

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No.96-E(SCT)I/22/15

New Delhi, dated 3.6.1998

The General Managers,
All Zonal Railways and Production Units

The Director General, RDSO, Lucknow.

CAO, DCT, Patiala

OSDs/All New Zones.

Sub: Zonal/Divisional Committees of
All India SC/ST Railway Employees
Association.

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Representations have been received from time to time from the various MPs & other VIPs besides the public representatives of prominence about the working and functioning of Zonal/Divisional bodies of All India SC/ST Association. References have also been received from the various Zonal Railways and PUs in this regard. To ensure smooth functioning of the SC/ST Association at the Zonal and Divisional level, the undernoted guidelines may be observed.

2. As per amended bye-laws of the Association of 1975, the election of the Association shall be performed democratically for which due notice would be given well in advance. Keeping in view the spirit of these provisions and principle of equity and justice the advance notice will mean, the notice issued three weeks in advance from the date of holding the election. Simultaneously alongwith the notice, the list of the members will also be notified for the information

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of all. These notices will be displayed prominently at the public places so that members of the Association come to know the date and programme of the election.

The notice will contain the following details :-

- (i) Name of the Election Officer
- (ii) Date and Scheduled timings of filing the nomination
- (iii) Date and Scheduled timings of raising the objections
- (iv) Date of finalisation of the objections
- (v) Last Date and scheduled time of the withdrawal of nomination
- (vi) Display of the list of contestants if more than one are there for a particular post.
- (vii) Date of the polling and timings of Polling
- (viii) Date of counting of votes and declaring the result.

3. An impartial and fair person will be nominated as an Election Officer, who enjoys the confidence of all, by the outgoing office bearers of the Association so that the Election may be conducted democratically in most fair and just manner free from any controversy and allegation/counter allegation. The elections will be conducted at Divisional Headquarters for Divisional bodies and Zonal bodies at Zonal Headquarters.

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4. All who are the members of the Association will be allowed to participate in the process of election and cast their votes. They will not be artificially debarred by any of the faction just to disallow them from participating in the election.

5. If the elections are held by above process the list of the elected office bearers will be circulated by the administration and they will be allowed the facilities extended to the association from time to time. None of office bearer could claim as a matter of right that Railway Administration must circulate whatever list submitted by them.

6. The association will be duty-bound to keep apprise the administration about the above process of election so that the administration may be in a position to take a decision in regard of claims/counter claims if any made in this regards.

7. It may be possible that in number of Divisions/ Zonal Railways old Committees may be functioning though their tenure may have expired.

8. Since the Central Executive Committee of the Association is divided into three factions and their disputes are pending in the number of Courts/Hon'ble High Courts, therefore, no cognizance should be given of any communication sent by the office bearers of the self styled so called Central Executive Committees by the Zonal administration.

9. Hon'ble Madras High Court observed vide paras 6 & 9 respectively as under in its decision dated 22.4.97 while dismissing the Writ Petitions Nos. 11513, 12504 & 16377 of 1996.

10. "6. In the absence of any legal duty no fault can be found with the Railways, if the Railways had decided on account of the rival claims made before it, not to circulate the names of any alleged office bearers."

"9. It is regrettable that instead of advancing the cause of its members, persons who are supposed to represent and speak for the ordinary member have been fighting among themselves for the title to the elective office to the detriment of the welfare of the ordinary members of the association."

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10. These guidelines will curb the tendency of factionalism prevailing in the Association as well as a small coterie who holds the election by convening very small number of members of Association and thereby claiming to be the representative body of this whole of the SC/ST category.

11. The above guidelines are only self imposed discipline proposed to be adopted by the Association if they want that Railway administration may help them in reviving their proper functioning. Therefore, they may be advised to follow these self imposed code of conduct/guidelines contained in this letter.

It is hoped that these guidelines will be positive assistance to achieve the object which has been brought out in the foregoing paras very clearly.

(Ram Prakash)
Exe. Director Estt. (Res.)
Railway Board.

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