

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2001/M(C)/141/1

New Delhi, dated 25.02.2010


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**Sub: Minutes of the meeting on discussion of Agenda Item No. 4 of the 4th meeting of Expert Committee on Railways - "Automated External Drive through Coach Washing Plant" held on 23.02.2010**

Minutes of the meeting on the subject of "Automated Coach Wash Plant" held in Railway Board's office on 23.2.2010 are enclosed herewith.


  
(A.K. Singh)  
Exec. Dir. Mech. (Chg.)  
Railway Board

A.I.R.F.

No. AIRF/Expert Committee

Dated: February 25, 2010

ForWARDED to the GSP, all affiliated unions - for information - along with a copy of above-mentioned minutes of the Expert Committee.

  
25/2/10  
(S.G. Mishra)

DA/Ag above

For General Secretary/AIRF

**Minutes of the meeting on discussion of Agenda Item No. 4 of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of Expert Committee on Railways - "Automated External Drive through Coach Washing Plant" held on 23.02.2010**

Present:

Shri Praveen Kumar	Member Mechanical
Shri S.G. Mishra	General Secretary, AIRF
Shri M. Raghaviah	General Secretary, NFIR
Shri S. Ramanathan	Member Expert Committee
Shri A.K. Singh	Executive Director Mech.Engg.(Coaching)/Rly.Bd.

1. During the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of Expert Committee held on 09.02.2010, it was decided that Agenda Item No. 4 – "Discussion on the reports submitted by the Sub-group on "Automated External Drive through Coach Washing Plant" would be jointly discussed by Member Mechanical, representatives of All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF) and National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR) and Mr. S. Ramanathan, Member Expert Committee.
2. It was discussed that the present system and method of coach exterior cleaning in coaching depots need to be improved as it suffers from many drawbacks like shortage of water, non-availability of proper plants and equipments, inadequacy of man power, lack of infrastructure, and extreme climatic and operating conditions.
3. Shri S. Ramanathan heading the Sub-group of Expert Committee in his report on "Installation of coach washing plant" has indicated that there are 10 coaching depots having daily workload of 14 rakes or more. The report also suggests five locations for installation of coach wash plant as an initial step. These include Chennai, Bangalore, Santragachi, any depot in Delhi area and HWH new sorting yard.
4. As a follow-up of action plan for execution of important projects suggested by Chairman Expert Committee, Board (MM) also constituted a Core Group to submit a report about requirement, feasibility, techno-economic analysis and action plan for installation of "Automated Wash Plant" in coaching depots. The Core Group has recommended setting up of plant of proven technology on all green field projects and also in major coaching depots prioritizing the depots handling about 8 and more rakes daily for maintenance in pit lines and where no/ minor changes are envisaged in the yard layouts to facilitate such plants. The Core Group has also suggested 7 locations which include Guwahati, Jammu Tawi, Firozpur, Tatanagar, Ahmedabad, Dhanbad and Pune. It was brought out by the Core Group that feasibility studies were underway on Railways to identify other potential locations.

5. The Core Group also recommended the following:
  - i) The automated wash plant generally conforming to COFMOW specifications to be set up.
  - ii) To adopt Build, Own, Operate Model for provision of 'Automated Coach Wash Plant' where sufficient wash workload exists as it will avoid huge capital outlay and issues related to erection and commissioning of the plant, maintenance, supply of consumables and other resources.
6. The exterior coach washing through 'Automated Coach Wash Plant' has numerous advantages such as conservation of precious water resource, improved levels of exterior washing and gloss, ensuring cleaner pits by obviating water flow, Optimization of pit line slots, man power and time required for maintenance and other resources, improved utilization of coaches, overall economy in longer run etc.
7. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has been using automatic wash plant for last 6-7 years with satisfactory performance while maintaining aesthetic appearance of metro coaches. On the other hand, the workload on IR coaching depots is significantly high. There are about 49 depots of Indian Railways carrying out primary/ secondary maintenance of almost 8 rakes per day. The Core group has strongly recommended exterior coach washing through 'Automated Coach Wash Plant'.
8. While discussing the recommendation of the Sub-group of Expert Committee and Core Group, it was felt that there is a need to have 'Automated Coach Wash Plant' of proven technology to manage the heavy workload of Indian Railways. "Automated Wash Plant" would improve the cleaning standard and overall efficiency of the coach maintenance in the depot.
9. Shri S.G. Mishra, General Secretary, AIRF and Shri M. Raghaviah, General Secretary, NFIR have also suggested that the following measures may be ensured while implementing the scheme:
  - i) Railways should ensure that no existing staff is made surplus on installation of automated coach wash plant, and any staff released from the job of exterior washing is redeployed in the depot.
  - ii) As the application of automated wash plant for washing of coach exterior on IR is a recent development, its large scale implementation should be planned gradually depending upon the need, workload and site feasibility etc.
10. Shri S.G. Mishra, General Secretary, AIRF has also suggested a visit to DMRC coach washing plant to familiarize with the system. It was decided that the visit will be planned preferably during next week.