



FEDERATION OF RAILWAY OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS

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New Delhi,
Dated: 15-09-2013

The Chairman,
Railway Board,
Ministry of Railways.

Sub: Policy on Posting and Transfer and criteria for posting as DRM.
Ref: Railway Board Letter no. 2013/E(GR)II/12/3, dated: 06-09-2013.

The Railway Board vide letter referred above has sought the opinion of the FROA on following three issues:

- (a) Maximum stay at one station
- (b) Posting of Officers in Eastern Region
- (c) Criteria for posting as DRM

It is rather surprising that the Board has not sought the opinion of the FROA on another important matter under consideration at the Board level, viz. extension of the cut-off age of 52 years for empanelment for DRM. This is yet another example of non-transparent functioning of the Board in matters pertaining to empanelment and promotions of Group A Officers.

However, the opinion of FROA as sought on the three issues is given below. The fourth issues of extending the age for posting as DRM is being addressed through a separate letter.

(a) Maximum stay at one station

This is an existing policy of the Railway Board (Ministry of Railways). It is not understood why FROA's endorsement is required to follow the same. In fact the Board may like to examine why the same was not followed so far. Such policy, if implemented in the future, should be applied in a fair and transparent manner. It would be advisable to list out the "popular" stations so that transparency is established. Cooling off period of three years may also be counted as summation of broken spells over the time span of 13 years (10+3). Also, it would be further advisable to lay down the procedure by which exceptions would be handled, such as the Approval of MR for SAG and MOSR for lower grades etc.

(b) Posting of Officers in Eastern Region


This too is an existing policy of the Railways and FROA's assent is not required in following the same. The Board may again like to examine why this policy was not followed so far. Now that the Board intends to follow this policy and since the same was forgotten so far, it

should be ensured that the career progression of officers is not affected for at least next ten years. In other words, the policy should be widely announced and then a time period of ten years be spelt out during which all such officers, who wish to fulfill this criteria, can opt for an Eastern region posting. Such requests should then be acceded to within this time span of ten years. Again, it would be further advisable to lay down the procedure by which exceptions would be handled.

(c) Criteria for posting as DRM

This issue was discussed in the meeting of FROA with the Board on 20-06-2013 and 01-07-2013. FROA had strongly objected to such change of criteria in a sudden and retrospective manner. Please call for minutes of the meeting or the audio recording of the meeting. FROA strongly objects to any such change, which puts certain cadres at a disadvantage vis-à-vis others and also penalizes officers for something on which they have no control. In case Board wants the opinion of FROA after a wider consultation with officers, the same can be provided in good time. An extraordinary GBM of the FROA could have been called for this purpose, but given the Board's propensity to silence the voice of the FROA, a postal route will be adopted to seek wider consultation, which may take considerable time. Please refer to Board's letter no. 2010/E(GR)II/12/2, dated: 20-05-2013 in this connection. Meanwhile, Board is requested to refrain from such wanton change in rules in complete disregard for the aspirations and ambitions of Group A Officers.

Yours faithfully,


15/9/13
(Shubhranshu)

Hony. Secretary General

cc: Hon'ble MR, Hon'ble MOSR(A), Hon'ble MOSR(K): for kind intervention please.

cc: ME, ML, MM, MS, MT, FC: for kind information please.

cc: Secretary, Railway Board