GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)

RBE NO. 113/88

NO.E(W)84PS5-6/8 Vol.II. New Delhi, dated 27.05.1988.

The General Managers,
All Indian Railways.

The Chief Personnel Officers,
All Indian Railways. (with 10 spares each)

Sub: Issue of Complimentary Card Passes to Freedom Fighters - Revalidation.

Ref: Ministry of Railways' letter of even No. dated 17.10.1986 and wireless messages dated 29.01.1988 and 19.05.1988.

As already advised, vide Ministry of Railways wireless message of even No. dated 19.05.1988, Ministry of Railways have decided that the Freedom Fighters receiving pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme (from Central Revenues) on account of their participation in the Freedom Struggle for the independence of the country and who have already availed of the travel facility on the last occasion, viz. when the scheme was in operation between 19.11.86, and 18.11.1987, may be issued, once again, First Class all-India Complimentary Card Passes, valid for two persons i.e. Self and Spouse/ Companion for a period of one year from the date of issue on the same terms and conditions, as are given in Ministry of Railways' letter dated 17.10.1986, referred to above.

2. Fresh Card Passes, under the present scheme envisaged herein, will be issued till 18th Nov., 1988 or within three months from the date of expiry of the Card Passes, whichever is later.

3. For facility of ready reference and guidance, the terms and conditions for issue of the Passes and the maintenance of account thereof etc., are reiterated below:-

(i) Entitlement:-Fresh First Class all-India Complimentary Card Passes should be given to the Freedom Fighters who are drawing pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension scheme on account of their participation in the Freedom Struggle for the independence of the country. The Freedom Fighters are entitled to take a companion, who may be his/her spouse or any other person, as desired by the Freedom Fighter. The passes should be issued in favour of the Freedom Fighters. These Card Passes will be issued only to those Freedom Fighters, who have already availed of the facility for a period of one year in the past when the scheme was in operation. The Card Passes issued on the last occasion should be surrendered by the Freedom Fighters while approaching the Railway Authorities for issue of fresh Card Passes for another year.

Contd....P/2....

(ii) Class of Eligibility:-First Class with permission to trave A.C. II-Tier without making payment of any surcharge therefor.

(iii) Type of Card Pass:-Specially designed First Class Complimentary Card Passes which are being supplied to the Railway Administrations, may be issued to the Freedom Fighters.

(iv) Validity of the Pass:-The Passes now granted will be valid for a period of one year from the date of issue.

(v) Issuing Authorities:-The Offices (Pass Section) of Divisional Railway Managers of the different Railways as well as the Zonal Railway Headquarters Office ma y be authorised to issue passes on receipt of (i) two passport size photographs of the Freedom Fighter, who is entitled to the pass, (ii) the old Card Pass issued earlier and since expired and (iii) original Pensioner's half of the Pension Payment Order (for verification, endorsement and return as stated in sub para (vii) below). The fresh Card Passes will be issued from the same offices of the Zonal Railway Headquarters/Divisional Railway Managers, wherefrom the previous Card Passes were issued. However, in case of emergency and exceptional circumstances, any one of the Zonal Railway Headquarters/Divisional Railway Managers may issue the pass on surrender of the old card pass and receipt of 2 copies of photographs. In such cases, however, the matter of having issued a fresh card pass shall be intimated to the Office of the Zonal Railway Headquarters/Divisional Headquarters concerned, wherefrom the original pass was issued for their reference and record.

(vi) Travel Jurisdiction:-Card Passes issued to the Freedom Fighters will be available over All Indian Railways from any station to any station, except on the Metro Railway, Calcutta.

(vii) Endorsement:-Suitable endorsement in red ink should be made in fresh card pass under issue, giving the old card pass No. and date of issue. It will be appreciated if a suitable rubber stamp for the purpose could be got made and affixed on the fresh card pass. Suitable endorsement on the original Pensioner's half of the Pension Payment Order of the Freedom Fighters should also be made giving the fresh Card Pass No., Date of Issue and Date of Expiry under the signature of the Pass Issuing Authority concerned and the Pension Payment Order should be returned to the Freedom Fighter concerned immediately after doing the needful.

(viii) Maintenance of Account:-The Pass Issuing Authorities at the Zonal Railway Headquarters and at the Divisional level may be directed to maintain a separate account in a proper ledger giving all the requisite details of the passes issued to the Freedom Fighters giving the following particulars:-

a) Name of the Freedom Fighter :

b) Pension Payment Order Number and Date of Issue :

Contd....p/3....

c) Issuing authority of Pension Payment Order :

d) Name of Pension disbursing authority - Treasury/Bank/ Post Office/Pay & Accounts Officer. :

e) Card Pass Number and Date of Issue. :

f) Date of Expiry :

The pass issuing authorities should also be directed to send intimation of having issued the Card Passes to the Freedom Fighters, to the Pension Disbursing Authorities viz., Nationalised Bank Branch/Post Office/Treasury/Pay & Account Officer, as the case may be, who makes the payment of pension, and whose name and address are given in the Pension Payment Order giving the requisite particulars i.e. Name of the Freedom Fighter, Pension Payment Order No., Card Pass No., Date of Issue, Date of Expiry, etc. for making necessary entries in their ledger as well as in the Disburser's half of the Pension Payment Order in red ink. Acknowledgement form may be printed at the bottom of the letter addressed to the Disbursing Officer by the Pass Issuing Authority in order to ensure that a reply by the Disbursing Officer is duly sent.

(ix) Return:-(a) The Pass Issuing Authorities at the Divisional level should also be instructed to submit a statement of account in regard to number of passes issued every month as in the proforma enclosed (Annexure 'A') by 5th of the following month to the Headquarters Office. A consolidated monthly statement in the prescribed form already circulated should also be submitted to the Board by the Headquarters Office of the respective Zonal Railways which should reach by 10th of the following month. For instance, the statement for the month ending May, 1988, should be furnished to the Board by 10th June, 1988, positively.

(b) However, a wireless message giving the total number of fresh Card Passes issued giving the break-up of fresh Card Passes granted for the first time (in compliance with the Board's wireless instructions issued on 29.01.1988) as well as revalidated for the second time (in confirmity with the Board's wireless message dated 19.05.1988) in a given month separately should be sent to the Board's Office by 5th of the following month positively. While doing so, the number of blank Card Passes in stock should also be intimated separately to regulate supply of card passes from the Board's Office. The details asked for in sub-para may please be given in the proforma at Annexure 'B'.

(x) In case of loss of pass, a duplicate pass may be issued. However, the matter of the loss of the pass should be reported to the nearest Railway station/Police Authorities. A sum of Rs. 150/- may be charged for the loss of Card Pass.

Contd...p/4..

(xi) Widow or Widower or any other dependents of the Freedom Fighter will not be entitled to the Complimentary Pass.

(xii) Any person found using the Freedom Fighter's Pass unauthorisedly will be taken up suitably under the extant rules.

(xiii) The Card Pass will be returned to the pass issuing authority on expiry of validity and kept in safe custody till reimbursement of the cost is received by the Board.

4. It may be clarified that the scheme relating to issue of fresh Card Passes for the first time to those Freedom Fighters who could not avail of the travel facility on the last occasion will continue to be in operation upto 18.11.1988, in conformity with the instrructions issued, vide Board's wireless of even No. dated 29.01.1988. They will continue to be valid for one year only from the date of issue and they should not, repeat not, be made valid for 2 years from the date of issue, when such passes are issued for the first time. They will come up for renewal after the expiry of the present validity period. Separate instructions in their case will be issued in due course.

5. It may please be ensured that the pass issuing authorities extend due courtesy and respect to the Freedom Fighters and do not cause any inconvenience to them.

6. Further clarification/doubts, if any, in the matter should be sought/clarified from the Ministry of Railways promptly to ensure issue of the Card Passes to the Freedom Fighters expeditiously.

7. Kindly acknowledge receipt of this office wireless of even No. dated 19.05.1988 and this letter.

(I.S. Goel)
Desk Officer, Estt. (Welfare)
Railway Board.

D.A.: As above.