

Serial No. 3426.—Circular No. 847-E/38-II (Eiv), dated 23-8-1966.

Sub.—Mutual exchange-acceptance of.

A case has come to notice wherein a policy decision was taken by one of the Divisions that mutual exchanges of employees should not be granted unless they have completed two years at a particular station. It has been represented that this restriction leads to hardship and inconvenience to the staff. The practice prevailing in respect of the acceptance of mutual exchange formed by staff to secure shift from one station to another has been examined and it has been decided (since such mutual exchanges are initiated by the staff when they need the change essentially on some personal and/or compassionate grounds as they have normally to carry out such transfers at their own expense) that it is not necessary to lay down any hard and fast limit of stay at a particular station required to be completed by the staff before such requests for mutual exchange are entertained. It should, however, be made clear to the staff that although mutual exchange means consent between two employees for changing places, it also involves the convenience of the Administration on its own merits and the sanction of the competent authority is discretionary. Acceptance of such mutual exchanges cannot be claimed as a matter of right and transfers of railway staff are primarily in the interest of Administration. Mutual exchanges can be accepted only where there are compelling circumstances and provided the same are administratively convenient e.g. such requests from staff coming within the purview of periodical transfers cannot be accepted if by the acceptance of such mutual exchange, the orders regarding continued stay at a particular station beyond 5 years or return to a station on which they had been posted earlier before the expiry of 5 years are violated.

Serial No. 3426-A.—Circular No. 830-E/O/17(Eiv), dated 7-5-1966.

Sub.—Running Allowance for Guards booked to travel in brake vans attached to light engines.

Reference correspondence resting with this office letter No. for D.Ss only 830-E/O/17(Eiv), dated 5-11-1965 on the Subject noted above. The Railway Board have decided that the Guards travelling in brake vans attached to light engines as Guard-in-Charge should be paid *mileage allowance* at the normal rates laid down in rule IV of the Revised Running Allowance Rules. Past cases dealt with otherwise than in accordance with these orders need not be resopened.

The above decision has the sanction of the President.

(Authority.—Railway Board's letter No. E(8)65RS/28, dated 5-4-1966).

Serial No. 3427.—Circular No. 720-E/O-X(Pension), dated 14-4-1966.

Pension Circular No. 19/1966.

**Sub.—Simplification of procedure governing the grant of pensions
Rounding off pensions to the next higher rupee.**

1. A copy of the Railway Board's letter No. F(P)66PN1/3, dated 7-4-1966 is enclosed for information and guidance.

Copy of Railway Board's letter No. F(P)66PN-1/13, dated 7-4-1966.

Sub.—As above.

The question of simplifying the rules and procedures governing the grant of pension has been engaging the attention of the Government of India from time to time.

2. The Committee of Secretaries which looked into this problem recently have made the following recommendation:—

“A block system to apply to both factors determining pension, namely, qualifying service and average emoluments was not favoured. It was felt that it should be possible to reduce calculation work and time if appropriate ready-reckoners were compiled. It was, however, felt that figures of the amounts of pension as finally calculated should be rounded off to the next higher rupee, as also amounts of anticipatory pension.”

3. The Government have accepted the above recommendation which aims at reducing the calculation work and time. It has, therefore, been decided in modification of the existing rules on the subject that the figures of the amounts of pension as finally calculated, as also the amounts of anticipatory pension should be rounded off to the next higher rupee.

4. Action is separately in hand regarding compilation of appropriate ready reckoners. These will be made available as and when ready.

5. Formal amendments to the relevant rules will be issued in due course.

6. These orders take effect from 28-2-1966 and have the sanction of the President.

Serial No. 3423.—Circular No. 720-E/O-X(Pension), dated 20-5-1966.

Pension Circulate No. 14/1966.

Sub.—Grant of gratuity under the Railway Services (Extraordinary Pension Rules (Appendix-XLIII-R-II) to motherless children parents of Railway servants dying as a result of ‘special risk’ of office.

A copy of Railway Board's letter No. F(P)66PN-13, dated 18-3-1966 on the above subject is forwarded for information and necessary action.

Copy of Railway Board's letter No. F(P)66PN-1-3, dated 18-3-1966.

Sub.—As above.

At present only widows of Railway servants who die as a result of ‘special risk’ of office, are entitled to a gratuity under the Railway services (Extraordinary Pension) Rules (Appendix-XLIII-R-II). The question of grant of gratuity to motherless children and parents of such Railway servants under these rules has been under consideration of the Board for some time past. The President has now been pleased to decide that a gratuity equal to one-half of that which would