It has been brought to the notice of Railway Board that para 2.6 of RC26 of 2016, which defines the cluster of stations as station/points within close proximity to each other with a maximum distance between any two stations/points not exceeding 150 km, may not be adequate when it comes to imported traffic received at ports. That is, even a much longer distance may not be adequate to prevent diversion of imported traffic from one port to another.

In this context, attention is invited to clarification issued by Railway board, vide Ref(ii) above on STS rates Guidelines. The same clarification reiterated, among others, para 1.0 of the guidelines that “in special cases Zonal Railways may frame their own guidelines to attract traffic” and para 2.7 that “The spirit behind the policy is that traffic of one station should not divert to another station in order to get the benefit under STS”.

It is, therefore, advised that the Zonal Railways may also duly take into account the imported traffic at alternative ports/terminals (including those in other Zones) while evaluating STS proposals concerning import traffic proposed to be moved from either a port or any other nearby terminal.

Copy to: The Principal Chief Operating Managers, All Indian Railways.