



N F I R

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. IV/NPS/PFRDA BILL/Part I

Dated: 23/12/2015

The General Secretaries of
Affiliated Unions of NFIR

Brother,

Sub: The need for Exempting Railway Employees from New Pension Scheme (NPS) – Meeting with Hon'ble Railway Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu on 23/12/2015-reg.

The Hon'ble Railway Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu met the Federations (NFIR) at 15:45 hrs., today i.e. 23/12/2015 and held discussions on the demand for abolition of New Pension System (NPS) in the Railways. "NFIR President & General Secretary have explained that Railways' working is unique, complex & complicated and cited the observations made by the Justice Khanna, Chairman Railway Safety Review Committee to this effect in his report and urged upon the Railway Minister to meet Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and see that Government gives clearance for exempting Railway employees from "New Pension System". In the meeting, a copy of the letter sent by Railway Minister Shri Suresh Parbhu to Shri Arun Jaitley Finance Minister on 20th November 2015 was also given to the Federation (copy enclosed). Hon'ble Railway Minister has assured to discuss with the Finance Minister in this regard for early approval of the Government.

2. The following other issues were raised by the NFIR, requesting Railway Minister's intervention for ensuring redressal to avoid unrest and agitation in the Railways:-

- Railway Board has failed to place the case of Railway employees in a proper manner before VIIIth CPC and the facts relating to agreements reached with the Federations on the following were not apprised to VIIIth CPC, consequently the Pay Commission has not given positive recommendations.
- Merger of Technician Grade-II with Technician Grade-I in GP 2800/-
- Replacement of GP 4600/- with GP 4800/- (PB-2).
- Allotment of GP 4600/- to Loco Pilot (Mail/Express) and
- In charge supervisory officials and Engineers to be given gazetted status.

NFIR also expressed disappointment over the retrograde recommendations of VIIIth CPC, causing serious disappointment among Railway employees.

NFIR has pointed out that Railway Board is indifferent towards the demand for engagement of Course Completed Act Apprentices against safety vacancies and in this regard the Federation highlighted the record note of discussion held by CRB with the Federations on. Federation requested the Railway Minister to intervene for positively settling the issues. NFIR also mentioned that Quasi Administrative Units Staff should be absorbed in GP 1800/-, as they are not outsiders. A copy of the record note of discussions held on 1st October 2015 was also handed over to Hon'ble MR.

The Federation will apprise further developments if any in due course.

DA/As above

Yours fraternally,

(Dr. M. Raghavaiah)
General Secretary

Media Centre/NFIR.
File No II/NFIR/95/Part VII.
File No. IV/NJCA(N)/2014/Part I.

सुरेश प्रभु
SURESH PRABHU



सत्यमेव जयते



S. No 37

रेल मंत्री
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

No. 2012/F(E)III/1/1/4-Pt.

12.0 NOV 2015

Dear Shri Jaitely ji,

I would like to draw your kind attention to my predecessor's D.O. letter of even no. dated 29.03.2014 (copy enclosed) addressed to the then Finance Minister regarding exemption of Railway employees appointed on or after 01.01.2004 from the purview of National Pension System (NPS).

The recognized Railway Federation (NFIR) & AIRF) have been demanding for quite sometime seeking exemption of railway employees from NPS by drawing a parallel with the nature of duties performed by the Armed Forces, who are not covered under NPS. Their contention is that railway employees are required to work in inhospitable conditions, braving extreme weather, unfriendly law and order scenario and inherent risks associated with the Railway Operations itself round the clock throughout the year. As in the case of Armed Forces, many railway officials have to stay away from their families for long period of time while performing duties in areas where adequate facilities are not available. Railways is an operational organization required to run round the clock throughout the year irrespective of weather conditions. The duties of Railway employees are not only critical and complex but also hazardous at times.

Though Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) vide their letter dated 15.05.2015 (copy enclosed) have not agreed to the proposal to exempt the railwaymen appointed on or after 01.01.2014 from the purview of NPS, it is felt that there is strong merit in reconsideration of the proposal.

The Railway Federations are persistently raising their demand in various fora for withdrawal of NPS in respect of railway employees. The Federations are also resenting against the notice issued by National Pension System Trust (NPS Trust) to all the subscribers under NPS that the Trust will start recovering fee/charge @ 0.01% of the Asset Under Management (AUM) on daily accrual basis to meet its expenditure w.e.f. 01.11.2015.

In view of forgoing, may I request you to kindly have a relook into the case sympathetically and consider favourably the demand of the Railway Federations to exempt railway employees from the purview of NPS.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Suresh Prabhu)

Shri Arun Jaitely,
Minister of Finance,
Government of India,
North Block,
New Delhi-110001.