



# KAMGAR EKTA COMMITTEE

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## **KEC supports the just struggle of Loco Pilots and Assistant Loco Pilots of Indian Railways!**

The Loco Pilots (LPs) and Assistant Loco Pilots (ALPs) of South Zone of Indian Railways, under the leadership of All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA) have been on agitation from 01.06.2024 for their rights of rest and duty hours to ensure safety of both passengers and railway workers. Their just demands are:

### **(A) The right to adequate rest**

After 6 days of duty, LPs and ALPs are allowed only 30 hours rest before being called for duty again.

AILRSA is demanding that LPs and ALPs must get the Periodical Rest (30 hrs) and the Headquarters Rest (16 hrs). Thus, they are entitled to 46 hours (30 hrs + 16 hrs) rest after 6 days duty.

Inadequate weekly rest deprives the LPs and ALPs of the time required to rejuvenate and regain their health as well as look after family duties.

### **(B) Excessive Duty Hours:**

LPs and ALPs have very frequently to work 12, 14, 16 hours contravening the assurances made by various committees and the then Labour Minister's announcement in Parliament on 14.08.1973 that duty hours of LPs and ALPs would be restricted to 10 hours from Sign On to Sign Off. It is a shame that even after more than 50 years the railway authorities are not implementing this assurance.

Such prolonged work hours not only affect the well-being and efficiency of the staff but also jeopardize railway safety, particularly under challenging operational conditions.

Hence AILRSA is demanding that duty hours should not exceed 10 hours.

### **( C ) Continuous Night Duties:**

Currently LPs and ALPs are required to work up to four consecutive night shifts. This disrupts the natural circadian rhythms resulting in heightened stress levels and compromised safety standards.

The recent train accident on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024, in Ambala , Punjab was partly due to the fact that the LP and ALP were both doing more than two consecutive night



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duties.

Hence AILRSA is demanding that there should be no more than 2 consecutive night duties.

## **( D ) Prolonged Absences from Headquarters:**

Extended periods spent away from their families increase the physical and emotional strain on locomotive running staff, adversely affecting their overall health and morale and also preventing them from fulfilling their family and social commitments. On arrival at HQ after a 72 hours absence from family, loco running staff often receive only 16 hrs of rest before resuming duties for another 72-hour cycle.

It is because of the above reasons that AILRSA gave notice to the General Manager, Southern Railway, that effective from 01.06.2024, the LPs and ALPs will no longer consent to working more than 10 hours consecutively. They also reaffirmed their intent to avail 46 hours of weekly rest, limit consecutive night shifts to two, and ensure timely return to headquarters after 48 hours at outstations.

Instead of addressing the legitimate demands raised by the loco running staff, Southern Railway has resorted to vicious and repressive measures such as issuing 300 charge sheets, suspending 20 workers and transferring 14 loco running staff to remote places.

KEC fully supports the just demands of the LPs and ALPs and the agitation being waged by AILRSA in support of these demands. KEC condemns the repressive measures being adopted by the Railway authorities calls on them Railway authorities to address the genuine grievances of the Loco running staff.

**Dr. A. Mathew**  
**Secretary**