GS/IRTSA