

Copy of Railway Board's letter No. F(P)65PN1/41, dated 27-4-1966.

Sub.—As above.

Reference Board's letter of even No., dated 3-3-1966 on the above subject in which an option has been allowed to railway servants who have retained the State Railway Provident Fund (Contributory) Benefit and were in service on 31-12-1965 to elect the pension rules including the benefits of the Family Pension Scheme for Railway employees, 1964 by 30-6-1966. It has been brought to the notice of the Board that cases have occurred where the employees died after 31-12-1965 without having an opportunity to avail of the option now given. The families of such employees have requested for the grant of benefits of the family pension under the pension rules. The Board have considered the matter carefully and in consideration of the fact that it will result in hardship to the families of the deceased employees where they died before they could reasonably avail of the fresh opportunity to elect the pensionary benefits they have decided with the approval of the President that if a railway servant died on or after 1-1-66 but before exercising within the time allowed an option to come over to the pension rules the authority competent to sanction the pensionary benefits in such cases may, at its discretion, allow to the family of the deceased employee, the benefits of the liberalised pension rules, alongwith the Family Pension Scheme for Railway Employees, 1964 in lieu of the contributory S.R.P.F. benefits provided a request for the same is specifically made by the nominee (s) validly nominated by the subscriber or in the absence of a nomination by all the members of the family of the deceased as defined in the S.R.P.F. Rules. If the family includes minor children, the request on their behalf can be made by their natural guardian and if there is no natural guardian by the legal guardian.

2. If, in any case, the Government contribution and/or special contribution to the P.F. have already been paid to the beneficiaries who made a specific request for the benefit of the liberalised pension rules, the Government contribution and the excess, if any, of the special contribution over the death-cum-retirement gratuity dues, should be recovered from them before acceding to the request.

3. The contents of this letter should be brought to the notice of the families of all the deceased Railway servants who may have died on or after 1-1-66 before exercising an option and the amount to be refunded vide para-2 above should also be advised to them simultaneously. If the family members in question desire to take advantage of these orders, the request from them to that effect must be received within a period of one month from the date of receipt of the communication of these orders to them duly accompanied by the amount to be refunded by them, as afore-mentioned.

Serial No. 3423—Circular No. 831-E/68-Dup. (Eiv), dated 20-5-1966.

Sub.—Acceptance of Private Medical Certificate.

Further to this office letter of even number of 24-11-65, (S. No. 3225) it is stated that the discretion vested in the Competent Authority to accept a private medical certificate should be exercised judiciously and it should not be rejected on flimsy grounds if otherwise in order.