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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAILWAY BOARD

No.89/Chg.II/18/1

New Delhi, dated: 18-10-1991.

General Managers (Optg.),
All Indian Railways.

Sub: Replacement of Postal Vans.

Continuance or replacement of the Postal Vans on passenger carrying trains on the Railways has been engaging the attention of the Ministry of Railways for quite some time. In this context, Ministry of Communications have pointed out that though the sorting of mail inside the mail vans has been discontinued, the sorting of mail bags for various destinations including connecting modes of transport and preparation of mail list still continues to be done inside the vans.

2. In the case of running of partial postal van by passenger carrying trains, it is felt that their withdrawal and provision of alternative accommodation in the train service GS/SLR is neither advantageous to the Ministry of Railways nor to the Ministry of Communications. This will only lead to idling of partial postal vans constructed at the cost of both the Ministries. Its substitution by accommodation in train service coaches may hinder the work of carriage of mail bags. Therefore, Ministry of Railways have decided that the existing partial postal vans should not be replaced by GS. They also

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desire that the available partial postal vans, if any remaining surplus, with the Railways should be put back on the train services thereby releasing GSS. Only in case adequate partial postal vans are not available, Railways should resort to earmarking accommodation in train service coaches.

3. It is also seen from the reports of Railways that full postal vans are running only on 15 mail/express trains on the broad-gauge and 4 on the Metre-gauge (list enclosed). Keeping in view the growth of mail on these important trunk routes, these full postal vans may be allowed to continue, though the sorting of mails on run has been discontinued.

In addition, a full GS each on 7009/7010 Madras-Bombay Mail, 7303/7304 Mahalaxmi Exp. and 7383/7384 Maharashtra Express has been provided ^{to postal authorities}. Railways may examine the possibility of replacing these GSS by full postal vans so as to release GSS for use elsewhere. Railways should also advise the Board if there are any surplus serviceable postal vans with them so that they could be redeployed.

4. Ministry of Railways also desire that the possibility of surrendering accommodation on certain sections based on utilisation etc. should be pursued with the concerned Chief Post Master General, and only with their ^{con}currence, the postal accommodation in any train should be withdrawn.

Member(Operations)/Postal Board had written to the Chief Postmaster General to review and surrender the surplus accommodation to the Railways vide DO letter No.5-1-/90-D dated 15.2.90 (copy enclosed).

5. Ministry of Railways desire that the whole issue should be reviewed and dealt with on the lines indicated above and a report sent to this Office.

(S. Rajanathan)
Jt. Director, Traffic Trans.(Chg.)-I
Railway Board.

Encl: as above.