

Indian Radio Regulatory Service

Officers' Association

Recognized by Government of India

(Under CCS(RSA) Rules 1993)

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No. IRRSA/ EB/ 2022-CR-1

To
The Hon'ble Minister for Communications
Ministry of Communications

Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Sub: Cadre review of the Indian Radio Regulatory Service (IRRS)-Reg.

Sir,

As per Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) guidelines and monograph, cadre review of every organised service needs to be undertaken on regular basis, after every 5 years. Accordingly, the cadre review of IRRS cadre was due in November, 2018. The chronological development of the current cadre review process of IRRS is annexed as **Annexure-I**.

- 2. As per the specified procedure, the cadre review proposal from the concerned administrative ministry is examined by DoPT, vetted by Department of Expenditure (DoE) and then recommended by the Committee of Secretaries headed by Cabinet Secretary, also called Cadre Review Committee (CRC). The CRC Minutes is then approved by Hon'ble MoS, DoPT, Hon'ble MoF, DoE and finally needs to be approved by the Cabinet for its implementation.
- 3. The CRC Minutes i.r.o. IRRS cadre review, as approved by the Hon'ble MoS, DoPT & Hon'ble MoF, DoE, has recently been put-up on file (in June, 22), in the form of Draft Cabinet Note (DCN), for Inter-ministerial consultation (IMC). Hon'ble MoC desired for a presentation on the same.
- 4. A copy of the said presentation has been provided to DoT Admin immediately (June, 22); however, till date we have not got the opportunity to present the case to Hon'ble MoC.
- 5. While appreciating the recent multidimensional reform initiatives of the department led by Hon'ble MoC and Hon'ble MoSC, the Association desires to mention the support provided by the encadred officers of the IRRS in successfully implementing such progressive measures. It is heartening to know that the department is publishing a booklet, especially on the reforms related to spectrum licensing.

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Date: # September, 2022

- 6. However, not everything is bright and shiny on the other side of the coin. The career prospects of the encadred officers is very gloomy, as of now. All the hopes of the encadred officers, particularly, the ones at junior & middle level, are concentrated on this cadre review proposal. Rightfully acknowledging the expanded roles & responsibilities of the spectrum management body of the country, the CRC, DoPT & DoE recommended for meaningful strengthening of the cadre. Though, the recommended increase is less than what the DoT originally proposed, but it is reasonable enough under the current situation.
- 7. It is over three months now, that the proposal for inter-ministerial consultation of the DCN is pending at DoT. This disheartening delay has a negative bearing on the morale of the encadred officers, particularly at junior & middle levels.
- 8. Sir, you will be surprised to know and feel empathetic that if this cadre review does not take place in the present form, a new entrant JTS level officer would get his/ her first promotion after a staggering 12 years; would become JAG equivalent after 27 years; and would eventually, superannuate from that level itself. With such a gloomy career prospect, delivering consistent outstanding performance is a tough task for them.
- 9. Not only promotion in reasonable time, without this cadre review and reserve posts, the encadred officers cannot ordinarily move for deputation posts under Central Staffing Scheme & others, and for long term training for capacity building. Eventually, there is every likelihood that the system would produce some unhappy, inadequately groomed, *frog in the well* officers.
- 10. In light of above, the Association solicit your kind intervention in the matter and beseech you to kindly get the cadre review proposal of IRRS approved by the Cabinet. We are ever ready to provide all forms of submission in this regard, including making presentation on the subject as per your convenience. Further, the Association humbly seeks your kind appointment for around 10 minutes to explain the situation in details.

(Ashim Dutta) General Secretary, IRRSA

Copy To:

- 1. Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, DoT;
- 2. Secretary (T), DoT;
- 3. Wireless Adviser to the GOI;

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Chronological development of the current cadre review process of IRRS

- Proposal initiated by DoT Admin in March-2018;
- > Proposal moved from DoT with the approval of Hon'ble MOC in Dec-2019;
- Total strength proposed by DoT was 180 (+10 reserve) against the existing 134 (No reserve)
- CRC meeting scheduled on 25.06.2020; DoPT proposed for no increase in total no. of posts except reducing of 5 JTS level posts and increasing of 2 STS, 1 JAG & 2 SAG level posts;
- The meeting was postponed on the request of DoT;
- Next CRC meeting held on 25.02.2021; Under the revised proposal of DoPT, 145 (+10 reserve) posts were provisioned;
- > CRC recommended for additional input from DoT, with organisation structural plan and functional justifications;
- ➤ Input from DoT was provided to DoPT on 10.09.2021;
- Next CRC meeting held on 11.04.2022;
- CRC recommended for increase of 10 posts at different levels (4-SAG, 3-JAG & 3-STS) and creation of 11 Reserve posts;
- DoPT forwarded the Minutes of CRC to DoT in June, 2022, with the approval of Hon'ble MoS, DoPT and Hon'ble FM, MoF, for obtaining the approval of Cabinet;
- > Draft Cabinet Note is to be circulated for Inter-Ministerial consultation before placing for Cabinet approval;

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