Principal Chief Engineers  
All Zonal Railways

Sub: Measurement of Clean Track Ballast Cushion and Updation of details in Track Diagram

1. Para 211 (v) of IRPWM stipulates that Assistant Engineers shall have in their possession complete sets of the Permanent Way track diagram of the railway line showing the type of track and fittings when laid, type of ballast—etc (details as in Annexure 2/4 of IRPWM). Thus, track diagram reflects the ground position of track ballast.

2. With the implementation of TMS, Track Diagrams now get updated immediately whenever asset is changed in the field and the same is reflected in TMS.

3. While examining Track Renewal Proposals for Works Programme, it is seen that as per Track Diagram, the thickness of clean ballast cushion, in most of the cases, is around 250 mm/300 mm even after passage of 10 years after completion of last TSR or Deep Screening. This is generally not possible unless the track has been raised by providing additional Ballast cushion or the details of clean ballast cushion are not updated in TMS.

4. The thickness of clean ballast cushion plays an important role in deciding speed of rolling stock & issuing safety certificate.

5. It has been decided that Zonal Railways shall undertake a survey of clean and caked ballast cushion by sectional JE/SSE (P.way) by measuring it minimum at one location over one km track length. Such measurement shall be done separately at all location where deep screening/TSR has been done in different periods. This exercise shall be done annually by the end of March every year.

The compliance of above instructions should be ensured. For current year, the details of clean and caked Ballast cushion shall be updated in TMS by 31st May 2017.

Pl acknowledge receipt of the letter.

(vi) 13.04.2017

Executive Director Civil Engg. (Plg.)  
Railway Board