



FEDERATION OF RAILWAY OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS

President

RAJIV CHAUDHRY

MTNL : 23386334

Chairman

Railway Board

New Delhi

Secretary General

P.K. SINHA

MTNL : 23382320

Sub. : Accommodation of Railway officers during travel on duty

Dear Sir,

1. Railway officers have to undertake frequent travel on duty for safety inspections, supervision and control, project monitoring and to attend meetings at various level and therefore Railway Officers' Rest houses (ORH) constitute a critical amenity in Railway establishments. However, conditions of most of the rest houses have remained sub-optimal despite isolated efforts to improve /outsource their upkeep. In many rest houses, even basic facilities of Tea/breakfast is not available. Officers have to arrange Tea, breakfast, lunch and dinner themselves which is not only inconvenient but also leads to wastage of valuable human resource. In some metropolitan cities including Delhi, Railway officers often find it difficult to get an allotment of ORH and hence have to go through enormous inconvenience.
2. 6th Central Pay Commission recommended for accommodation of Central Govt. officers in hotels with prescribed ceiling rates in case of non-availability of departmental guest houses. The same recommendation was implemented across all ministries including Defense forces except Ministry of Railways. 7th CPC has also recommended ceiling based reimbursement of accommodation charges. Although at para 8.15.16 the 7th CPC emphatically recommended that "All the above provisions will apply to Railway personnel also", the same has so far not been implemented by Ministry of Railways.
3. In absence of ORH accommodation or reimbursement of accommodation charges, Railway officers quite often feel a sense of demoralization /humiliation/functional limitations.



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4. Hence FROA demands that :
- i) Railway Board should communicate instructions for immediate improvement of rest houses to provide clean and livable conditions, basic level of hygiene, clean linens and facility of tea, breakfast, lunch and dinner on payment basis with standards at par with Guest houses of PSUs/other Departments.
 - ii) Wherever it is not possible to provide clean livable conditions and tea, breakfast, lunch and dinner on payment basis, those rest houses may be derecognized and taken over by Railways for an alternate productive use.
 - iii) The practice of allotting ORH rooms on sharing basis to Group-A officers must cease.
 - iv) Rest houses in Metropolitan cities should be handed over to PSU's like IRCTC or other professional bodies for maintenance, upkeep and operation through appropriate business models.
 - v) Wherever it is not possible to provide proper rest house accommodation to officers on duty and in places like accident sites, reimbursement of accommodation charges may be provided to Railway officers at par with Central Govt. officers of other departments and in line with the recommendations of successive Pay Commissions.

With regards,

President/FROA

Secretary General FROA