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A.I.R.F.



All India Railwaymen's Federation

(Estd, 1924)

4, State Entry Road,
New Delhi-110055
INDIA

ALL INDIA RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION

No.AIRF/24(C)

Dated: February 26, 2013

The Addl. Member(Staff),
Railway Board,
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

Sub: Proceedings of the "All India Safety Seminar of P. Way Supervisors"
held on 24th February, 2013 in New Delhi

A copy of the proceedings of above subject "Safety Seminar" is being enclosed herewith for your information and taking necessary action on the grievances of the P. Way Supervisors on priority basis.

An early action in the matter shall be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

-sd-

(Shiva Gopal Mishra)
General Secretary

Encl: As above

Copy to: General Secretaries, all affiliated zonal unions, along with a copy of proceedings of above cited "Safety Seminar" organized by the AIRF.

Encl: As above

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“PROCEEDINGS OF THE “ALL INDIA SAFETY SEMINAR OF P. WAY SUPERVISORS” HELD ON 24TH FEBRUARY, 2013 IN NEW DELHI

An “All India Safety Seminar of Permanent Way Supervisors” was held on 24th February, 2013 in T.N. Bajpai Memorial Hall, New Delhi, wherein around 120 participants from all over the Indian Railways took part.

The seminar started at 11:00 hrs., and at the outset, “**Chief Guest**”, **Shri R. Ramanathan**, Addl. Member(Civil Engineering), Railway Board, **Shri Alok Kumar**, Executive Director(Civil Engineering)(G), Railway Board, other dignitaries and leaders of the AIRF, were offered heartily welcome by presenting bouquets.

Com. R.K. Pandey, Asstt. General Secretary and Divisional Secretary, Lucknow Division, Northern Railwaymen's Union, welcomed all the participants, General Secretary AIRF, **Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra**, **Com. K.L. Gupta**, Asstt. General Secretary AIRF, **Com. Salil Lawrence**, Asstt. General Secretary, **Shri R. Ramanathan**, A.M.(C.E.), Shri Alok Kumar, E.D.(C.E.)(G), Railway Board, other leaders and dignitaries in the seminar.

Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary AIRF, in his keynote address, explained in detail the background of holding this “**Safety Seminar**”, the various demands and issues related to P. Way Supervisors with current status thereof. He further mentioned that All India Railwaymen's Federation is already seized of the problems of Track Maintenance Staff right from Trackman to S.S.E.(P. Way) and seriously pursuing their issues in various Negotiating Fora. He added that the Joint Committee on Package and Career Progression of Trackmen was definitely an outcome of sole efforts of AIRF, and this is for the first in the history of the Indian Railways that the promotional structure has been devised by the said committee to facilitate career advancement to this ever neglected category of staff. Thereafter, he informed the participants that the All India Railwaymen's Federation has been pursuing genuine demands of P. Way Supervisors, like *en-block* merger of this category with J.E.(P. Way), fixation of pay considering promotion, re-designation, anomaly in MACPS etc. since long. Shri Mishra further said that, since this is a vulnerable category directly involved in track maintenance, thereby directly related to railway safety, therefore, AIRF deemed it fit to organize a “**Safety Seminar of P. Way Supervisors**”. He also expressed his thanks to Shri R. Ramanathan and Shri Alok Kumar for their valuable cooperation in supporting the genuine demands of P. Way Supervisors. Shri Mishra communicated his anguish for inordinate delay in merger of P. Way Supervisors with J.E.(P. Way) and mentioned that this is the only category where diploma holders are not merged with the category of J.E. He also warned the railway administration that the problems of the

P. Way Supervisors are one of the items for strike ballot memorandum, resolved in the 88th Annual Conference of AIRF held at Visakhapatnam.

Thereafter, **Shri Alok Kumar**, E.D.(C.E.)(G), Railway Board, addressing the seminar admitted that the track maintenance staff, and more particularly, P. Way Supervisors, definitely deserve a fair-deal at the hands of the railway administration. He further emphasized that he is of the firm opinion that all the P. Way Supervisors should be *en-block* merged with the category of J.E.(P. Way) for all purposes as also recommendations of the Joint Committee on Package and Career Progression of Trackmen should be implemented in letter and spirit with a view to accord justice to these important categories of staff.

Speaking as **Chief Guest** in the seminar, **Shri R. Ramanathan**, A.M.(C.E.), Railway Board, while talking about certain issues related to track safety, informed the participants that the Civil Engineering Directorate of Ministry of Railways has already accepted the genuine demands of the PWS Category and expressed his hope that necessary orders are likely to be issued in near future. He admired the efforts being made by the AIRF for overall upliftment of track maintenance staff and also appreciated the contribution of P. Way Supervisors in railway safety by way of proper track maintenance. He further mentioned that AIRF has brought the issue of merger of P. Way Supervisors with J.E.(P. Way) and MACPS in the negotiating For a at apex level. On persuasions of AIRF, a committee was constituted in Railway Board, which has recommended for complete merger of P. Way Supervisors with J.E.(P. Way) and now the recommendations of the said committee shall be process for the approval of full Board.

Coms. K.L. Gupta and Salil Lawrence, both AGS/AIRF, also spoke on this occasion and made valuable suggestions besides explaining in detail that AIRF is already quite serious about the problems of the P. Way Supervisors and making all out efforts for redressal thereof.

Com. R.K. Pandey, AGS/NRMU, **Smt. Jaya Agarwal**, Convener, All India Women Committee and **Com. S.K. Tyagi**, Ex. Central Vice President and Divisional Secretary/HQ/NRMU, also addressed the participants and informed them about the various efforts being made by the union and AIRF for their overall upliftment and betterment.

Shri Dharam Singh, Pr. CE & CAO/NR, who graced the occasion as "**Guest of Honour**", discussed various technical issues related to track maintenance and also informed the participants the various steps being undertaken by the Ministry of Railways and Railway Board regarding improvement in track parameters so as to withstand higher axle load and high speed of the trains. Shri Dharam as well supported genuine problems of the P. Way Supervisors and other P. Way maintenance staff who are definitely responsible for safe and efficient train operations by properly maintaining track safety.

In the afternoon session, **S/Shri Bhagwan Das**, **Sr. PWS/Vidisha/WCR**, **Ram Gopal Yadav**(Sr. PWS/BWP/MUT/NR), **R.D. Sachan**(Sr. PWS/JHS/NCR), **Kumar Alok**, Sr. PWS/ECR, **Satyendra Kumar Singh**, Sr. PWS/SECR, **K. Narayana**, Sr. PWS/SC Division/SCR, **Sanjay Kumar Jha**, Sr. PWS/KTT/WCR, **Ajay Raghubanshi**, Sr. PWS/ SECR, **S.K. Rout**, Sr. PWS/ECoR, **Kaushal Kishore**, Sr. PWS/ALJN/NCR, **Kuldeep Singh**, Sr. PWS/ AMRO/NR, **Ram Bahadur**, Sr. PWS/Meghnagar/RTM/WR, **Sushil Solomon**, Sr. PWS/MB/NR, while discussing the various issues, both technical and genuine demands of PWS made valuable suggestions in regard to safety of track. The main issues raised by the participants were:-

- (i) **En-block merger of PWS Category with JE(P. Way) with retrospective effect and all consequential benefits.**

- (ii) Fix duty hours and weekly rest, allowances, accommodation, run-over cases due to non-availability of proper maintenance corridor, their headquarters at a place where educational and other facilities are available, risk factor etc.**

After detailed deliberations, General Secretary AIRF concluded the discussions, and the following major issues related to safety and genuine grievances of PWS Category were finally enlisted.

- (a) As the pay structure of P. Way Supervisors has been diluted in the successive pay commissions on account of various legal and technical pretext, there is need to totally merge this category with JE(P. Way) with effect from the date Mistry Supervisor of other departments, like Mechanical, Electrical, S&T have been *en-block* upgraded as JE.**
- (b) The total strength of PWS on the IR is around 4,400 and there are roughly 3,650 PWS on roll, only 17.26% of this category has been upgraded to J.E. the remaining strength is still in GP Rs.2800 causing serious resentment among them, therefore, their pay scales are required to be upgraded to GP Rs.4200.**
- (c) The benefit of cadre restructuring/upgradation effective from 01.11.2003 has not been extended to PWS, which is a cause of frustration among this category and needs to be set right.**
- (d) The Headquarters of the PWS needs to be located on those stations where there are adequate facilities for their proper accommodation, education of their children and medical facilities etc. for their families are available.**
- (e) The discrepancies in their MACPS are also cause of discontentment and need to be addressed suitably.**
- (f) The working conditions, including duty hours and weekly rest etc. are also quite unsatisfactory; as such need to be set right at the earliest.**
- (g) The P. Way Supervisors need to be imparted proper training with Refresher Courses from time to time for updating their knowledge in the wake of adoption of advance technology in railway track.**

The above issues related to working conditions, wage structure, advancement prospects and other general conditions of P. Way Supervisors being of paramount importance need to be addressed within a limited time frame. In case no action is taken for redressal of these grievance, there shall no alternative left but to mobilize all the P. Way Supervisors across the country and to launch a countrywide agitation, entire responsibility of which shall rest with the Railway Administration.

The seminar concluded with vote of thanks to the chair.