

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (भारत सरकार)**  
**MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (रेल मंत्रालय)**  
**(RAILWAY BOARD) (रेलवे बोर्ड)**

**No. 2025/EnHM/26/01**  
**General Manager,**  
**Southern Railway,**  
**Chennai.**

**New Delhi, 22.07.2025**

{Kind attention: PCME/SR}

**Sub: Issue of Show Cause Notice by Industrial Safety and Health,  
Govt of Tamil Nadu, w.r.t operation of mechanized laundry  
at Basin Bridge (BBQ) Coaching Depot as a factory under  
the Factories Act 1948-clarification reg.**

**Ref: Southern Railways' letter no. M/CW/313/Laundry dt.  
08.04.25.**

With respect to the above , the issue as raised by PCME/SR has been examined in Railways Board in consultation with Establishment and Legal Dte. of Railway Board.

Firstly, the provision contained in sub -para (m) of Section-2 of Factories Act, 1948 is reproduced below:-


*"factory" means any premises including the precincts thereof—*

*(i) whereon ten or more workers are working, or were working on any day of the preceding twelve months, and in any part of which a manufacturing process is being carried on with the aid of power, or is ordinarily so carried on, or*

*(ii) whereon twenty or more workers are working, or were working on any day of the preceding twelve months, and in any part of which a manufacturing process is being carried on without the aid of power, or is ordinarily so carried on,—*

***but does not include*** a mine subject to the operation of the Mines Act, 1952 (35 of 1952)], or a mobile unit belonging to the armed forces of the Union, ***railway running shed*** or a hotel, restaurant or eating place"

This is to state that mechanized Laundries of Indian Railway are integral Part of Railway Coaching Depots and are exclusively utilized for supplying washed linens for the Train Operation on round-the-clock basis. Hence, by virtue of this operational support in train running on 24x7 basis, these are to be excluded from the purview of Factories Act 1948. This issues with the approval of Additional Member/EnHM.

  
22/7/25  
(Ajay Jha)  
**Director/EnHM**  
**Railway Board**

**Copy to: General Managers/All Zonal Railways.**