

**Office of the Principal Chief Personnel Officer,
17 N.S. Road, Eastern Railway,
Kolkata-700001**

No. E.787/0/PEN/Pt.XXX

Kolkata, dated 07.03.2024

Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer
SDAH, HWH, ASN, MLDT

Workshop Personnel Officer
KPA, LLH, JMP

SMM/D/HWH, CWM/SW/HWH,
APO/Ptg.

Sub: Absorption of the Course Completed Act Apprentices in Eastern Railway –
Coverage under Old Pension Scheme – Reg.

Ref: All India Railwaymen's Federation's letter No. AIRF/19 (134) dated 28.04.2023

A copy of Railway Board's letter No. E(NG)II/2024/SB/3 dated 31.01.2024 on the above subject matter is sent herewith for information, guidance and necessary action.

Railway Board's earlier letter No. 2012/F(E)III/1(1)/2 dated 29.10.2014 (RBE No. 121/2014) as mentioned therein is also enclosed herewith for ready reference.

Under the circumstances, it is requested to re-examine all such cases in the light of Board's guidelines as indicated in RBE No. 121/2014 in consultation with Associated Finance and action taken report may be sent accordingly at this end for onward transmission to Railway Board.

The matter may be treated on '*top priority*'.

DA: As above


(K.C. Das)

Dy. Ch. Personnel Officer (NG)
fr. Pr. Chief Personnel Officer

Copy to:

- i) Secy to PCPO – for information please
- ii) Secy to PFA – for information please
- iii) Secy to CPO/IR – for information please
- iv) Secy to CPO/A – for information please


(K.C. Das)

Dy. Chief Personnel Officer/NG
fr. Pr. Chief Personnel Officer

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)**

No. E(NG)II/2024/SB/3

New Delhi, Dated 28.02.2024

The General Manager (P),
Eastern Railway,
Kolkata.

Sub: Absorption of the Course Completed Act Apprentices in Eastern Railway- Coverage under Old Pension Scheme- Reg.

Ref: All India Railwaymen's Federation's letter no. AIRF/19 (134) dated 28.04.2023.

Please find enclosed AIRF's reference on the above subject. As the matter regarding entitlement of substitutes who have been regularized/absorbed in Railways, to OPS and NPS, has been clarified earlier by F(E)III Directorate through their circular no. 2012/F(E)III/1(1)/2 dated 29.10.2014 (RBE No. 121/2014), Railway is advised to take a decision in this matter in consultation with their Associate Finance under intimation to this office.



**(U. K. Tiwari)
Director Estt.(N)
Railway Board**

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5/10.01
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All India Railwaymen's Federation

4, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055(INDIA)

No.AIRF/19 (134)

Estd. - 1924

Dated: April 28, 2023

The D.G.(H.R.),
Railway Board,
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

Sub: Absorption of the Course Completed Railway Act Apprentices in Eastern Railway – Coverage under Old Pension Scheme – Reg.

It has been brought to the notice of this Federation by one of its affiliates – **Eastern Railwaymen's Union** that a panel of 166 Course Completed Railway Act Apprentices was issued by Eastern Railway in the year 2001, out of which 15 candidates joined service after completion of requisite formalities and posted as Fresh Face Khalasi, rest 151 were, however, absorbed after 01.01.2004 as Fresh Face Substitute on completion of all the necessary formalities. Although, 15 candidates of the same panel, which was issued vide Eastern Railway's letter No.E/Con./47/Pt. III dated 08.08.2001, are covered under Old Pension Scheme, regrettably, remaining 151 candidates, who were absorbed after 01.01.2004, have been registered under NPS, which is absolutely discriminatory.

In this connection, attention of the Railway Board is invited towards Railway Board's letter No.D-43/12/2018-F(E) III dated 10.03.2023(RBE No.41/2023), circulating Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, DoP&PW's, O.M. No.57/05/2021-P&PW(B) dated 03.03.2023, wherein it has been decided that, "In all cases where the Central Government Civil Employee has been appointed against a post or vacancy which was advertised/notified for recruitment/appointment prior to the date of notification for National Pension System, i.e. 22.12.2003 and is covered under the National Pension System on joining service on or after 01.01.2004, may be given one-time option to be covered under the CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972 (now 2021)".

Since all the 166 candidates were empanelled on completion of Apprenticeship Training in the Railway Establishments vide Eastern Railway's letter *supra* dated 08.08.2001, as such these 151 candidates of the same panel, who were absorbed in the Railways after 01.01.2004, should also have been covered under Old Pension Scheme instead of National Pension System.

AIRF, therefore, desires that, Eastern Railway Administration may be advised suitably to take appropriate action in the matter in the light of the aforementioned facts to cover these remaining 151 candidates of the panel dated 08.08.2001 under Old Pension Scheme and not the National Pension System.

Yours faithfully,


(Shiva Gopal Mishra)
General Secretary

✓Copy to: P.E.D.(I.R.), Railway Board – For necessary action please.

RBE No. 121/2014

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)**

No. 2012/F(E)III/1(1)/2

New Delhi, Dated: 29.10.2014.

**The GMs/FA&CAOs,
All Indian Railways/Production Units.
(As per mailing list)**

Subject: Applicability of Old Pension Scheme to Substitutes who attained temporary status prior to 01.01.2004 but regularized after 01.01.2004 - clarification regarding.

The issue of coverage of substitutes who had attained temporary status prior to 01.01.2004 but regularized after 01.01.2004 under Old Pension Scheme, has been raised by both the recognized Federations (AIRF & NFIR) under PNM/AIRF item No.05/2012 and PNM/NFIR item No.15/2011 respectively. The issue has also been raised under DC/JCM (Railways) item No.20/2012.

2. The issue has been examined by Board and it has now been decided that substitutes who got temporary status prior to 01.01.2004 but regularized/absorbed after 01.01.2004 and after regularization, if the date of appointment is prior to 01.01.2004, in terms of provision of Board's letter No.E(NG)II/90/SB/Master Circular dated 29.01.1991(M.C. No.20/91) and para 6 of letter No.E(NG)II/2008/SB/SR/15 dated 17.09.2010, then they may be covered under Old Pension Scheme.

3. Further, the employee and employer contribution of the NPS corpus of the Substitutes, mentioned in para 2 above, who so far have been covered under the National Pension System (NPS) may be adjusted in terms of the Instructions contained in Board's letter No.2010/AC-II/21/18 dated 31.03.2014(RBA No.5/2014)

4. Please acknowledge receipt.


(Amitabh Joshi)
Deputy Director Finance (Estt.) III,
Railway Board.