

**Minutes of the Meeting held between
Additional Divisional Railway Manager and Delegates of the Sanstha
on 12th November, 2009 in his Chamber at 12.15 p.m.**

The meeting of the delegates of the **Apang Utkarsh Seva Sanstha, Navi Mumbai (AUSNM)** with **Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Central Railway**, was held on **Thursday**, the **12th November, 2009** at **12.15 p.m.** in his Chamber to discuss the following agenda:

Agenda:

1. The size of all the handicapped compartments shall be increased and seats & handles may be modified as per the convenient of the disabled persons.
2. Flooring in the compartment should be of same height and proper.
3. Purchase of Ticket/Season Ticket shall be made available to the handicapped people without queue.
4. Adequate height of the railway platforms to be maintained as compared to height of the railway bogies.
5. Online reservation & Tatkal reservation for handicapped must be provided.
6. Benches on the platform should be reserved for the handicapped people.
7. The handicapped compartments shall have facility of visual display and audio announcement.
8. The ticket vending machines should equip with audio announcement, Braille, with suitable height.
9. The height of the ticket, reservation, enquiry windows shall be lowered and made reachable.

10. Land mark and audio signals may be installed on each railway platforms to mark the position of the handicapped compartments.
11. Platform borderline should be painted with contrast colour and should have one row of dotted guiding blocks for persons with impaired vision. The paved surface of the platform must be made with a non-slip material.
12. Borders of the staircase shall be painted with contrast colour with adequate light facility so that partially vision impaired person will be benefitted.
13. Toilets, urinals, bathrooms including taps shall be modified as per the convenient of the disabled persons (especially for wheel chair users).
14. Barrier-free access to railway station area and platforms for disabled persons.
15. Barrier-free reach from station area to main road, taxi-auto rickshaw stand.
16. Drinking water shall be provided on all railway platforms and water tap shall be made reachable for the handicapped people.
17. Adequate railing for the persons with short height for entering into the rail compartment comfortably.
18. Vashi Railway Bridge toll tax to be removed for all.

The meeting was chaired by **Shri Suneet Sharma, Additional Divisional Railway Manager,**

Central Railway and was attended by the following members of the Sanstha:

Shri Suneet Sharma	...	...	Chairman
Shri Sanjay N. Panchal	...	...	President, AUSSNM
Shri Somnath W. Choughule	...	...	Hon. General Secretary, AUSSNM
Shri Ajay Kumar Rai	...	...	Advisor, AUSSNM

Shri Sunil Atapadkar	...	...	Treasurer, AUSSNM
Shri Ram M. Patil	...	...	Vice-President, AUSSNM
Shri Vikas Jadhav	...	...	Vice-President, AUSSNM
Shri Pradip Pardeshi	...	...	Joint-Secretary, AUSSNM
Shri Jagdish Pathade	...	...	Joint-Treasurer, AUSSNM
Shri Anant Pokharkar	...	...	Joint-Treasurer, AUSSNM
Shri Jayavant Chavan	...	...	Member, AUSSNM
Shri Praveen Khadke	...	...	Member, AUSSNM
Shri Ravindra Swain	...	...	Member, AUSSNM
Shri Rajendra Shette	...	...	Member, AUSSNM

The Sanstha is communicating with railway department as well as meeting its official's time-to-time since last three years and explaining its grievances and requesting their cooperation in order to have smooth life style. But railway authority is neglecting its prime duty with the result handicapped passengers are greatly suffering, said **Shri Somnath W. Choughule**.

In reply, **Shri Suneet Sharma, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Central Railway** said railway is doing developments as requested by the AUSSNM in last meeting held on 4th March, 2008. The heights of the Mankhurd, Kurla & Shiwari railway platforms have been increased. The auditory signals have been provided on most of the railway platforms. The train with bigger compartment for handicapped people has been already introduced on Harbour route. Therefore, Sanstha should not say that railway is not doing anything for the handicapped people.

Shri Ajay Kumar Rai said as per the **fundamental rights** and provisions made in the **Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 & National Policy for Persons with Disability**, the railway compartments and toilets should be design in such a way as to permit easy access for the persons with disabilities, ramps in public building, provision of auditory signals on the platform and engraving on the edges of railway platforms for the blind and for persons with low vision, braille symbols and auditory signals in elevators and ticket vending machines well equipped with braille symbols have been made mandatory. 14 Years have been passed after passing the above act and the facilities have been provided by the transport authorities so far are negligible. Therefore, it is very essential to take some concrete steps immediately in order to provide some relief for the persons with disabilities.

After detailed discussions on the above items in the agenda the following decisions have been taken:

- (1) Provision of ramps at Vashi and Nerul railway stations.
- (2) Provision of auditory signals on the platforms wherever they are missing and engraving on the edges of all railway platforms for the blind or for persons with low vision.
- (3) All ATVM machines to be well-equipped with braille for the blind and for persons with low vision.
- (4) Regarding bigger compartment the care has been taken in newly designed trains by M/s Simense Company. It is assured that maximum of these trains will be made

available on Harbour route and within next 3-4 years all old trains will be removed and provided new trains with bigger compartment.

- (5) No online long distance travel ticket booking facility is available for the handicapped people. Also no concession is being given in Tatkal reservation for the handicapped people. The demand of the Sanstha has been forwarded to the concern department for necessary action.
- (6) While purchasing ticket/season ticket handicapped people are require to stand in queue with general people. The request of purchasing ticket/season ticket straightaway without standing in the queue is under consideration.
- (7) Provision of urinal facility on all platforms of the railway is also under consideration.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-
(Sanjay N. Panchal)
President, AUSSNM

(Suneet Sharma)
Additional DRM,
Central Railway