

23/03/2026

To,

The General Manager

Central Railway,

CSMT, Mumbai 400001

Sub: A Joint application by 72 Loco-pilot mail for Voluntary Retirement from Railway service, submitted to DRM, Central Railway Mumbai division

Reference: Letter dated 16th February 2026 on the above subject

Respected Sir,

The joint application for voluntary retirement from railway service by 72 Loco Pilots of Mumbai Division is a very serious development and highlights the extremely stressful conditions in which Loco pilots have to work. This has forced them to take this extreme step.

Their letter points out that even some very basic facilities like good quality hygienic food, clean properly maintained running rooms with essential amenities are not available for the Loco-pilots. They have to wait for hours together to get an empty cot to lie down and due to all this, they are unable to get proper rest and recovery to be ready for the next strenuous duty cycle.

Their letter points out that approaches to the lobby, trip shade and running rooms do not have proper walkable pathways. In many places lighting on those pathways are miserable and even absent in many cases. This pathetic situation exposes Loco-pilots to serious safety risks especially during night hours and during adverse weather conditions.

Their letter also points out that there is a lot of avoidable and unjustified interference by administration in the day to day work of Loco-pilots.

There is an extreme shortage of Loco Pilots and Assistant Loco Pilots and this increases the burden on the remaining staff to unbearable levels.

As the letter points out, all the above is causing an extremely adverse impact on health and family life of the Loco-pilots. This desperate situation has pushed the 72 Loco-pilots to take the extreme step of applying for Voluntary retirement from Railway.

In today's situation, with continuously increasing cost of living, continuously increasing unemployment and extreme shortage of jobs which offer secure permanent employment, 72 Loco-pilots offering to resign from a prestigious job in Indian Railways, in itself indicates how desperate they and their families must be.

Loco-pilots are part of the safety category of the Indian railways. The safety category is one of the backbones of operating staff of Indian Railways. If their safety and concentration while on duty is ignored, then it is tantamount to ignoring safety of lakhs of other railway workers and crores of passengers who travel daily by Indian Railways.

Indian Railways is the property created and built by Indian people and hence to ensure its safe operation is the responsibility not only of Railway workers but first and foremost the responsibility of Railway Ministry of Government of India.

We ask your good self to take urgent steps to redress the grievances highlighted by the loco pilots in the interest of the safe and humane working conditions of the loco pilots as well as in the interest of the crores of travelling passengers.

We would also like to remind you that the other safety category operating and running staff such as Train Controllers, Train Managers, Station Masters, Signal and Telecommunications staff, Pointsmen and Track Maintainers are also facing severe working conditions. The primary reason among others is the extreme shortage of staff in all the safety categories and this causes severe workload and stress on the existing staff.

To overcome this shortage, the Railway Board, instead of recruiting the required number of personnel is adopting the path of hiring staff on contract basis, as in the case of Signal and Telecommunications Department (Railway Board Circular No./Sig/17-SigEquip/Maintenance-Part(1) dated 06.05.2025) and Pointsmen (Railway Board letter No. E(Eng)II2021/RC-4/1 dated 10/12/2025 (RBE 123/2025).

The employment of staff on contract basis in safety departments is highly hazardous and completely unsafe for the train movements as well as for the passengers as it can cause serious accidents.

On September 5th 2025, all the safety category staff associations had submitted a joint memorandum to the Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board, demanding the withdrawal of the circular regarding employment of contract staff and that all the vacancies in all the safety categories be filled.

We are attaching the copy of this joint memorandum along with this letter.

At the same time we have many times represented to your good office as well as Divisional Railway Managers of the different divisions of Central Railways the various grievances being faced by Train Controllers, Train Managers, Station Masters, Signal and Telecommunications staff, Pointsmen and Track Maintainers in Central Railway.

We have also written many times to the Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board regarding the various issues being faced by the safety category employees.

Considering all the above we demand that your good office should ensure that :

- 1) All the issues raised in the Loco-pilots letter be resolved on an extremely urgent basis.
- 2) The Vacancies of Loco Pilots, Train Controllers, Train Managers, Station Masters, Signal and Telecommunications staff, Pointsmen and Track Maintainers in Central Railway be filled on an urgent basis.

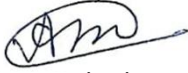
Awaiting your favourable response,

AJAY
SINGH
Ajay Singh,
Secretary General,
All India Train Controllers Association

Digitally signed
by AJAY SINGH
Date: 2026.03.05
13:40:13 +05'30'



S.C.Purohit,
Secretary General,
All India Station Masters Association



A.C Prakash,
General Secretary,
Indian Railway S&T Maintainers Union



Manoj K. Goswami,
General Secretary,
All Ind's Pointsmen Association



Chand Mohammed,
President,
Central Railway Track Maintainers Union



Dr. A. Mathew,
Secretary,
Kangar Ekta Committee