Message from Financial Commissioner (Rlys.) to the IRAS Fraternity

Dear Friends,

As we close one Financial Year and start another one, it is time to take stock of the achievements of the year gone by and plan the activities for the ensuing year. It is a matter of pride for me to acknowledge the good work done by Indian Railways during 2015-16 with active contribution of the Accounts Department. I congratulate all of you for this. This effort is just the beginning and the same needs to be further accelerated to achieve the higher targets set for the next Financial Year.

The year 2015-16 has witnessed initiation of a number of transformational new activities on Indian Railways. Several professional refresher workshops and seminars for officials of all levels of Accounts Department were conducted. New avenues of investment such as Extra Budgetary Resource-Institutional Finance, JVs with States, partnership projects, etc. were initiated. These need to be nurtured to leverage their full potential during 2016-17. Additional resources through these avenues, along with greater delegation to the field officers are expected to strengthen the Railways’ infrastructure and remove the bottlenecks which have hindered its growth till now. Next year, our CAPEX target is Rs.1.21 lakh crore and to achieve the same various activities would have to be started from the first day of the year itself. I am sure you all will guide and support the Executive Departments to facilitate the achievement of such a humungous task.

Accounting Reforms on Indian Railways has now reached a critical phase and your active contribution will ensure its implementation within the targeted timeframe. This will further professionalise Accounts Department and help in providing financial data correctly and promptly to the stakeholders, both within and outside the organisation.

In 2015-16 the Internal Audit activities have been given a new thrust and dimension by initiating Theme-based System Audits which are undertaken with the collaboration of the Executive Departments. These would provide incisive inputs to the Railway Administration for system improvements, cost optimisation and generation of additional revenues. The topics for conducting Internal Audit in 2016-17 would be communicated to all the Units soon.

A number of tax proposals benefiting Railways’ finances have been announced in this year’s General Budget. Guidelines for implementation thereof have already been issued by the Accounts Directorate. I would urge all of you to initiate necessary action for
ensuring that the benefits accruing to the Railways are taken advantage of promptly during 2016-17.

I am sure that we shall, in unison, rise upto the occasion to overcome the challenges before us to achieve the targets set for the next financial year. For this, the Finance and Accounts Directorates of Railway Board will provide all necessary assistance to you through the nominated Railway Coordinators.

On behalf of my family and myself, I take this opportunity to wish you and the entire Accounts family a satisfying year ahead.

S. Mookerjee
31.03.2016