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Title: Need to improve the status of Junior Engineers in Indian Railways.

SHRI BALBHADRA MAJHI (NABARANGPUR): Junior Engineers are the unsung heroes of Indian Railways. If one crore people are safely travelling on train every day, it is because of the untiring work of these engineers be they, Civil engineers, looking after track, signal & Telecom Engineers looking after signalling and telecommunication, Mechanical Engineers looking after coaches, wagons and diesel engines or Electrical Engineers looking after Electrical Engines, Overhead Electrical lines, lighting and AC of coaches. Negligence of anybody at any point of time can cause disaster.

However, over the years, their pay packages have been reduced and social status within Railway fraternity diminished.

It is a pity that in Railway Diploma Engineer is recruited as Junior Engineer and Degree Engineer is recruited as Senior Section Assistant Engineers. Diploma, Junior Engineer can become Assistant Engineers only after becoming senior Section Engineer. This takes not less than 5-10 years for Junior Engineer to reach SSE and to become Assistant Engineer there is no guarantee.

In other Departments only Diploma Engineers are taken as Junior Engineers and in 5 years they become Assistant Engineers.

In addition to the above, due to anomaly in 6th Pay Commission, the salary of Junior Engineer was kept at par with Nurses, Station Masters, who possess lesser qualification and are not technically qualified. Station Master gets next promotion as Station Manager (Gazetted).

Therefore, the pay anomaly is required to be sorted out immediately before the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission Report.

In addition, the JE, SSE and Assistant Engineers promoted from SSE be treated as Group 'B' officers.