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All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF)

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No. AIRF/ 78

Dated: November 11th, 2024

The Director General (HR),
Railway Board,
New Delhi.

Sub:-Urgent Need for a Comprehensive Review of Trackmen Working Conditions on Indian Railways - Manifold Increase in Assets and Multi-Tracking of Existing Network

Dear Sir,

All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF) wishes to bring to your kind notice the profound dissatisfaction among the Trackmen workforce regarding their challenging working conditions in light of the unprecedented expansion in track kilometers and the extensive multi-tracking of the existing network over recent years. This rapid growth has disproportionately impacted Trackmen, the backbone of railway operations, who have had to bear the brunt of these changes. The increase in multiple tracks and the acceleration of both freight and passenger trains have not only intensified their workload but have, regrettably, led to a number of fatal accidents.

At a time when Indian Railways is progressing with a mission-oriented development strategy, the Trackmen category remains bound by outdated and inadequate policies and practices/procedures. Their current operational framework requires a comprehensive reassessment, which must account not only for recent advancements, but also anticipate future developments on Indian Railways.

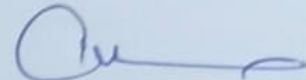
It is well-documented that Trackmen endure extended working hours, frequently exceeding 12 hours on the tracks. Factoring in travel to and from their work locations often means that their workday extends to over 14 hours, six days a week, leaving little time for personal and family commitments. As Indian Railways embraces modernization, it is imperative that Trackmen are included in these forward-looking initiatives, ensuring their integration into next-generation planning.

Given the arduous and physically demanding nature of their work, it is essential for the administration to adopt a compassionate approach toward this vital workforce. AIRF, therefore, strongly advocates the establishment of a high-level committee at the apex level, including active Federation representation, to conduct an in-depth review of Trackmen's working conditions and to introduce necessary reforms. Such an initiative would undoubtedly result in improved performance and job satisfaction among these frontline employees, who play an indispensable role in ensuring the safe and uninterrupted movement of trains 24/7, 365 days a year.

In light of these pressing concerns, AIRF respectfully urges you to undertake a comprehensive re-evaluation of the working conditions of Trackmen and to accelerate the formation of a high-level committee dedicated to their welfare and long-term interests. We also request that this process include a constructive dialogue with AIRF to ensure a thorough and balanced examination of the challenges faced by this vital workforce.

Prompt action on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



(Shiva Gopal Mishra)
General Secretary

Copy to:- PED/IR, Railway Board, New Delhi – for necessary action.
Copy to:- General Secretaries /All Affiliated Unions – for information.