

Dr. JOHN BRITTAS
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
(RAJYA SABHA)



Member :

- **Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology**
- **Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**
- **Committee on Information and Communication Technology Management in Rajya Sabha**

MPRS/08/1438/2024

29.08.2024

Shri R N Singh
General Manager
Southern Railway

Dear Shri R N Singh,

Sub: Southern Railway - Protest by All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA) - retaliatory actions - repatriation of transferred staff and withdrawal of disciplinary actions - reg:

I trust this letter finds you well.

I am writing to bring to your attention the pressing concerns regarding the transfers and disciplinary actions taken against the loco running staff of Southern Railway who participated in the recent agitation by the All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA). The AILRSA commenced their protest on June 1, 2024, following a formal notice issued to you on May 15, 2024. The agitation was driven by legitimate grievances over excessive duty hours, inadequate rest periods, and continuous night shifts, among other issues. Their protest included the exercise of statutory rights to periodic rest without disrupting train services.

During the protest, I had the opportunity to speak with you over the phone, and I greatly appreciate the positive and understanding response you extended. Additionally, I, along with several other Members of Parliament, met with the Hon'ble Union Minister of Railways to discuss the issues at hand. These discussions were aimed to find a fair and amicable resolution to the concerns raised by the loco running staff. In these discussions, there was a clear and positive commitment to addressing the grievances of the loco running staff and ceasing all punitive measures. This assurance led to the temporary suspension of the agitation on June 28, 2024, with the expectation of a fair resolution.

However, it has come to my attention that the subsequent response from the Railway authorities has not fully aligned with the assurances provided. Contrary to the assurances, retaliatory actions continue unabated. The transfers effected during the protest have not yet been reversed, causing undue hardship to the affected staff and their families. The transfers have imposed significant personal and logistical challenges, including difficulties in relocating families and transferring children to new schools. Many are facing issues in moving their families, including elderly and ailing parents, on short notice. Additionally, punitive measures, including a one-stage reduction in pay for 36 months, were imposed on several loco running staff during the protest and have yet to be cancelled as per the assurances.

Dr. JOHN BRITTAS
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
(RAJYA SABHA)



Member :

- **Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology**
- **Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**
- **Committee on Information and Communication Technology Management in Rajya Sabha**

It has also been reported that the Sr. DEE/OP/MAS are still continuing disciplinary proceedings against staff who were issued major penalty charge memos during the protest, by appointing enquiry officers to handle these cases. Furthermore, the marking of Periodical Rest days taken during the protest as 'Absent' has resulted in salary deductions, causing additional financial strain on the affected employees. These actions stand in stark contrast to the spirit of the assurances provided.

As such, in light of the assurances provided during the discussions and the Hon'ble Minister's commitment to addressing these issues, I urge you to issue urgent instructions to all authorities concerned to take expeditious actions on the following:

1. Repatriate the transferred staff to their original depots.
2. Rescind the punitive measures, including pay reductions, charge sheets and disciplinary actions, to ensure fair treatment of the staff involved.
3. Regularize the Periodical Rest days taken during the protest that have been marked as 'Absent', to prevent any financial loss to the employees.

Your prompt and compassionate action on these matters will greatly contribute to restoring trust and maintaining a harmonious work environment within Southern Railway. The safety, efficiency, and overall morale of our railway operations are deeply intertwined with the well-being of our locomotive running staff. It is imperative that their concerns are addressed with the seriousness and urgency they warrant by adhering to the spirit of the assurances made.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critical issue.

With Warm Regards,

John Brittas

Copy to: *Divisional Railway Managers
Chennai/Tiruchirappalli/Madurai/Palakkad/Salem/Thiruvananthapuram Divisions*