Sub: Obstructions in newly commissioned track.

It is reported by Railways that number of obstructions are being encountered whenever the deep screening is done for the first time using BCM on newly constructed new line/doubling/tripling sections. Most of these obstructions are in the form of boulder & S&T cables below sleepers, bundle of cables by the side of the track near junction boxes, signal posts and old concrete foundations of OHE masts signal posts, locations boxes etc. There have been cases where new foundations of OHE mast & Signal post are obstructing the movement of BCM cutter chain. Such obstructions hamper the progress of deep screening by BCM machines and lead to wastage of precious traffic block.

Boulders are sometimes left inside ballast during construction which should be removed before commissioning. The cables of any kind should not be normally provided below the track. Sometimes due to slewing of the track old concrete foundations, bridge parapet walls etc come below the new track. It should be ensured that these obstructions are not buried below the sleepers or by the side of track.

In view of the above, it is necessary to ensure that no obstruction is there in the track up to a distance of 2.575/2.725 meters on either side of the track centre as per SOD Para 8(iii) of Schedule I Chapter I and upto a depth of 500 mm below the bottom of sleepers for smooth working of BCM machine.

You are advised to direct the concerned officers to ensure compliance of these instructions.

(Hari Mohan Gupta)
Executive Director (Works)
Railway Board

Copy to-
Chairman & Managing Director/IRCON