



National Federation of Indian Railwaymen

3, CHELMSFORD ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110 055

Affiliated to :

**Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC)
International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)**

No. II/34/2018-Part I

Dated: 27/09/2018

Shri Piyush Goyal,
Hon'ble Minister of Railways,
Rail Bhavan,
New Delhi

Respected Sir,

Sub: Termination of the LARSGESS Scheme in view of directions of Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana and the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in SLP (C) No. 508/2018 dated 08/01/2018-reg.

Ref: Railway Board's letter No. E(P&A)I-2015/RT-43 dated 26/09/2018 (RBE No. 150/2018).

At the outset, NFIR expresses its disappointment over Railway Board's decision (letter No. E(P&A)I-2015/RT-43 dated 26/09/2018 - RBE No. 150/2018) terminating the LARSGESS w.e.f. 27/10/2017 without proper consultations with the Federations. The abrupt decision of the Railway Board has generated deep sense of frustration and resentment among safety category employees (Track Maintainers, Loco Pilots etc.). NFIR has also sent a letter to Hon'ble MR vide dated 11/09/2018 with request to direct the Railway Board to keep the Scheme going, in larger public interest to ensure public safety and safety of staff performing critical duties for ensuring safe and efficient running of trains. NFIR desires to remind the Hon'ble MR of his assurance on 04th April, 2018 and his advice to the Railway Board to take steps for arriving at a conscious decision for continuing the Scheme. But shockingly, the Railway Board decided to terminate the Scheme. In this context, NFIR further brings to the kind notice of Hon'ble MR, the following facts relating to formulation of Scheme called "Safety Related Retirement Scheme" (SRRS) and later on improved the same as "LARSGESS":-

- In the wake of series of accidents of various types and deterioration of safety standards, then Railway Minister had ordered the Railway Board to hold National Seminar on Safety in association with the Federations and with the active participation of delegates belonging to safety categories from all Zones. Accordingly, National Seminar was held at Rail Museum, New Delhi on 12th & 13th July, 2003. Pursuant to deliberations in the National Seminar (for two days), it was concluded that Safety Related Retirement Scheme (SRRS) should be introduced and accordingly announcement was made by Hon'ble MR, consequently "SRRS" was brought into force on 2nd January 2004. Keeping in mind the safety aspects and the need to ensure qualitative performance by safety category employees, the SRRS was improved further with the title 'LARSGESS' with effect from 11th September 2010. Thereafter, in the year 2014 a few more categories have been brought under the Scheme.
- The entire exercise right from July 2003 to 2014 was done by the Railway Board duly ensuring repeated consultations with the Federations and decisions were also taken with the consent of Federations.

Contd. Page ...2

//2//

In the wake of Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 08th January, 2018, empowering Railway Ministry to take conscious decision, the Railway Board should have held consultations with the Federations for the purpose of arriving at "conscious decision", keeping in mind the larger public interest. Unfortunately, no formal discussions/meetings have taken place, while NFIR has been repeatedly pleading at the level of Hon'ble MR and CRB, through letters and discussions, number of times to see that Scheme is continued and selected wards of safety staff are also appointed. However, the decision of the Railway Board vide dated 26/09/2018 is not only arbitrary/one sided but also conveyed message among employees in general and safety category staff in particular that the Board has not taken due care about the hard and critical working conditions of the safety category staff and the purpose with which the SRRS was conceptualized in January, 2004. Without mincing words, NFIR wants to convey that large sections of safety category staff are unhappy and demoralized on account of Board's instructions vide RBE No. 150/2018 dated 26/09/2018. NFIR wants to further add that efficiency parameters and safety standards would be adversely affected due to this development as the safety category staff are restive, unhappy and mentally agitated.

I met Chairman Railway Board on 25th September, 2018 and specially urged upon him to see that Railway Board takes all factors into consideration for arriving at "conscious decision" for the continuance of Scheme in consultation with the Federations.

This communication is being sent to the Hon'ble MR with fond hope that Hon'ble MR would direct the Railway Board to withdraw its instructions dated 26/09/2018 and take steps to revisit the Scheme in consultation with the Federations for arriving at "conscious decision" in the overall interest of the Railways and the nation. NFIR further mentions that the Hon'ble Supreme Court gave enough liberty to the Railway Ministry to revisit the Scheme and take conscious decision and the Apex Court never directed to scrap the Scheme. Unfortunately, the policy decision taken on 2nd January, 2004 and further modified on 11th September, 2010 with the involvement of Federations has now been bulldogged, resulting staff unrest.

NFIR, therefore, solicits kind intervention of Hon'ble MR and requests to direct the Railway Board to appoint those wards of safety staff who are selected as on 27/10/2017. NFIR also requests that a special meeting at the level of Hon'ble MR or at the level of CRB be convened very soon and pending meeting, the Board's order dated 26/09/2018 may be held in abeyance.

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. M. Raghavaiah)
General Secretary

Copy to the Chairman, Railway Board, New Delhi for information and necessary action please.

Copy to the Member Staff, Railway Board, New Delhi for information and necessary action please.

Copy to the Director General (Personnel), Railway Board, New Delhi for information and necessary action please.

Copy to the Additional Member (Staff), Railway Board, New Delhi for information and necessary action please.

Copy to the Executive Director/PC-I, Railway Board, DFCC Building, Pragati Maidan, Metro Bhavan New Delhi for information and necessary action please.

Copy to the Executive Director (IR), Railway Board, New Delhi for information and necessary action please.

Copy to the General Secretaries of Zonal Unions of NFIR.

Media Centre/NFIR.