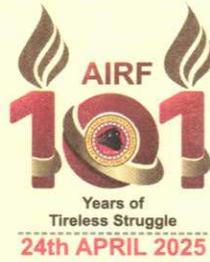


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No. AIRF/ 159 & No. AIRF/340

Dated: 30.01.2026

The Chairman & CEO,
Railway Board,
Rail Bhawan,
New Delhi.

Sub: Surrendering/ Rationalization of posts in various Railways for the year 2025-26

- Ref: 1. AIRF's L/no. AIRF/340 dt.17.09.2024, 23.12.2024, 22.09.2025, 25.09.2025, 24.10.2025 and 23.12.2025
2. Railway Board's letter no. E (MPP) 2024/AIRF/17 dated 26.08.2025
3. Railway Board letter no. E (MPP)/2025/1/9 dated.16-05-2025.
4. Railway Board letter no. E (MPP)/2025/23/14 dated.24.11-2025 & 16.01.2026

Dear Sir,

Your kind attention is once again invited to the subject cited above and to the repeated and consistent representations submitted by the All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF), wherein the Federation has categorically opposed the policy of surrendering and rationalization of posts for the year 2025-26. Despite AIRF placing on record its serious and well-founded concerns regarding the adverse impact of this policy on safety, efficiency, operational reliability and working conditions of railway employees, the core issues raised by the Federation continue to remain unresolved.

2. In response to AIRF's representations, the Railway Board, vide its letter dated 24.11.2025, reiterated that creation and surrender of posts is an ongoing process and that annual manpower rationalization targets comprise both redistribution and surrender of posts. It was further stated that during the financial year 2024-25, while 18,952 posts were redistributed, 2,550 posts were surrendered, constituting 11.8% of the rationalization target.

3. Subsequently, vide Railway Board's letter dated 16.01.2026, issued in response to AIRF's communication dated 23.12.2025, it has been stated that surrendering/rationalization of posts is undertaken to ensure efficient utilization of manpower and that work studies are regularly conducted to review staff requirements across various departments. It has further been emphasized that annual manpower rationalization targets communicated from 2024-25 onwards include both redistribution and surrender of posts for optimal deployment of manpower.

The Railway Board has also cited the example of South-Central Railway (SCR), stating that during FY 2024-25, SCR surrendered only 16 posts (0.017% of its sanctioned strength of 91,960 as on 01.04.2024) and redistributed 384 posts against an annual target of 1,839 posts. It has further been stated that the sanctioned strength of SCR increased from 91,960 (as on 01.04.2024) to 93,278 (as on 01.04.2025), reflecting an increase of 1,318 posts (1.43%). The procedure for creation of posts, including scrutiny by the E(MPP) Directorate and concurrence of Finance and competent authority, has also been outlined.

In view of the foregoing, AIRF once again strongly and unequivocally demands that the Railway Board:

- (a) Immediately withdraw Railway Board's letter dated 16.05.2025 prescribing surrender targets for the year 2025-26.
- (b) Convene an urgent meeting with AIRF to comprehensively deliberate on manpower requirements, acute staff shortages, non-filling of vacancies and the necessity of realistic post creation in line with expanding assets and workload.
- (c) Institutionalize a structured consultative mechanism to ensure that all future decisions relating to manpower planning, rationalization or surrender of posts are finalized only after meaningful discussions with recognized Federations.

AIRF firmly believes that safety, efficiency and long-term sustainability of Indian Railways cannot be ensured through indiscriminate surrender of posts while vacancies remain unfilled. A balanced, humane and forward-looking manpower policy alone can enable Indian Railways to continue serving the nation with distinction.

We trust that the Railway Board will appreciate the seriousness and urgency of the matter and initiate immediate corrective measures. An early and positive response is earnestly awaited.

Yours sincerely,

(Shiva Gopal Mishra)
General Secretary

Copy to: General Secretaries, All Affiliated Unions of AIRF- For information.