

Report on meeting with ADG SZ & other officials at Chennai yesterday and today on LPT Closure Issue

Dear members a 11 member ARTEE delegation comprising of zonal and state representatives met ADG Sri Thyagarajan and other TV Maintenance officials at Chennai yesterday and today regarding LPT closure issue. Two aspects of the issue, namely: 1) efforts to prevent closure / to limit the number of LPTs under closure and 2) how to redeploy the staff in case of its inevitability were discussed. We put forward our concerns on these matters from both staff point of view (hundreds of transfers affecting subordinate and non-transferable staff) and common man's point of view (infrastructure worth hundreds of crores going to waste).

The officials narrated the circumstances that led PB&DGDD to take these decisions. They also explained how ADGSZ vigorously tried to get digitisation implemented before closing analogue relay centres. But financial considerations prevailed and their efforts went in vain.

As far as redeployment is concerned, TV Maintenance section gave an initial figure of 30 SEA, 69 EA, 50 Sr Tech, 65 Tech and 19 Helpers as affected staff. Efforts would be made to redeploy them in their choice places to the utmost extent. For the meeting with DMC officials slated for today, all the DMC officials were asked to bring the representations of affected staff.

All the officials with whom we interacted expressed a sense of regret at these happenings.

Participants in today's DMC officials meeting informed us that it was decided to deploy these affected staff in HPTs , Major Kendras, and AIR stations to the extent possible. Redeployment will be done first in the vacant positions. Then approval from Directorate for shifting posts will be sought. General transfers may take place only after redeployment.

ADG office has asked Directorate additional fund for transfer TA in respective DMC accounts immediately. They also sought some more clarifications and are waiting for clear cut procedure.

There is a meeting with DD DG on 29th January in ADG office regarding four PGFs.

Dear members, as a result of ARTEE's efforts, some encouraging signs are appearing in this matter, as reported by President Umeshji this morning. I URGE YOU TO CONTINUE MEETING POLITICAL LEADERS AND GET THEM WRITE LETTERS TO MIB, to continue the pressure.

Thank You.

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