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All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF)

All India Railwaymen's Federation

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No. AIRF/ (24.c) (246)

Dated 12.06.2026

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

Sub: Introduction of Five-Day Working System in Railway Production Units and Workshops – Reg.

Dear Sir,

The All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF) seeks to invite the kind attention of the Railway Board towards a matter of considerable administrative, economic and national importance, viz. the introduction of a five-day working system in Railway Production Units and Workshops.

The Federation has, on several occasions, represented before the Railway Administration for a review of the existing working pattern in Workshops and Production Units, where employees continue to work under a six-day schedule with half-day working on Saturdays. In the changed socio-economic and technological environment, the continuance of this decades-old arrangement calls for a fresh examination from the perspectives of efficiency, resource optimization, energy conservation and employee well-being.

It is pertinent to mention that a large number of Railway offices, establishments and Central Government organizations are already functioning under a five-day working system with proven administrative effectiveness. The experience gained from such establishments has demonstrated that reduction in the number of working days does not adversely affect productivity when working hours are appropriately regulated and operational planning is streamlined.

The Federation is of the considered view that the existing practice of half-day working on Saturdays neither serves any substantial operational purpose nor contributes meaningfully towards productivity. On the contrary, it necessitates the operation of machinery, lighting systems, transportation arrangements, water supply installations and other supporting infrastructure for limited working hours, resulting in avoidable expenditure on electricity, fuel and other resources.

In this regard, attention is invited to the vision articulated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his address to the Nation, emphasizing the need for energy conservation, efficient utilization of resources and adoption of measures that contribute to national development. Similar concerns have also been expressed at various levels of Government regarding the need to minimize avoidable consumption of energy and fuel in view of the prevailing global uncertainties and their impact on national economic resources.

Keeping in view these national priorities, AIRF proposes that the present system may be rationalized by declaring the 1st and 3rd Saturdays as holidays and converting the existing half-day working on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays into full working days. This arrangement would effectively result in a five-day working pattern while ensuring that overall productivity and output remain unaffected.

The proposed system is expected to yield multiple benefits, including:

- Significant reduction in consumption of electricity, fuel, water and other utilities.
- Lower operational expenditure on transportation, lighting, machinery and allied services.
- Improved utilization of resources in line with the Government's policy of energy conservation.
- Availability of uninterrupted time for preventive maintenance, overhauling, inspection and upkeep of plant and machinery during weekly closures.
- Enhancement in operational safety, reliability and efficiency through better maintenance planning.
- Improved work-life balance, employee morale and overall productivity of the workforce.
- Alignment of Production Units and Workshops with modern administrative practices already adopted across several Government establishments.

The Federation firmly believes that the proposed measure would not only result in substantial savings for Indian Railways but would also contribute towards the larger national objective of prudent resource management and energy conservation. At a time when every institution is expected to optimize expenditure and utilize resources judiciously, the introduction of a five-day working system in Production Units and Workshops deserves serious and sympathetic consideration.

AIRF, therefore, earnestly requests the Railway Board to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing working pattern and take an early decision for implementation of a five-day working system in Railway Production Units and Workshops by suitably restructuring the Saturday working arrangements.

As the proposal has far-reaching implications for energy conservation, reduction in operational expenditure, improvement in maintenance practices and enhancement of employee welfare, the matter merits your personal attention and favourable consideration.

An early and positive decision in the interest of Indian Railways, its workforce and the nation shall be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,


(Shiva Gopal Mishra)
General Secretary

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