

## New scheme for railway staff taking voluntary retirement

Staff Reporter ■ New Delhi

Indian Railways is all set to start new scheme for its employees who take voluntary retirement from service. Under the safety related retirement scheme, railways will provide employment to one of the family member of the retiring employee. This scheme can be availed by an employee, aged between 57-57 and employed under the safety category, who have completed the minimum tenure of 20-year service.

General Secretary of All India Railway Federation, Shivgopal Mishra, on Wednesday said that this scheme would start with pay scale of Rs 1800 and the said employee will be promoted to higher pay-scale as well. "This scheme will be beneficial for the older ones and with young blood taking charge, productivity and safety in railways will also increase," said Mishra. He further said that Ministry will formally announce this scheme soon.

At present, there are around 2.5 lakh employees in the safety category but around 18,000 employees will benefit from the upcoming scheme. Under this scheme, apart from providing employment to one of the family members, regular pension will also be paid to the employee. Regarding the scheme, Mishra said that the said scheme was formulated at the time of NDA Government when Nitish Kumar was the Railway Minister. "The scheme was formulated when Nitish Kumar was the Rail Minister. But at that point of time, the scheme was not passed due to some issues," said Mishra.

Meanwhile, under the banner of All India Railway Federation a dharna was organised near the DRM office demanding welfare of the employees and putting a curb on the outsourcing of service sector of the railways. "This is in larger interest of the passengers, rail users and the employees," Mishra said.