

# ALL INDIA LOCO RUNNING STAFF ASSOCIATION

HO: ADRA Regd. No. 17903



## PALAKKAD DIVISION

P K ASHOKAN  
*President*

K S SREEJU  
*Secretary*

P MAHESH  
*Treasurer*

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To

**The General Manager**  
**Southern Railway**  
**Chennai**

**Through DRM/PGT**

Respected Sir

**Sub : Collective response against injustice and movement to avail the long denied basic rights - notice regarding**

We, the Loco Running Staff has been expressing our protest since many decades, against the injustice being done on us by the railway administration regarding the working hours and conditions. The basic universal rights like 8 hours working limit and weekly rest endorsed by the ILO and allowed to all the worker world over by the respective signatory countries 100 years ago, has been denied to the Loco Running Staff even today by the a railway administration by misusing the powers. All these years the administration has not only been wilfully disregarding the assurance given to the staff in the floor of the Parliament by the Railway Ministry, the court orders, the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Committee and other committees on the issue but also continuing to deny even the due benefit provided for under continuous categorization and allowed to all other continuous staff. The HPC recommendations which is the latest in the series has also not been truly implemented despite it becoming due for many years. Even the decision of the Ministry of Labour made in favour of reducing the working hours of the Loco Running Staff has been wilfully obstructed from getting implemented.

Against this historic deception, discrimination, despotism and the unjust approach of the administration, the Loco Running Staff of Southern Railway had expressed their intention to start a movement towards availing the most basic rights on our own like :

**(1) Limit duty hours to 10 hrs from sign on to sign off**

The Ministry of Railway, as earlier as in 1973 announced and gave assurance in the Parliament that the duty hours would be reduced to 10 hrs from sign on to sign off but the administration had betrayed the staff by not implementing it. Subsequently owing to the trade union protest against the injustice there were many interventions from the Courts, Parliamentary committee, Labour Ministry

etc in favour of reducing the duty hours. The High Power Committee recommendation is the latest in the series which recommended to reduce the duty hours to 10 hrs from sign on to sign off.

The Original demand of the Loco Running Staff is to reduce the duty hours to 8 hours and further classify the Loco Running Staff as intensive. Even though the demand of reducing the duty hours to 10 from sign on to sign off is much less than what the Loco Running Staff is eligible and deserving, we are raising it as a short term demand to practically advance the movement based on the recommendation given by the HPC for such reduction and also based on the assurance given in the Parliament during 1973

**(2) Weekly rest in addition to trip rest**

Like in the case of working hours, what is due and allowed to all other workers has been continually denied to the Loco Running Staff. The obligation of the ILO convention and the decision of the RLC Bangalore that the trip rest and weekly rest are separate and that it cannot be combined as being done by the railway administration in the case of the Loco Running Staff and the reiteration of RLC's finding by the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, has not been honoured to deny justice to the staff. The HPC has also recommended to allow 40 hrs PR to the Staff. This justifies our demand for PR in addition to trip rest.

**(3) Limit continuous night duties to 2**

The study of element of stress or fatigue caused to the Loco Running Staff by the Research Design and Standard Organization indicates that midnight-early morning time zone produces greatest stress on Drivers as their mental alertness shown slackening during these hours. The working on the Second Consecutive night has been found to further dampen the mental alertness making Drivers vulnerable to operational lapses. The route cause for majority of SPAD cases in Indian Railway is micro sleep of Running staff, continuous night duties contribute major role on it. After a detailed study the High Power Committee recommended to reduce the consequent night duty to two with an exception of third night with riders.

**(4) Limit out station detention to 48 hrs**

The Loco Running Staff has been demanding to reduce the out station detention since long considering its bad effects on the family life and the hardship which in turn is faced by the employee himself. The Loco Running Staff are still made to stay at out station for 72 hours based on the rules framed 6 decades ago. Even though the situation has transformed making the rule untenable and justifiable, the railway administration is still using it to mount misery to the staff without showing any sense of reform and scientific temper. The HPC has recommended to reduce the out station detention to 48 hrs the implementation of which is wilfully delayed. So based on the unwarranted difficulties, the 72 hrs out detention causes on the life of staff and the learned recommendation of the HPC we raise the demand to reduce the out station detention to 48.

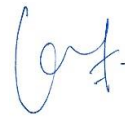
We had brought our intention to the attention of the railway administration. Since there was no response from administration the Right proclamation Convention which met at ED on 14-02-2024 has decided to go ahead with the movement and declared that the **Loco Running Staff of Southern Railway will start the movement of availing the 4 above mentioned rights from 01-06-2024 onwards.**

In the convention it was also decided to organize demonstration in front of all Divisional Offices of Southern Railway on 05-04-2024 and a Zonal level demonstration in front of the General Manager Office, Chennai on 15.05,2024 and hand over representations to General Manager Southern Railway through respective DRMs .

According to the decision the demonstration in front of the DRM office PGT is being conducted today and we would like to submit this **notice regardig the starting of movement to avail the 4 long denied basic rights in PGT division from 01.06.2024**, before your good self for your kind information and seeking your intervention towards esuring justice to the Loco Running Staff.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



Palakkad  
04-04-2024

K S SREEJU  
(Secretary AILRSA PGT Division)

Copy to:

CELE SR/SrDEE OP PGT