Sub: Unauthorised retention of Railway quarters by Railway Officers and Staff- steps to be taken for vacation of.


2. As per the extant orders, an appropriate amount from the retirement/death gratuity or the special contribution to P.F., as the case may be, can be held back if the Railway servant after retirement or the family of the Railway servant who dies while in service, does not vacate Railway quarter. It is further stipulated in the orders dated 19.8.1987 referred to above that if local conditions so warrant entire amount of gratuity/special contribution to P.F. may be withheld till the quarters are vacated.

3. It has come to the notice that there have been widely varied applications of the above orders in regard to the quantum of gratuity withheld not only over the different zonal Railways but also on different persons over the same zonal Railway giving rise to representations. It has also been observed that where gratuity is withheld, only in part it has not served the objective of a deterrent against continued retention of railway quarters resulting in shortage in the availability of quarters for employees genuinely in need of allotment.

4. Taking into account all the aspects, the extent to which gratuity can be withheld in cases of non-vacation of railway quarters has been reviewed and it has been decided that retirement/death gratuity or special contribution to P.F., as the case may be, should be withheld in full for non-vacation of railway quarters not only after superannuation but in all cases cessation of service, namely, voluntary retirement, death etc. Further, the amount withheld should remain with the Administration only in the form of cash without conversion into any type of security lest the very purpose of withholding full D.C.R.C. should get defeated. It may also please be kept in view that the gratuity should be released as soon as the quarter is vacated so that there is neither any hardship to the retired employee or its family nor there is any claim for payment of interest on withheld gratuity for reasons of any administrative lapse.

Please acknowledge receipt.

JAGDISH CHAND
DESK OFFICER, ESTABLISHMENT(G), RAILWAY BOARD,
CONF...2/-