

Dr. JOHN BRITTAS
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
(RAJYA SABHA)

LEADER
CPI(M) Group in Rajya Sabha



Member :

- Committee on Public Undertakings
- Standing Committee on External Affairs
- Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

MPRS/01/1751/2026

08.01.2026

Shri R N Singh
General Manager
Southern Railway

Dear Shri R N Singh Ji,

Sub: Southern Railway – Palakkad Division - Protest by All India Loco Running Staff Association - retaliatory actions - repatriation of transferred staff - reg:
Ref: My letter No. MP RS/08/1438/2024 dated 29.08.2024 sent to that office

Attention is invited to the captioned subject and reference cited above.

I write this letter in continuation of my earlier communication dated 29.08.2024, referred to above, on issues emanating from the agitation by the All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA), as also in reference to your interim reply acknowledging receipt thereof, wherein it was indicated that the matter had been referred to the concerned departments for examination and that a detailed reply would follow in due course. While such a detailed response is yet to be received, it is learnt that all major penalty proceedings connected with the said agitation have since been withdrawn across the divisions of Southern Railway, including the repatriation of transferred staff, a constructive step which merits appreciation and which has undoubtedly contributed to the restoration of institutional trust and the strengthening of employee morale.

However, it is represented that certain residual elements of punitive treatment continue to persist in Palakkad Division, manifested in the indefinite deferment of the repatriation of twelve mail loco pilots who were transferred during the said agitation, ostensibly on “administrative grounds.” The prolonged continuation of these transfers, notwithstanding the larger corrective approach adopted elsewhere, has understandably given rise to a perception of avoidable hardship and inequitable treatment. A copy of the representation submitted by the AILRSA in this regard, containing the particulars of the said twelve employees, is enclosed herewith for information and ready reference.

I am further given to understand that there are presently adequate vacancies in Palakkad Division to accommodate their repatriation. In this context, it has been apprised that nearly 14 goods train loco pilots are reportedly being deployed to operate mail trains in Palakkad Division, which would prima facie indicate availability of operational margin. Even so, the said 12 employees are yet to be repatriated. They continue to remain posted at distant stations, and their normal requests for repatriation to their previous stations are stated to be pending without resolution.

The continued non-processing of their repatriation requests, despite apparent availability of vacancies, has led to a perception among the staff that the delay may be vindictive and linked to their participation in the earlier AILRSA agitation. I am constrained to place on record that such an impression, whether intended or not, risks eroding confidence in the fairness and neutrality of administrative decision-making. It is also relevant to note that, in other divisions of Southern

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Railway, issues arising out of the same agitation were reportedly addressed through corrective steps, including the repatriation of transferred staff. The persistence of a divergent approach in Palakkad Division continues to generate avoidable resentment and hardship, with consequential impact on morale in a safety-sensitive cadre.

In these circumstances, I urge you to issue urgent instructions to the Palakkad Division to review expeditiously the cases of the said twelve staff transferred on purported administrative grounds and to repatriate them to their previous stations at the earliest. Your prompt and compassionate intervention in this matter will greatly contribute to restoring trust and maintaining a harmonious work environment. The safety, efficiency, and overall morale of our railway operations are intrinsically linked to the well-being of our locomotive running staff, and it is imperative that their concerns are addressed with the seriousness and urgency they warrant, in consonance with the spirit of the assurances earlier conveyed.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critical issue.

With warm regards,

John Brittas

Encl : Representation submitted by AILRSA, Palakkad Division

Copy to : Divisional Railway Manager, Palakkad Division