



**Government of India
Ministry of Railways
Railway Board**

RBA No.15/2016

No. 2015/AC-II/21/1

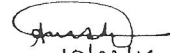
New Delhi, dated 19. 02.2016

FA&CAOs,
All Zonal Railways & Production Units

Sub:- Minutes of Dy.CAO/Gs' Conference held in Railway Board on
18.02.2016.

Minutes of Dy.CAO/Gs' Conference held in Railway Board on 18.02.2016 are enclosed for necessary action. A feedback on the action taken may be sent within a month's time.

DA: As above


19/02/16

(Amitesh Kumar Sinha)
Director Finance/CCA
Railway Board

Sub: Minutes of Dy. CAO/Gs Conference held in Board's office on 18.02.2016.

A conference of Dy. CAO/Gs of Zonal Railways and Productions units was held in Board's office on 18.02.2016. A list of participants is at Annexure-1. The minutes are as under:-

1.0 Inaugural Session

1.1 Welcome Address by Advisor/Accounts.

- (i) Advisor/Accounts welcomed the participants and mentioned that the conference has been called to express Board's concern towards slow progress of implementation of e-PPO, reconciliation of pension debits, legacy data ported by other Railways onto ARPAN server.
- (ii) There is a need to reconcile the position of number of pensioners of each Railway with Railway Board. Western Railway will port the format to get information in respect of following two to end of 30.09.2015.
 1. Number of Pensioners settled by Railways.
 2. Number of Pensioners for which debits are being accepted by them.These two information needs to be reconciled by Western Railway and sent to Railway Board by 15.03.2016.
- (iii) There are general complaints about delays in commencement of pension. While Railway Board has taken up the matter with the Banks to streamline the system. Railways can also contribute by implementing e-PPO system at the earliest.
- (iv) He mentioned that the pension expenditure is increasing over the years. The liability during 2014-15 was Rs. 28,642 cr. which is now expected to reach Rs. 33,220 cr. during the current year. Post seventh CPC, the expenditure will increase further. It is imperative that proper internal check mechanism is in place to preclude chances of over/irregular payments.
- (v) At present our internal check is mainly limited to the spot checks being exercised on some of the Railways by deputing staff to the banks. However, this is not sufficient.
- (vi) ARPAN has a database of about 12.5 lakh pensioners and Western Railway is receiving Pension debit details of about 8.5 lakh pensioners in soft form. However, reconciliation of only about 3.2 lakhs pensioners is being done because of mismatch/ gap in master data. It is a cause of worry that despite availability of a robust reconciliation module in ARPAN, we are not able to utilise the same due to deficiency in the legacy data ported by Railways. Western Railway has already communicated the details to all Railways through CDs. This may be attended to on priority, to bridge the gaps so that entire pension data can be utilized for pension run on reconciliation.
- (vii) The remaining processes need to be put on fast track so that the intended objective of ARPAN is fully fructified.

1.2 Address by Additional Member/Finance.

- (i) AMF while welcoming the participants, asked Railways to gear up the system to meet the challenge of revision of PPOs as per recommendation of Seventh CPC. The preliminaries required should be completed well in time so that we are not found lacking when implementation process begins eventually.
- (ii) There are directives of PMO for linking of Aadhar no. with the PPOs. Instructions have already been issued to the Railways to capture Aadhar no. in case of fresh retirees. Revenue Secretary has been requested to issue directives to the banks to share the Aadhar no. of Railway Pensioners with the Railways. Railway should also coordinate with the banks to get the Aadhar no. of their pensioners from the respective banks in a time bound manner.

1.3 Key Note address by Financial Commissioner

- (i) FC welcomed the participants and mentioned that Railway finances are passing through tough time at present with limited growth in revenue earnings. It is inescapable to control expenditure. Pension expenditure is a major component of expenditure and unfortunately internal checking thereof is not upto the mark.

- (ii) There is strong sense of urgency to ensure that pension expenditure is checked 100%. The gaps preventing the reconciliation to analyse the pension debits need to be filled up immediately.
- (iii) The pension master data should be sanitised in a time bound manner. To begin with, sanitisation of pension master data of SBI pensioners, which constitute about 40% of total railway pensioners, may be taken up. All Dy. CAO/Gs along with their staff concerned may visit CPPC to validate their data and remove the gaps so that 100% reconciliation of SBI pension debits can be achieved. The process should be completed within two months i.e., by 30-4-2016. Dy. CAO/C/WR to visit SBI, Belapur office for finding out a way out for matching of data of debit scroll and pension master. Dy. CAO/ C/ Western Railway may coordinate with SBI and the Railways for this purpose. It will be the responsibility of the respective Dy CAO/Gs to ensure compliance.
- (iv) e-PPO should be implemented on all Railways and PUs by 31st March, 2016 without fail.
- (v) As already mentioned by AMF, Aadhaar seeding in e-PPOs must be ensured.
- (vi) Another area of concern is recoveries of the Railway dues. GMs and FA&CAOs have already been addressed in the matter. It is a matter of concern that the traffic suspense is increasing while the traffic is decreasing. All the Railways are lagging behind the target fixed for March'16 badly. Further, the outstandings have increased on ER, NCR, NER, NWR, SR, SER, SWR and WR as compared to previous year also. Position of Cash in transit and demand recoverable is also worrisome. Targets fixed have to be achieved by March'16. All out efforts should be made in this direction by forming teams of personnel from commercial and accounts departments. Any shortfall in the meeting the target will not be tolerated.

2.0 Business Session

Dy.CAO/Const/WR gave presentation on issues related to implementation of arrears modules of ARPAN.

- (i) As regards implementation of e-PPO, he mentioned that the e-PPOs module has been implemented on nine Rlys (CR, NER, SR, WR, SCR, ECR, ECoR, NCR and WCR) and is in the process of implementation on NFR & SWR. Other Rlys need to expedite.
- (ii) He also mentioned that 5 banks have been covered under e-PPO scheme (SBI, PNB, Central Bank, Indian Bank and Bank of Baroda) covering 64% of the PPOs issued. Three banks (Bank of Maharashtra, Andhra Bank and United Bank of India) are under process of implementation which will cover another 10% of the e-PPOs. Remaining banks are being advised to expedite.
- (iii) Adv/A enquired the reasons for delays from the defaulting Rlys and mentioned that the problems if any need to be sorted out immediately. All remaining zonal Rlys will implement this module by 15.3.16 and Production Units by 31.3.2016.
- (iv) As regards coverage of bank Advisor/Accounts mentioned that this issue has already been taken up in the Apex Committee meeting wherein CGA directed all the banks to do the needful in the matter. Western Railway may follow up with the banks.
- (v) Dy.CAO/C/WR mentioned that problems are being faced on account of frequent transfers of authorized digital signatories. Adv/A desired that Rlys should ensure that the authorized signatories are not transferred frequently.
- (vi) Dy. CAO/ C, Western Railway mentioned that certain new details need to be captured for implementation of the Seventh CPC recommendation for which additional fields have been suggested for populating the legacy master data. Railways need to provide the same at the earliest.
- (vii) Dy. CAO/C, WR also suggested to review the present system of the concept of nodal branches in the SWS system and suggested that the PPOs could be sent directly to the CPPCs. It was explained that the system of nodal branches has been especially designed to avoid the postal delay that were happening in the earlier system of postal dispatches. The SWS system envisages that the PPO should be handed over to the personnel branch by 5th of the following month and the latter has to forward the same to the respective CPPCs for further processing by 10th of the following month. The CPPC has to ensure pension payment by end of the following month. The stipulated time schedule should be ensured strictly by all the Railways and delays by banks if any, be taken up with the banks under advise to Railway Board.
- (viii) Dy. CAO/Gs/CR mentioned that the provision of online status of PPOs in banks will help the Railways to monitor the system. It was clarified that the instructions on SWS scheme already envisage provision

of dash board by banks to the Railways. This may be taken up with the bank. Railway Board will also write to the banks in the matter.

- (ix) Dy. CAO/C/WR also explained about error message 500 while processing the data which is oracle system error. The matter has been taken up with oracle for early resolution of this error.
- (x) Dy. CAO/C/WR mentioned that the reconciliation module is available in ARPAN. However, the same can be used beneficially if every record in debit scroll has a matching record in master. Western Railway is receiving e- scrolls of pension debits of 8.57 lakh pensioners of which records of 3.63 lakh pensioners only are matching. Difficulties are being faced in reconciliation due to mismatch of PPO number field in debit scroll and legacy data. The relevant CDs have been sent to all the Railways and the pension debits file received from the bank have also been uploaded in text format on ARPAN which should be attended to on priority and correction notified to Western Railway at the earliest.
- (xi) Dy. CAO/C/WR also mentioned about the problem about sharing of supervisory passwords by the officers as a result of which frequent corrections of final records is being done. It is also seen that wide powers have been given to certain users under User Management Rights. This is fraught with the chances of fraud. Advisor/ Accounts decided that this aspect should be reviewed and cautioned that the authorised officials shall be personally responsible in case of frauds.
- (xii) DGM, SBI, Government Business Unit and other officials present in the meeting mentioned that most of the Railways are not sending the stipulated undertaking from the pensioners leading to delays in commencement of pension. He requested that Railways may send this undertaking invariably so that the delays on this account could be avoided. Advisor/ Accounts directed all Railways to ensure the same.
- (xiii) Some of the Railways complained about delays in settlement of their claims for over/irregular pension payment by SBI branches. Further, as per RBI guidelines the over payment should be re-paid in one lump-sum which is not being done by the banks. Advisor/A explained that this issue was raised in the Apex Committee Meeting by all the Ministries with CGA and it was decided to form committees to finalise all existing cases and formulate standard procedure for the future cases. Board has already advised the Railways to be ready with their claims alongwith the supporting documents (bank- wise) for the proposed meetings to be held shortly in the office of CGA.

3.0 Vote of Thanks.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks by Director Finance/CCA.
