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All India Railwaymen's Federation  
(AIRF)

# All India Railwaymen's Federation

Estd.-1924

No.AIRF/60

4, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055 (INDIA) Date: January 10, 2025

Hon'ble Minister for Railways,  
Ministry of Railways,  
Rail Bhawan,  
New Delhi

Respected Sir,

**Sub: Consideration of important issues of the Staff Side in the upcoming Budget 2025-2026**

Your good self is well aware that Railwaymen have been exerting day in & day out to contribute in the National Development by Transporting passenger and goods from one part to other part of the country across the length and breadth of India. Naturally, they have high hopes and some genuine expectations from the upcoming budget where in railway budget stands subsumed. we have fervent hope that the under noted major issues shall be taken care off in the upcoming union budget for the year 2025-2026.

## 1. Capacity Augmentation – Railways

Special enhanced budget should be provided for the Railways to meet with capacity augmentation. Many stations require upgradation, introduction of additional lines for smooth operation and increasing speed of trains.

**KAVACH** needs to be implemented PAN Indian Railway sin phases to ensure enhanced safety.

Passenger amenities at the Platforms, Retiring Rooms, Complex at the Main Stations need to be developed, keeping in view increase in number of passengers and their satisfaction.

Training facilities for the staff need to be augmented by having Institutes fully equipped to meet with the changing technology and keep pace with future researches and transformations.

## 2. Increase in per capita contribution in Staff Benefit Fund over Indian Railways.

Annual grant of Rs.800/- per capita is being provided by the Indian Railways, when it was lastly enhanced w.e.f 01-04-2014 that is more than 10 years back. No revision/increase has taken place during the last 11 years. It may be appreciated that, remarkable market inflation has taken place over the year, with the result that, actual value of Rs.800 has substantially eroded, meaning thereby that, this fund allocation is insufficient to meet out the expenditure under different heads of the Staff Welfare Scheme.

We would, therefore, urge upon your goodself to substantially improve and increase per capita contribution, under Staff Benefit Fund, in the upcoming Union Budget 2025-26, at least from Rs.800 to Rs.1200 per capita.

### **3. Medical facilities in the Railways**

Although, Indian Railways are having quite robust in-house medical infrastructure, however, the same needs to be upgraded and augmented for specialized treatment. Also in the absence of specialized treatment facility in most of the Railway Hospitals, railway beneficiaries are often referred to Empanelled Private/Corporate Hospitals for specialized treatment, due to which, not only huge amount is incurred on the treatment, but also railway beneficiaries are subjected to lots of problems.

It is, therefore, requested that, special allocation of the funds be made for upgrading existing Railway Hospitals so as to facilitate specialized treatment as also provision of the Robotic Surgery needs to be made in the Zonal Railway Hospitals, and also facility of Physiotherapy in the Divisional/Sub-Divisional Railway Hospitals over the Indian Railways. It is further submitted that, although Ministry of Railways, in PNM Forum, have assured to provide **Mobile Medical Vans** in each and every Division over the Indian Railways to cater the healthcare of the staff and their family members at the roadside stations away from the Railway Health Units/Hospitals. However, there is no visible progress on this issue, as such we would request to allocate adequate funds for provision of **Mobile Medical Vans**, at least one in each Division over the Indian Railways.

### **4. Basic Amenities on Jammu & Kashmir Rail Link**

Prestigious Rail Link between Katra and Srinagar-Baramulla is going to be made operational very shortly. This would definitely require deployment of essential manpower on this new Railway Section.

Keeping in view tough terrain and peculiar situation of the area, basic facilities, that include, Railway Quarters, Medical Facilities, Water and Electricity and Education Facilities etc., need to be provided, for which required budget allocation is solicited.

### **5. Exemption of KMA(payable to Loco & Traffic Running Staff) from the Income Tax**

The Running Staff (both Loco & Traffic) are entitled for **Kilometerage Allowance(KMA)** while performing duties. Kilometerage Allowance includes 70% of T.A./D.A. element. It is pertinent to mention here that, TA/DA is totally exempted from deduction of the Income Tax thereon on 70% of T.A./D.A. included therein, but this demand is not being acceded to despite persistent persuasion by the Staff Side.



It is, therefore, requested that this significant aspect may be considered in the upcoming Union Budget.

#### 6. Filling-up of vacancies


Your goodself is well aware that; there are more than **one lakh vacancies** in Level 1 in Safety Categories, and accordingly General Managers of the Indian Railways had placed their indents for approval of the Railway Board. It is quite unfortunate that, Railway Board had drastically reduced the number to **thirty two thousands**, which is totally insufficient, and the vacancies in such a large-number will endanger Railway Safety.

**ITI or Act Apprentices qualification**, required for Technical Cadre in Level-1, had also been removed, which will harm the quality of work as well as Rail Safety.

AIRF, therefore, desires that, all the vacancies in Level-1, which are about **one lakh**, should be filled immediately and ITI/Act Apprentices qualification be restored for Technical Cadre.

We sincerely hope that the above submission of **AIRF** shall receive favourable consideration.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Shiva Gopal Mishra)  
General Secretary

- √Copy to: **CRB & CEO**, Railway Board – For necessary action please.
- √Copy to: **Member(Finance)**, Railway Board – For necessary action please.
- √Copy to: **D.G.(H.R.)**, Railway Board – For necessary action please.
- √Copy to: **P.E.D.(I.R.)**, Railway Board – For necessary action please.
- √Copy to: General Secretaries, All Affiliated Unions – For information.