



### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WREU Women Wing activists organized various programmes all over Western Railway on the occasion of International Women's Day. This year, 8th March being Sunday and activists were engaged in canvassing of J.C. Bank election, programmes were arranged on Monday, the 9th March.

Women Wing activists of Mumbai organized a women-to-women contact and met all women employees at their working table, wished them on the occasion and apprised them of the various benefits available to the working women and also appealed them to vote for WREU candidates in J.C. Bank election.

**Ahmedabad Division:** Women's wing of Western Railway Employees' Union, Ahmedabad Division under leadership of Smt. Pragna Parmar, Divisional Women Convener, organized a grand function in spacious auditorium of Divisional Railway Manager Office, Ahmedabad on 9th March 2015 to celebrate International Women's Day. Com. R. C. Sharma, President, WREU, Shri Rahul Agarwal, DRM, Shri Ashutosh, ADRM, Shri M. L. Jain, DPO, Smt. Kanta Chhatwani, Rajbhasha Adhikari and Ms. Heena Kevalramani, ACM were special guests to the function. More than 150 women employees working in various areas of Ahmedabad division attended the function.

Smt. Pragna Parmar in her welcome address thanked Com. Sharma and Com. J. R. Bhosale for their encouragement to women workers. She stated that she was very shy in the beginning but only due to her involvement in the union activities made her bold and to shoulder challenging responsibilities and called upon the participants to be more active in WREU. The program was inaugurated by Com. R. C. Sharma and other

guests by lighting lamp before portrait of veteran trade union leader Com. Maniben Kara.

Com. R. C. Sharma in his inaugural address narrated the life sketch of Com. Maniben Kara. He gave details of activities and achievements of WREU/AIRF, especially for women workers. He called upon them not to hesitate to join and take part in the Union activities. He assured wholehearted support of WREU for any type of constructive activities for upliftment of women employees.

Shri Rahul Agarwal, DRM-ADI, congratulated the leadership WREU for celebrating Women's Day in the most befitting manner. He exhorted the women employees to take benefit of platform given by leadership of WREU. Shri Ashutosh, ADRM, Smt. Kanta Chhatwani and Smt. Heena Kevalramani also addressed the participants.

The participants then played "Antakshari" in three groups. They also played Housie. The winners of these games were given cash awards. An Orchestra was arranged by Com. Hanif Pathan and all the participants appreciated it.

The entire function was ably conducted by Smt. Kokilaben Bhatt and vote of thanks was conveyed by Smt. Ashu Khanna. All necessary arrangements for the successful conduct of function were made by Smt. Meeta Navneet, Kamla Sharma, Dinesh Panchal, Sanjay Suryabali, Subramaniam, Amarsingh and other activists of WREU-ADI.

**Ratlam Division:** A conference on "Women Empowerment" was organized on 8th March 2015 in Union Office at Ratlam, which was inaugurated by Com. G.L. Sharma, AGS/WREU, Smt. Premlata Jain, Smt. Santosh Nisha and Dr. (Smt.) Asha Khode by lighting lamp before the portrait of Goddess Saraswati and garlanding the portrait. Com. Sharma in his speech stated that women participation and their role in the

society will decide future of the country. He also stated that the recent amendment in law has made it mandatory for reservation for women in panchayat, local bodies and government. Dr. (Smt.) Asha Khode expressed happiness that now-a-days we can see participation of women in all walks of life and there is need for more participation to change the society. Smt. Premlata Jain and Smt. Santosh Nisha in their respective speeches appealed women employees working in Railways to be united under the Union to protect women's rights and privileges. On this occasion, Youth Wing took out a morcha from Union office to DRM's Office.

**Rajkot Division:** Women's Wing of Rajkot Division organized a programme at Rajkot in which large number of women employees from Rajkot and Happa participated. Smt. Binaben Acharya, Municipal Counsellor of Rajkot Municipal Corporation was the Chief Guest, who spoke about the facilities extended by Gujarat State to working women. Smt. Kirtidaben Buch urged all women to be bold and to learn self-defence to protect themselves from anti-social elements. Smt. Bhumika Vyas, Matron and Smt. Padmaja, Chief Matron, explained precautions to be adopted to protect from Swine Flu, which is widely spread in Gujarat State. Being pleased with the activities of the Women Wing, Smt. Binaben Acharya assured that she will arrange a meeting of Women's Wing activists with Smt. Anadiben Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat State, very shortly. Smt. Rupal Dholakia, CRS-RJT & Vice Chairperson of WREU Women Wing-RJT gave vote of thanks.

### VISIT OF WOMEN'S WING AT SACHIVALAYA, GANDHINAGAR

As promised during International Women's Day celebration on 8th March 2015, Smt. Binaben Acharya, Municipal Counsellor, Rajkot Municipal Corporation, arranged a visit of Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar to see its functioning, in which 18 activists of Women's Wing of WREU-RJT participated. They met Shri Vijay Rupani, Cabinet Minister of Labour Ministry, Government of Gujarat and discussed the issues of ladies staff working in Gujarat Government and the facilities available for them. They requested the Minister to extend the facilities availed to Central Government women employees, i.e. CCL, 180 days Maternity Leave, etc. The Minister promised

WREU Women Wing activists that this will be put up to the Chief Minister for consideration.

### FELICITATION FUNCTION BY WREU-RJT

WREU-RJT organized a felicitation function on 20-03-2015 in Conference Room of DRM Office to honour Shri Vinay Babiwale, DRM-RJT, who was relinquishing the charge to take over as Chief Mechanical Engineer of RCF-Kapurthala Coach Factory and to welcome new DRM – Smt. Anuradha Mukhedkar. Divisional and Branch office bearers, number of divisional staff and Branch Officers attended the function.

Com. M. K. Chhaya and Com. Nikhil Joshi in their respective speeches appreciated the three year tenure of Shri Vinay Babiwale as DRM-RJT. Smt. Kirtida Buch, Shri Satish Oza, Shri Naresh Khatwani, garlanded the DRM and presented a shawl and bouquet and praised his contribution to Divisional working. Shri Vinay Babiwale thanked WREU cadre for their co-operation and full support in functioning of the division.

While welcoming the new DRM – Smt. Anuradha Mukhedkar, WREU assured full co-operation for smooth functioning of the Division. Smt. Anuradha Mukhedkar, new DRM, in her speech assured that she will take keen interest in staff matters and make positive decisions and ensure that justice is done to all staff.

Smt. Bhumika Vyas, Matron, and Jt. Secy., Women Wing Branch, anchored the whole function and thanked all for their active participation.

### COM. UMRAOMAL PUROHITJI CRICKET TOURNAMENT

The 5th Comrade Umraomal Purohitji Cricket Tournament was organised by BRC Division from 18.02.2015 to 07.03.2015 (for 14 days). The tournament was inaugurated by Shri Ashutosh Gangal, DRM BRC on 18th February in presence of large number of WREU activists and Office



DRM-BRC, GS-WREU, DS-WREU witnessing final match

Bearers. 32 teams from entire BRC division took part in the tournament and played by knockout system. The team BRCP stood first and Loco team/BRCY became runner-up.

The price distribution ceremony was organized on 07.03.2015 and trophy to the winner and runner-up and prizes were distributed by Com. J. R. Bhosale and Shri Ashutosh Gangal, DRM BRC. Com. J. R. Bhosale announced cash Award of Rs.10000 to "Youth Wing WREU-BRC, the organiser of the tournament.

### **JAPAN TRADE UNION DELEGATES VISIT INDIA**

The All Printing Bureau Labour Union is known as Zeninsatsu, which represents the workers in National Printing Bureau of Japan. A delegation of this union visited Mumbai and Nasik cities on 9th and 10th March, 2015. Both programmes were well organized and attended by delegates of India Security Press Mazdoor Sangh (ISPMS) and Western Railway Employees' Union (WREU). The names of the UNI delegates are – Bro. Takashi Umehara, General Secretary, Shigeyuki Suzuki, Vice President, Tsuyoshi Toguchi, Vice President, Satoshi Tamai, Director, Organising & Training, UNI APRO, Rajendra Acharya, Director - Trade Union Development, UNI APRO Milind Nadkarni, President, UNI Indian Liaison Council and Smt. Anjali Bedekar, ,Coordinator, UNI Indian Liaison Council.

On 9th March, the UNI APRO delegation visited India Security Press in Nasik accompanied by Com. J. R. Bhosale, President/ISPMS & General Secretary/WREU, Com. Rambhau Jagtap, General Secretary, Com. Jagdish Godse, Working President of the ISPMS and Com. Vikas Gupte, Treasurer, WREU & HMS (Maharashtra). General Managers of both ISP and CNP with their top management personnel were present in the meeting. Both managements gave presentations about history, challenges and corporatization and industrial relations at ISP & CNP. Bro. Umehara, General Secretary of All Printing Bureau Labour Union also presented about history, operations, policy and labour management relations. Bro. Bhosale conducted the meeting. All Office Bearers and other members of the ISP Mazdoor Sangh were present. Both the General Managers appreciated the cordial relations between the management and the unions at ISP & CNP.

Later, in the Press Guest House, many union members gathered for felicitation and welcome of Japanese delegates. Bro. J. R. Bhosale, President/ISPMS, Bro. Godse, Acting President, Bro. Jagtap, General Secretary addressed the meeting. Some common challenges facing the Unions were discussed and the members assured to form a strong network of Security Printers Unions to overcome the challenges. Bro. Umehara thanked on behalf of the Japanese delegates for the warm welcome, wonderful arrangements and the presentations in the meeting.

On 10th March, a meeting with MINT Union workers was arranged in Jagdish Ajmera Sabhagruh, Grant Road, Mumbai. Many members from the Mint Union along with their General Secretary Shri Mukund Waje were present. Bro. Umehara gave a detailed power point presentation followed by an interesting Q-A session. The Japanese delegates were felicitated by Western Railway Employees Union and the Mint Union. Bro. Bhosale and Bro Milind Nadkarni spoke about future cooperation for the benefit of the workers.

Bro. Bhosale chaired the meetings in Nasik and in Mumbai. He informed the Japanese delegation that Hind Mazdoor Sabha is a free, independent, democratic National Trade Union and it believes in negotiation and dialogue to forge ahead with the workers interest and betterment of the institutions. He further stated that a single union in any enterprise is important for progress of the workers. He thanked SPMCL management for their co-operation, especially Mr. M. S. Rana, CMD of SPMCL and Mr. Manoranjan Das, MD (HR), SPMCL and hoped that the cooperation between Security Printing Unions of Japan and India will continue.

### **WREU PP&STORES/MX OBSERVED SHAHID DIN**

A Shradhanjali programme was organized by Mahalaxmi Printing Press & Stores Branch in Canteen Hall of Printing Press on 23rd March 2015, i.e. Shahid Din, for remembering the supreme sacrifice of Shahid Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev. Shri K. Paswan, Dy.CMM-MX, Smt. P. Sudha, SMPS-MX and other officers were present in the function. Com. P.B. Bhargava, AGS/WREU, Com. Abhishek Bhargav, Com. Vikas Gupte, Treasurer/WREU and leaders of WRMS, PRKP, SC&ST Association and OBC Association were also present. The speakers gave insight of

these martyrs in the freedom movement of the country and paid homage by laying rose petals before their portrait and observing two minute silence. Com. Abhishek Bhargava and his team made necessary arrangements.

### **J.C. BANK ELECTION - 2015**

In the election for 19 posts of Board of Directors of Jackson Co-operative Credit Society Limited held on 9-10 March, 2015, following candidates sponsored by WREU/NWREU/WCREU emerged victorious in their respective constituencies:

| Sl.No. | Name (S/Shri)       | Divn/Unit | Zone     |
|--------|---------------------|-----------|----------|
| 1.     | Milind Raut         | BCT       | W.Rly.   |
| 2.     | P.B. Bhargava       | BCT       | W.Rly.   |
| 3.     | R.K. Nair           | BRC       | W.Rly.   |
| 4.     | Ajayraj Singh Gohil | BVP       | W.Rly.   |
| 5.     | Manoj Jha           | RJT       | W.Rly.   |
| 6.     | Navin Lobo          | HQ-CCG    | W.Rly.   |
| 7.     | Sanjay Shiva        | KTT       | W.C.Rly. |
| 8.     | Sanjay Singh        | KTT       | W.C.Rly. |
| 9.     | Sudhirkumar Sharma  | All       | N.W.Rly. |
| 10.    | Sunilkumar Sharma   | All       | N. W.Rly |

A felicitation function was organized by CCG GLO & Accounts Branches in Jagdish Ajmera Sabhagruh, Grant Road (West), Mumbai on 18th March 2015 in which afore mentioned Directors of J.C. Bank was honoured. Com. J.R. Bhosale, General Secretary/WREU, honoured newly elected directors by garlanding them. Com. Nasir Shaikh and Com. Unnikrishnan assisted by their team of office bearers successfully conducted the programme.

Shri P.B. Bhargava, AGS/WREU & Secretary, WREU PL-MX Workshop Branch, has been elected as Chairman of the J.C. Bank. We congratulate Com. Bhargava on his election as Chairman of the J.C. Bank. We thank all shareholders of J.C. Bank in reposing faith in WREU sponsored candidates and electing them as directors with huge margins.

### **SUMMARY OF ONE-MAN COMMITTEE REPORT**

One-Man (E. Sreedharan) Committee submitted his final report to MR on 11.3.2015. The Committee is yet to submit Full Proof Management

Information System and Manual of instructions for proper implementation of the recommendations, for which it sought extension of its term upto 30th April 2015. Key recommendations of the Report are given below:

1) The Committee recommends complete phasing out of procurement role of the Railway Board. With effect from 1st April, 2016, all procurement functions presently centralized at the Board level should be decentralized to various entities as recommended in this report so that Railway Board can concentrate on its core roles and responsibilities of policy formulation, issuance of broad guidelines and rules and monitoring the performance of Railway Administration. The Board would stop doing procurement even to meet its own requirement and Northern Railway would be the procurement service organization for the Board.

2) The Committee recommends withdrawal of all procurement related functions of RDSO with immediate effect. RDSO has to play an important role of research, development and technology and has to focus on its core activity.

3) The current practice of Railway Board framing Rules to severely curtail all types of powers of General Managers through constrictive negative list was started with first consolidated Rules in 1954. The Committee recommends first drastic pruning of Negative List and then elimination of list altogether in a maximum period of six months. Since very few items in the current negative list survive scrutiny of the Committee, these are recommended to be given shape of a policy document which form the basis on which GMs exercise their functions.

4) In line with pruning the Negative power of GMs and replacing them with policy circulars in limited areas where such delegation and decentralisation cannot be made absolute, the Committee recommends total delegation of powers to General Managers for calling tenders and finalization of all types of contracts including but not limited to "Works, Stores, Services, Consultancy, Earning and Commercial, PPP, Value capture from Real Estate Contracts, etc.

5) Based on the recommendations of the Committee in its Interim Report, powers to all Works and Stores tenders have already been delegated to GMs vide orders dated 1st January 2015. The Committee further recommends substantial re-delegation of these powers (along with powers related to other tenders and contracts) to operating level in Zonal Railway Headquarters,

Divisions, Production Units, Workshops and other offices with suitable checks and balances.

6) Above devolution of powers regarding tendering and contracts shall be infructuous without commensurate devolution of powers to General Managers to sanction Works except where it is not possible because of limitations imposed on the Railway by the Parliament. Accordingly, Committee recommends substantial delegation of powers to sanction works, schemes and M&P under various heads. Committee also recommends abolition of expanded Railway Board constituted in contravention of the statutory powers available to Railways under the Indian Railway Board Act, 1905 and Railway Act, 1989.

7) Delay in sanctioning of estimates, revised estimates and material modification has emerged as key stumbling block for GMs in discharging their roles and responsibilities regarding commercial and tendering matters. The Committee recommends substantial delegation and decentralisation of estimate sanctioning powers, reverting to the powers given under 1954 Rules for revision of estimates and deletion of the controversial concept of material modification which has been breached with impunity.

8) The Committee recommends a rational re-appropriation powers to GMs for transferring funds from one work to another with certain checks and balances including no power to move funds away from priority projects and further to the overriding power of Railway Board in this regard.

9) Presently delegation of powers below GM is not uniform and is restrictive. The Committee recommends liberalized uniform delegation on commercial matters to operating level below GMs, divisions and other administrative and managing units. Several delegations of powers have already been proposed in this report. Further, within thirty days of submission of this report, the Committee would submit a detailed "Scheduled of Powers" on all related matters to be made uniformly applicable across entire Indian Railways.

10) All types of service, commercial and earning contracts are in need of simplified workable liberalized rules, delegation and decentralisation. The Committee recommends substantial delegation at the level of Divisional Railway Managers level for these types of contracts for which divisions are the nerve centres.

11) The Committee recommends repeal of Railway Catering Policy, 2010 and recommends

handling back of on board and station catering and allied rules back to IRCTC in line with the Cabinet decision while setting up of IRCTC.

12) The Committee recommends full powers to DRMs to sanction urgency certificates and incur expenditure in case of accidents and other emergencies.

13) The Committee recommends liberalization of present system of itemization of all works above Rs.2.5 crore if found necessary after taking necessary dispensation of Ministry of Finance.

14) Committee recommends full powers to GMs to transfer all staff and officers (within same department) under their jurisdiction.

15) The Committee also recommends giving GMs operational flexibility in certain matters having commercial manifestation and implications.

16) The Committee recommends prioritization of key projects and their ring fencing through "Non-fungible Non-lapsable Funds".

17) The Committee recommends GMs to be made accountable for completion of projects in time. It also recommends total adherence to finalization of all tenders within original validity period.

18) The Committee recommends adoption of the route of integrated turn-key contracts route for faster execution of projects.

19) A key recommendation of the Committee is to change the work culture of Indian Railways without which new delegation will have no impact.

20) The Committee further recommends putting the best in the higher general management position through a "positive act of selection" for the posts of DRMs, GMs and Board Members. This is essential to ensure that end results of delegation, decentralization and deregulation are achieved.

21) Zonal Railways and Production Units to have Annual Memorandum of Understanding with Railway Board, and General Managers to be accountable only for KRA based performance. All other restrictions from Railway Board on decision taking of GMs to be eased out.

22) Similarly, Divisional Railway Managers, Chief Workshop Managers and other key administrative officers shall have Annual Memorandum of Understanding with General Managers and they should be held accountable for their KRAs.

23) Zonal Railways, Production Units, Divisions and Workshops to move to a new ethos of Management through 3-5 year professionally

made Business Plan. Instead of working in a vacuum, there is an urgent need to move away from present odd hour to odd hour survival where everyone from Division to Railway Board is doing everyone else job, and no one else is focussed on future trajectory of accelerated growth and sustainable existence.

24) Railways coaching and freight stock and locomotives are outdated and there is an urgent need for modernization and expansion. There is need for total re-look on the Production Units and their modernization through infusion of Strategic Partners.

25) Railways need to move to a totally new paradigm of maximization of non-traffic revenue to substantially augment this portfolio. This needs a total reorientation of the organization and "what is today considered sundry earning" has to be made a substantially high yield fourth wheel of the organization. This means total Re-look at RLDA and a new ethos of maximization of Revenue from Commercial Advertisement and other Areas.

26) A new Comprehensive Procurement Manual (Manual of Instruction) covering all types of Contracts to replace present complex, repetitive, conflicting set of instruction in various codes and guidelines and circulars issued over decades which have become outdated, will be prepared by the Committee within next two months.

27) Different Codes of Indian Railways will need to be revised to reflect the new devolution of power and key principles to be enumerated in the best practices contemporary Procurement Manual. Such a Manual shall have to be in suppression of all the existing provisions and orders issued so far and in more than one way, it should herald a new beginning.

28) As an enabler the Committee recommends permission to DRMs to retain quarters at their previous place of posting.

29) The Committee recommends total overhaul of General Conditions of Contract of Works and Stores Purchases. Also Contracts, Earning Contracts, PPP Contracts, Value Capture from Real Estate Contracts, Advertising Contracts all need different set of Contract Conditions and these should flow out of a new look Procurement Manual.

30) Finance role has to be redefined to be more positive, supporting and enabling and GMs would be given powers to overrule finance by recording convincing reasons. This power to overrule finance will not lie below GM. No

appeal on such overruling will be available as there cannot be two centre of power in a zone where buck to take decisions and responsibility thereof lies with the GMs.

31) A New Dashboard enabled MIS for Procurement Life Cycles Mapping is being formulated jointly by TCS and CRIS. Under supervision of the Committee this is expected to be ready in two months.

32) The Committee recommends calibrated Scheme for Capacity Building for Making Devolution and Delegation of Powers a Success.

#### **KAYAKALP COMMITTEE**

Railway Board have constituted an Innovation Council called "Kayakalp" consisting of the following -

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| (1) Shri Ratan Tata                            | - Chairman |
| (2) Dr. M. Raghavaiah,<br>Gen.Secy./NFIR       | - Member   |
| (3) Shri Shiva Gopal Mishra,<br>Gen.Secy./AIRF | - Member   |

The terms of reference of the Innovation Council will be as under:-

"To achieve Technology Development and manufacturing through business re-engineering and suggesting steps for introducing a spirit of innovation in Railways."

(Rly. Bd's letter No.ERB-I/2015/23/13 dt.19.03.2015)

#### **GS/AIRF DECRIES REPORT OF BIBEK DEBROY COMMITTEE**

General Secretary/AIRF has criticized Interim Report submitted by the High Level Railway Restructuring Committee constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Bibek Debroy by the Ministry of Railways. He stated that this report is a replica of Rakesh Mohan and Prakash Tandon Committee Reports. The report of the Rakesh Mohan Committee was rejected by the then NDA Government. Com. Mishra said that this report has given a roadmap for privatization of the Indian Railways as a whole, which will not help the users in particular and the country in general. He also criticized the report for privatization of medical services, education system and suggestion of outsourcing of almost all the activities presently done by the Railwaymen.

Com. S.G. Mishra appreciated a few points given in the report regarding dividend, reimbursement of subsidy, setting up of training, R&D, IT Centres and Universities. He said that AIRF will shortly offer its comments and hoped that those will be given due consideration while finalizing the report.

### VETERAN RETIRES

Com. Raghunath G. Chauhan, Ch. OS, Traffic Workshop/BL & Branch Secretary, BL-I Branch & CSBF Member, retired from railway service on superannuation on 28.02.2015. He was appointed as a Train Clerk on 16.11.1977 on Western Railway and was posted at BL. He was thereafter promoted as a Goods Guard on 26.4.1985 and as Passenger Guard on 18.02.1991. On his medical decategorisation, he was given alternative posting as a Chief Clerk on 16.02.1998 and was posted under Loco Foreman/BL. He was promoted as Ch. Office Superintendent on 16.04.2004 since then he is working as Ch. OS in Traffic Workshop/BL under Area Manager/BL. He was a member of the Local SBF from 1988 to 2006 and became a Member of CSBF in the year 2006 which he continued till his retirement.

A grand farewell function was organized in his honour in 'Maitri Hall' in which General Secretary and all Divisional office bearers attended. Prior to start of the function, a procession was took out from Union Office and Mrs. and Mr. Raghunath was brought to Maitri Hall in a well-decorated Baggi (Chariot) accompanied by hundreds of WREU activists. Women Wing activists of Mumbai Division showed Rose petals on Mrs. and Mr. Raghunath from the gate of the Hall to dais. Com. Raghunath was profusely garlanded by activists of Valsad, Dhanu Road, Billimora, Surat and Udhna branches. He was honoured by General Secretary by presenting bouquet and shawl. The function started with prayer by Baby Bhavika Shravan Kumar. Com. J.R. Bhosale, Prashant Kanade, Prakash Savalkar, D.Y. Mahale and P. Rajan in their speeches highly appreciated the contributions of Com. Raghunath to the Railwaymen and Union. Com. Raghunath thanked all for their love and affection and assured to continue his services to the Union in future. Out of the settlement dues he received, he promised to construct an Old Age Home at Valsad for retired Railwaymen.

### PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF STOCK VERIFIERS

Looking to the non-availability of Accounts Stock Verifiers (ASVs), Railway Board has decided to allow Appendix-2 IREM qualified Accounts Clerks PB-1/Rs.5200-20200/ GP Rs.1900 and Jr. Shroff PB-1/Rs 5200-20200/ GP Rs.1900 with 5 years' service in Grade Pay

Rs.1900 for being considered for the post of Accounts Stock Verifier PB-2/Rs 9300-34800/GP Rs.4200 in order of the following preference:-

- i) First preference would be given to Appendix-2 IREM qualified Accounts Assistants PB-2/ Rs.9300-34800/Grade Pay Rs.4200/-.
- ii) In case of non-availability of Appendix-2 IREM qualified Accounts Assistants, by Jr. Accounts Assistants PB-1/Rs 5200-20200/ GP Rs.2800, who have rendered minimum service of 2 years and have passed Appendix-2 IREM examination and completed probation period.
- iii) In case no volunteer from Accounts Assistants/ Jr. Accounts Assistants are available, staff of Cash & Pay department working in Grade Pay from 2400/- upto Rs.4200/- provided they have rendered at least 5 years of service and have also passed Appendix-2 IREM examination.
- iv) If eligible staff (Accounts Assistants/Jr. Accounts Assistants & staff of Cash & Pay department) are not available, by Appendix-2 IREM qualified Accounts Clerks, PB-1/ Pay Scale Rs 5200-20200/GP Rs.1900 with 5 years' regular service in Accounts department.
- v) In case volunteer from Appendix-2 IREM qualified Accounts Clerks, PB-1/Rs 5200-20200/GP Rs.1900 with 5 years' regular service in Accounts department are also not available, by Appendix-2 IREM qualified Jr. Shroff, PB-1/Rs 5200-20200/GP Rs.1900 with 5 years' service in Grade Pay Rs.1900/-.

Such staff on their appointment to the post of Accounts Stock Verifier will be given adequate training by Sr. ISAs in stock verification work to ensure that the quality of stock verification and preparation/disposal of stock verification are not diluted.

Accounts Assistants/Jr. Accounts Assistants & staff of Cash & Pay department in Grade Pay below Rs.4200/- on being posted as Accounts Stock Verifier shall not be entitled to special allowance of Rs.1000/- per month for the purpose.

Accounts Assistants/Jr. Accounts Assistants & staff of Cash & Pay department from Grade Pay Rs.2400/- upto Grade Pay Rs.4200/-, Accounts Clerks and Jr. Shroffs on being posted as Accounts Stock Verifier shall have to pass Appendix-4 IREM

examination in three chances to be available within a period of 4 years of their joining as Accounts Stock Verifier, failing which they will be reverted to their parent cadre.

Accordingly, Recruitment Rules of Accounts Stock Verifier Appendix-IV/Indian Railway (Establishment Manual/Volume-I (Revised Edition-1989) First Reprint Edition-2009 is modified as per ACS (Advance Correction Slip) No.228. (Rly.Bd's letter No.2000/AC-II/20/23(Pt) dt.24.02.2015 RBA No.16/2015)

### DELEGATION OF POWERS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACTS

Railway Board has decided that all the cases for acceptance of Works and Stores tenders which as per the extant delegations are to be referred to Railway Board by Zonal Railways / Production Units may now be dealt with and finalized by Zonal Railways / Production Units. Full powers have been delegated to General Managers / Director Generals as tender accepting authority in this regard. This power will be exercised by General Managers and will not be further delegated. (Rly.Bd's letter No.F(X)II-2014/PW/1 dt. 01.01.2015)

### SPECIAL TRAINING MODULE ON SOFT SKILLS

In the context of providing greater thrust towards customer satisfaction, Railway Board has decided that all frontline staff directly dealing with customers, should be exposed to special training modules on soft skills as announced in Budget 2015-16. Accordingly, all General Managers are advised to arrange soft skills training for a minimum period of 3 days to all frontline staff. Training progress and its module should be finalized within one month and if necessary by tie up with professional Training Institutions/Soft Skill Experts, etc.

(Rly. Bd's letter No. E(MPP)/2015/3/8 dt.19.03.2015 RBE No.23/2015)

### SUBMISSION OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES BY RAILWAY SERVANTS UNDER SEC.44 OF THE LOKPAL AND LOKAYUKTAS ACT, 2013

In regard to filling of returns under Section 44 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, Railway Board clarified that -

(i) The first return (as on 1st August, 2014) under

the Lokpal Act should be filed on or before the 30th April, 2015;

(ii) The next annual return under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 for the year ending 31st March, 2015 should be filed on or before 31st July, 2015; and

(iii) The annual return for subsequent years as on 31st March every year should be filed on or before 31st July of that year.

All officers and staff have to file declarations/returns in the prescribed Form within the time limits. (Rly. Bd's letter No. E(D&A)/2014 GS1-2 dt.25.03.2015 RBE No.26/2015)

### LIFE TIME VALIDITY FOR FAMILY IDENTIFY CARDS

Railway Board decided that validity of Family Identify Cards issued to retiring/retired railway employees and widows of railway employees will now be for lifetime instead of 7 years. (Rly. Bd's letter No. E(W) 2003/PS 5-8/1dt.16.03.2015 RBE No.19/2015)

### OBITUARY

**Com. J.C. Pathak**, Ex OS/DRM-BRC & Ex Divisional Chairman, WREU-BRC, passed away on 20.03.2015. He had held various posts in WREU at Branch and Divisional level and was very popular amongst Railway employees. He was very courageous and helpful to all categories of railway employees. He took leading part in 1960/1974 Strike.

### ALL INDIA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base 2001=100)

| Month/Year | Base Year 2001=100 Average | Total of 12 months | 12 Monthly Average | % Increase over 115.76* for DA |
|------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mar. 2014  | 239                        | 2832               | 236.00             | 103.87                         |
| April 2014 | 242                        | 2848               | 237.33             | 105.02                         |
| May 2014   | 244                        | 2864               | 238.66             | 106.17                         |
| June 2014  | 246                        | 2879               | 239.91             | 107.25                         |
| July 2014  | 252                        | 2896               | 241.33             | 108.47                         |
| Aug. 2014  | 253                        | 2912               | 242.66             | 109.62                         |
| Sept. 2014 | 253                        | 2927               | 243.92             | 110.71                         |
| Oct. 2014  | 253                        | 2939               | 244.91             | 111.56                         |
| Nov. 2014  | 253                        | 2949               | 245.75             | 112.29                         |
| Dec. 2014  | 253                        | 2963               | 246.92             | 113.30                         |
| Jan. 2015  | 254                        | 2980               | 248.33             | 114.52                         |
| Feb. 2015  | 253                        | 2995               | 249.58             | 115.60                         |

\* Average Price Index for January 2001