

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No.98-Sec(SPL)/200/14

New Delhi, Dated 13 May, 1998

STANDING ORDER No. - 56

The Chief Security Commissioners/RPF
All Zonal Railways.
The Chief Security Commissioner/ RPSF
Railway Board

Sub: INTERNAL VIGILANCE GROUP (IVG) FOR RPF

There is an urgent need to setup a machinery for internal vigilance for RPF/RPSF. This machinery will work as a watch-dog and keep an eye on the activities of the members of the Force, so that highest standard of honesty and integrity is maintained. The purpose is to have a wholesome fear on the minds of RPF/RPSF personnel that there exists an agency under the control and command of DG/RPF, the head of the Force, having knowledge of all cases of corruption and is charged with the duty of detecting them and taking steps to have the offenders punished. This will also help to rouse public opinion and once the railway user is convinced that the Head of the RPF has an independent machinery to enquire into the complaints, they will be more resolute in making complaints and will also be able to display greater resistance against any pressure for succumbing to corrupt practices.

2. The Internal Vigilance Group (I V G) will strive to achieve the following objectives :

- (i) Suggest systemic improvement in the functioning of the RPF, so as to create such conditions in service as well completely eliminate the chances of corruption.
- (ii) Suggest ways and means for better supervision and firmer control to prevent chances of corruption.
- (iii) Detect cases of corruption either *suo-moto* or on receipt of complaint, enquire into these matters thoroughly, and pursue the matter for awarding suitable punishment to the defaulter.
- (iv) Suggest ways and means to create awareness amongst the rail users against corrupt practices by RPF.

- (v) Ensure compliance of Standing Orders/Instructions specially those meant for helping the travelling public and streamlining operational procedure to eliminate malpractice.

3. **THE SET-UP :** For achieving these objective dedicated staff to enquire into complaints of corruption is necessary. A large number of complaints are received in the Security Directorate as well as in the offices of the Chief Security Commissioners, alleging malpractice, abuse of authority, connivance with criminals, harassment of passengers for extorting money, misbehaviour and distortion of facts in cases etc. at the hands of RPF personnel. These complaints are normally looked into by the Zonal CSC concerned, as it is their primary duty to eradicate corruption and malpractice in their jurisdiction. The complaints of more serious nature are, sometimes, looked into by Rly. Board Vigilance/ Zonal Rly. Vigilance. However there is no effective mechanism at present to do a proactive vigilance check and work as a watch-dog for 70,000 strong RPF/RPSF.

4. An Internal Vigilance Group (IVG) of the RPF will immediately start functioning in the Zonal Rlys. under the direct supervision and control of the Chief Security Commissioners. The IVG will be headed by a specially selected officer of the rank of DSC. If a DSC is not available, it will be put under the whole-time charge of an ASC. Two specially selected Inspectors will be posted in the IVG. Prior clearance from Rly. Vigilance will be obtained in respect of the staff posted to IVG. Special care will be taken to ensure that officers with high integrity and reputation are posted to IVG.

5. A special IVG monitoring cell will be set up in the office of DG/RPF. An officer of the rank of Joint Director will be in-charge of this monitoring cell. The main function of the cell will be to co-ordinate the activities of IVGs, review their performance periodically and help DG/RPF in the matters relating to Vigilance. A

6. To start with the staff for IVG will be provided from the existing resources of the RPF. When the system gets stabilised and its utility has been established, regular staff will be sanctioned.

7. **FUNCTIONS :** The complaints, which the IVG will enquire into, will not be complaints of corruption only but even of misbehavior, rudeness, negligence, connivance with undesirable elements, distortion of cases, and unruly behaviour in public etc. Following will be the main functions of the IVG:

- (i) Assessment of scope, extent, modes and points of corruption in RPF/RPSF
- (ii) Preventive action in the form of secret watch, preventive checks, surveys and raids with a view to eliminating corruption or other malpractice.
- (iii) Collection of information regarding operation of gangs with the implicit or explicit connivance of RPF/RPSF.

- (iv) Inquiries into complaints of Corruption and malpractice against RPF/RPSF officers and men and their prompt disposal.
- (v) Enquiries into allegations of criminal misconduct breach of discipline, negligence, corrupt-practices, abuse of authority, disobedience of Standing Orders issued from time to time, insubordination, and breaches of provisions of RPF Rules.
- (vi) Elimination of delay, inefficiency and other lapses in official work particularly from the angle of corruption.
- (vii) Compilation of lists of RPF/RPSF officers and men having bad reputation whose honesty and integrity is held doubtful.
- (viii) Surprise raids in areas where large-scale pilferage is taking place due to complicity and/or negligence of RPF/RPSF.
- (ix) Monitor progress of enquiries and quantum of punishment in enquiries initiated as a result of IVG recommendations.

8. **PROCEDURE :** The following procedure will be followed by the IVG for conducting enquiries :

- (i) Complaints received in DG/RPF's office will be processed by JD/Vigilance and orders of DG/RPF will be obtained for entrusting it to IVG for enquiry.
- (ii) Complaints received in the office of CSC will be examined by DSC/ASC i/c IVG to decide whether an enquiry by the Internal Vigilance Group is called for. Orders of the CSC will be obtained in such cases.
- (iii) In case any DSC/CO feels that an enquiry into a complaint should be conducted by IVG, he may refer the matter to CSC concerned who will decide whether the enquiry needed a probe by the IVG.
- (iv) No enquiry will be made by the IVG into complaints containing vague and general allegations except for special reasons or when specifically ordered by DG/ RPF/CSC.
- (v) In cases where the information is sent by an M.P., M.L.A, or is forwarded by them, all such complaints will be acknowledged.
- (vi) A Complaint Register will be maintained in respect of each complaint received and a serial number will be given to it. ASC/DSC/IVG will make physical checking of this register and record his observations once a month.
- (vii) In all cases of complaints against GOs prior approval of DG/RPF will be obtained before open enquiries are taken up. However, if such enquiries are made for secret verification into specific information concerning a G.O. such prior permission would not be necessary. However immediate information about it should be sent to DG/RPF.

- (viii) All complaints in which formal enquiries are to be conducted by the IVG will be registered as Preliminary Enquiry (PE)
- (ix) Before starting enquiries, the E.O. will make analysis of the allegations and points on which probe will have to be conducted. He will thereafter submit a fortnightly report wherein he will briefly indicate the progress of enquiries pending with him.
- (x) All Enquiry Officers will submit a fortnightly diary on the 15th and 30th of every month, giving details of duties carried out and information / intelligence collected by them during the fortnight.
- (xi) A P.E. will normally be finalized within one month and where it is not possible, the E.O. will prepare a brief report on the progress of PE and the points on which enquiries remain to be carried out and will obtain CSC's order on it. On the conclusion of enquiries of each PE, the E.O. will submit a final report.
- (xii) As soon as sufficient material disclosing commission of a criminal offence is available and it is felt that the enquiry will result in prosecution, the file will be submitted to CSC with brief report giving conclusions.
- (xiii) When CSC comes to the conclusion that it is necessary to set process of law in motion for regular registration and investigation of a criminal case, he will initiate steps to get a case registered.
- (xiv) An Index Register will be maintained in CSC's office in which the names of officers against whom enquiries have been conducted should be entered. This register will have an alphabetical index and will be kept up to date. Whenever a P.E is registered, an entry shall be made in this register. The index sheet and the P.E. registration report will form the basis of entry in Index Register.

9. **RETURNS :** The following periodical returns and statements would be submitted to DG/RPF by each Zonal IVG :

- (1) Programme of Vigilance and Anti-corruption work annual review in the month of January.
- (2) Quarterly progress report and review of programme for Vigilance and Anti-corruption work.
- (3) Quarterly statement regarding publicity in Press about action taken by the IVG.
- (4) Statement of public grievances redressed. (Monthly)
- (5) Statement of complaints and their disposal. (Monthly)
- (6) Statement of pending enquiries with reasons. (Monthly)

DG/RPF will submit quarterly progress report for MR's perusal.

10. **SAVING CLAUSE :** Setting up of Internal Vigilance Group in the RPF shall not, in any way, affect the jurisdiction of Zonal Railway Vigilance and Railway Board Vigilance over the activities of RPF/RPSF personnel.
11. The Hindi version of the Standing Order will follow. The SO should be got translated into the regional languages and supplied to the Posts / Outposts for display on the Notice Boards. The RPF personnel should also be briefed on the contents of this SO during Roll Call / Parades.
12. This issues with the approval of the Railway Board.


(V.D.RAM)
Director General/ RPF

Copy to: All General Managers, Indian Railways.
Addl. Member Vigilance, Railway Board.