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Shiva Gopal Mishra
General Secretary

AIRF/325 (150)

Dated – 6th May, 2024

**Finance Commissioner,
Railway Board
New Delhi**

Sub: - Long-pending grievance of IT cadre

Ref: - AIRF's letter no. AIRF/325 dated 18th December 2023 & 26th March, 2024

Your kind attention is once again invited towards AIRF's letter of the even number dated 18th December 2023 followed by reminder dated 26.03.2024, wherein several long-outstanding issues concerning the grievances of the IT cadre were highlighted with the request that your prompt intervention to address these matters are required. It has already been advised that the IT staffs are responsible for the IPAS, IREPS, e-office, WISE etc. besides other critical functions related to the IT field. They also manage the resolution of problems and training of the entire user staff of Railways. Additionally, they handle the maintenance and operation of hardware related to the Accounts department.

In our previous correspondence, we also brought to your attention the crucial role played by the IT staff in ensuring the smooth functioning of administrative work, especially during the nationwide lockdown imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We urge you to kindly refer to our earlier letter for a better understanding of the situation.

Despite their commendable achievements, the IT cadre has been facing challenges since its inception. After 16 years, apart from a few small software packages, none of the major IT activities have been assigned to the IT cadre. The cadre strength has remained frozen since 12th June 2008. In addition to this, many posts are lying vacant for a long period. While IT staffs are deployed to various departments, divisions, workshops, store departments, and headquarters office on Railways, they do not have their own IT Centre at that place.

It is worthwhile to mention here that the Railway Board issued Circular No. E (MPP) 2022/1/1 dated 18th April 2022, directing GMs/Zonal Railways to rationalize manpower. This circular suggested redeploying or utilizing staff from the EDP department elsewhere based on their skills. However, the IT cadre was not included in the upgrading orders (in GP Rs 4800/- & GP Rs 5400/-) for supervisors issued on 17th November 2022 by Railway Board (RBE No. 155/2022). This omission not only demoralizes the IT staff but also affects the counterproductive efficiency of Indian Railways.

In the light of deteriorating condition of the IT cadre across Indian Railways, AIRF once again urges immediate action to address the following longstanding grievances:

- 1) Stop outsourcing the functioning of IT Centers and framing of an anti-labour IT policy.
- 2) Issue a corrigendum to Circular No. E(MPP)2022/1/1 dated 18th April 2022, regarding Rationalization of Manpower, removing the phrase 'EDP' Department.
- 3) Provide Financial Upgradation in GP 4800/- & GP 5400/- to Sr. Engineer (IT) (GP 4600/-) w.e.f. 01.12.2022 at the earliest.
- 4) Implement the recommendations of the 2012 committee regarding the Gazetted IT cadre at the earliest.
- 5) Fill up vacancies and lift the ban on the creation of new posts in the cadre.
- 6) Implement Group 'C' Restructuring order from 01.11.06, i.e., the month when the New IT cadre was actually formed.
- 7) Properly train staff and take over the different IT activities of different departments of Indian Railways by the IT Centre administration.
- 8) Expedite the creation of new IT Centers in all Zones, Divisions, Workshops, Store Depots, etc.

An informal meeting may be fixed at your convenience immediately to resolve the above-mentioned issues, as IT staffs have been suffering from a very long time.

Yours faithfully,



(Shiva Gopal Mishra)

General Secretary

Copy to: PED (Accounts) Railway Board, New Delhi - for necessary action
Copy to: General Secretaries, All Affiliated Unions - for information