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MARTYRS' DAY

55th commemorative day of "Martyrs of Dahod" was observed on 12th July 2015 in a befitting manner by the railway employees of Dahod under the banner of WREU. During Central Government employees strike in the year 1960, Comrades Ranjit, Sakharam, Khaderan, Sitaram and Kripashankar attained martyrdom by braving the bullets of Gujarat Police with courage.

In early morning, WREU leaders, activists and large number of the railwaymen including large number of women employees, led by Com. R. C. Sharma and Com. J. R. Bhosale, President and General Secretary respectively of WREU, accompanied by Com. R. P. Gupta, Vikas Gupte, H. S. Pal, Dinesh Panchal, Hariram Meena, Sanjay Kapoor, Amarnath Yadav, Sunil Harsh, I J. Ramvani, Perin Sophiya Harsh, Hemant Gupta and others, took out a Rally from Sat Rasta to Shahid Bhavan chanting slogans "Dahod Ke Sahido Amar Raho" "San Sath ke Shahido Amar Raho". Prabhat Pheri started at 06.15 A. M. and after passing through the Railway Colony reached Sahid Bhavan at 07.00 A.M. where all the comrades paid rich tribute to the martyrs by showering rose petals on the memorial and observing two minutes silence. Com. Bhosale while paying rich tributes to the Martyrs of Dahod remembered the sacrifices of our cadres and leaders for achieving the benefits which we are enjoying today.

ONE DAY T.U. INFORMATION PROGRAM

One day Trade Union Information Program sponsored by Maniben Kara Foundation was organized by Dahod Electrical & Medical Branch in Sr. Railway Institute on 12th July, 2015. 28 participants, mostly new recruits, attended the program. Com. Bhosale and Com. R. C. Sharma inaugurated the program by garlanding the portrait

of late Com. Maniben Kara. Both the leaders stressed upon the need of Trade Union Education as WREU/AIRF believe in "Organization Through Education". Com. Bhosale briefly enlightened the participants about the Indian Railway system in the past and informed about present scenario and challenges before the industry. Com. R. C. Sharma appealed the Railwaymen to be prepared to wage a long struggle against anti-labour policies of the government. Educators - Com. Dinesh Panchal and Com. Vikas Gupte, dwelt on various subjects related to trade union and history of WREU/AIRF. Smt. Perin Sophiya Harsh, Branch Secretary and her team made necessary arrangements for the conduct of the Class.

ENERGY CONSERVATION EXHIBITION

An exhibition on Energy Conservation was organized by Dahod Workshop Branch in co-operation with Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA), Gandhinagar, in Senior Railway Institute, which was inaugurated by CWM - Shri G. C. Ponnikar, in presence of large number of WREU activists and officials. Various types of solar panels and its usage to run home appliances / electrical equipments were displayed and sold at 20% discounted price. Shri Anil P. Dange, Marketing Manager of the Agency gave useful tips for saving the conventional energy with the help of presentation and displays which were mounted on an Outdoor Van.

PUBLIC MEETING

In the evening, a public meeting was organized in the Senior Railway Institute, which was addressed by Com. J. R. Bhosale, Com. R. P. Gupta and Com. Vikas Gupte. Com. Bhosale appreciated all the branches of Dahod area for organizing various non-bargaining activities in remembrance of the Martyrs of 12th July 1960. Com. Bhosale in his very informative speech explained Indian Railway System in pre and post independence

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era and about the impacts of New Economic Policies, i. e. Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization adopted by the Government in 1991, Dunkel and GATT agreements, which would have deep impact on the socio-economic situation world over and especially on Indian economy. He also mentioned about various committees appointed by Government of India for improving the condition of Indian Railway System and its reports, which instead of finding solution to improve this age old time tested system, recommend privatization of its activities as a short cut measure. He added that AIRF has strongly opposed and condemned all these recommendations and launched agitation to save Indian Railways from the clutches of privatization. He quoted examples of European countries which adopted privatization to solve their problems which ultimately led to collapse of the entire railway system and finally rail users and trade union activists in those countries had to run campaign for "Take back the Track". While mentioning about the anti-labour recommendations of Bibek Debroy Committee, he informed that WREU is holding its CEC Meeting and Youth Conference at Ratlam on 16th July mainly to deliberate on these issues. He opined that Industrialists and Government are united which is a bad sign for the workforce of the country. He also mentioned about the proposed changes in some of the labour laws, which will lead to exploitation of the labours. He also gave information about the final oral evidence given by AIRF and NC-JCM before the 7th CPC. Com. Kapoor welcomed all the dignitaries and Com. Amarnath Yadav gave vote of thanks.

CEC MEETING, ZONAL YOUTH & WOMEN CONFERENCES AT RATLAM

Central Executive Committee Meeting of WREU was organized at Ratlam on 16th July, 2015 to take stock of the current situation and make preparations for forthcoming Indefinite Strike of Central Government Employees including Railwaymen from 23rd November, 2015. All Central Office Bearers, Divisional Secretaries/Chairmen, Secretaries of Non Divisional Branches and the Leaders of Youth and Women Wings attended the meeting. Com. R. C. Sharma presided the meeting. The largely attended meeting was inaugurated by Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary/AIRF & Secretary, NC-JCM (Staff Side). Com. Mishra in his inaugural speech, mentioned about the 11

point charter of demand such as implementation of the 7th CPC from 01.01.2014; Grant of Interim Relief; Merger of 100% D.A. with basic pay; Scrap New Pension Scheme, Reject retrograde recommendations of Bibek Debroy Committee, etc. He congratulated the leadership of WREU for conducting CEC meeting for discussing the important issues in order to create awareness amongst the railwaymen and their family members about the anti-labour and anti industry policies of the present Government. Com. J. R. Bhosale strongly criticized the recommendations of Bibek Debroy Committee and appealed the participants especially youths and women delegates to move around the masses to create awareness amongst them to fight against the pro-capitalists policies of the Government which will ultimately lead to the privatization of the Indian Railways. He informed about the recent Oral Evidences by AIRF and JCM (Staff Side) before the 7th CPC and the memorandum submitted by Women Wing in respect of the issues concerned with women employees. He also mentioned about the problems faced by Trackmen and the demands placed before the 7th CPC. Two Resolutions were moved in the CEC meeting, viz. (1) To conduct "Strike Ballot" on 13th and 14th October, 2015 to go on Indefinite Strike from 23rd November, 2015 (placed by Com. P.B. Bhagava and seconded by Com. S. B. Shrivastava); and (2) To support the call given by all the major CTUs and Industrial Federations to observe "Bharat Bandh" on 2nd September, 2015 (placed by Com. Vikas Gupte and seconded by Com. Vivek Kamble). In the deliberations took place thereafter on these resolutions, 16 delegates participated. Com. Bhosale clarified some of the issues/points raised by the delegates such as problems of NPS subscribers, introduction of E-dak System, C.G. appointments, etc. and mentioned about the achievements of WREU/AIRF. Both the resolutions were placed and accepted unanimously amidst loud applause. While concluding, Com. R. C. Sharma opined that this meeting will surely help in creating an atmosphere to fight against the anti-labor policies of the government. He mentioned about the meeting of Labour Ministers of all the States for exchange of views on the proposed amendments in labour laws and the meeting at Ahmedabad in which he too was present. He thanked the leadership of Ratlam Division for excellent arrangements made for such a huge gathering.

Com. Narendra Solanki and Com. Manohar Pachori delivered vote of thanks.

PRESS CONFERENCE

Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra while addressing the Press Conference at Hotel Ajanta Palace mentioned that the policies of the successive Governments, irrespective of whether UPA or NDA, are similar but the present government is in no mood to listen the views and opinions of the organized labour. Com. Bhosale explained the financial condition of the Indian Railways with figures of expenditure and earnings for freight, passenger and suburban systems. The decision taken by Joint Committee of Action of JCM constituents for resorting to Indefinite Strike from 23rd November 2015 was conveyed to the reporters.

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF COM. JAGDISH AJMERA

The 3rd Death Anniversary of Com. Jagdish Ajmera, Freedom Fighter & Ex President & Chief Advisor of WREU, was observed by WREU activists all over Western Railway by organizing various programmes.

In the meeting held at WREU Office at Grant Road, all the Central Office bearers in Mumbai and Divisional Office bearers of Mumbai Division and comrades of youth and women wing were present. Com. Bhosale garlanded the portrait of late Com. Ajmeraji. He remembered his long association with Late Com Ajmeraji, whose dedication to the cause of Railwaymen and his love and affection to railwaymen and their family irrespective of whether he is union activist or not. The leaders and activists in their respective speeches remembered their association with the departed leader and his commitments to the Union and the society at large and mentioned that true homage to the departed leader is working for the welfare of the working class. All the participants observed two minutes silence in his respect and made floral tributes by laying rose petals before his portrait.

17TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF COM. RADHESHYAM TIWARI

The 17TH Death Anniversary of Late Com. Radheshyam Tiwari, Ex Divisional Chairman, WREU-RTM, was observed in the Hall of Hotel Ajanta Palace at Ratlam on 16th July, 2015. Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, Com. R. C. Sharma and Com. J. R. Bhosale remembered the departed leader. Large number of activists of WREU and office bearers of WREU-RTM paid tributes to Late

Radheshyam Tiwari by showering rose petals before his portrait and observing 2 minutes silence.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. SHANTI PATEL

First Death Anniversary of Dr. Shanti Patel, veteran trade union leader, freedom fighter, Ex MP, Ex Mayor Mumbai, Ex General Secretary/ President of HMS, Ex President of NUSI, Ex President of Port, Dock & General Employees Union and also Port and Dock Workers Federation was organized in Conference Hall of Vijay Deep, Ballard Pier, Mumbai on 13.06.2015, which was attended by large number of leaders from all walks of life and paid rich tributes to the departed leader.

ONE DAY GENERAL STRIKE ON 2ND SEPTEMBER

A meeting to review preparation for one day Nationwide General Strike on 2nd September 2015 was held in the Union office of Government Mint, Mumbai which was addressed by Comrade Harbhajan Singh Siddhu, J.R. Bhosale, Y.G. Joshi, Sanjay Vadhavkar, Mahabal Shetty and others. Com. Siddhu provided the update of the joint struggle, criticized the anti-worker/anti people, pro-employer policies of the Central as well as some State Governments. He said that after amending hard earned labour friendly provisions of some major labour laws to facilitate employers for a conducive environment for hire and fire, the government has now proposed two labour codes one on Industrial relations and the other on wages. The objective once again is to allow flexibility to the employer. "Fixed Term Employment" has been launched by NDA government for the first time in the country whereby workers for fix tenure projects will be appointed for the tenure period. No compensation or notice will be given to such employees before termination of their service. However, they shall be paid salary, allowances and other benefits at par with their regular counter parts doing the same work. The leaders from BEST, MCD, Port and Dock, Road Transport, Metal and Engineering Workers Union, Bombay Labour Union, Auto Rikshaw Union assured that workers from their respective organizations will participate in proposed one day Nationwide General Strike on 2nd September 2015.

WREU GREET'S NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Shri G. C. Agarwal took charge as General Manager of Western Railway on 7th July

2015. He was working as Adviser (Mechanical Engineering) in Railway Board prior to his posting as General Manager, Western Railway.

WREU delegates led by General Secretary met him in his Chamber on 9th July 2015 and greeted him in his new assignment and wished him all success to take Western Railway to further heights.

MEETING WITH LABOUR MINISTER

Com. R. C. Sharma, President, WREU and Com. P. K. Walanj, General Secretary, HMS (Gujarat State) accompanied by Com. R. S. Mishra and Com. H. S. Pal met Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Labour Minister of India on 13.07.2015 at Gandhinagar. The Labour Minister held a meeting with leaders of all Central Trade Unions of Gujarat state in presence of Shri Vijay Rupani, Labour Minister of Gujarat. Com. R. C. Sharma handed over a memorandum to the Labour Minister on behalf of HMS. During the course of discussion Com. P. K. Walanj strongly opposed the proposed amendments in the existing labour laws and mentioned about the problems of unorganized workers and the need to ensure minimum wage to them, filling up of vacancies in various Labour Courts and Labour Commissioners' offices, etc.

WREU-ADI EXTENDS RELIEF TO FLOOD VICTIMS

Due to incessant rain in Gujarat, low lying areas were flooded and the railway families residing on RDHP-SIOB Sections, viz. Bhabhar, Adesar, Samkhiyali, Maliya Miyana and Viramgam have been very badly affected. Com. R.C. Sharma, President/WREU & Divisional Secretary, WREU Ahmedabad Division, has been in continuous touch with the administration to arrange relief work and also instructed WREU branches to extend all possible help to the affected families. WREU comrades - S/Shri Harful Kumavat, Rajkumar, Surender Singh, Umesh Chaudhary of GIM Branch; Suresh Kumar, Sudhir Saxena, Ajit Rami of RDHP Branch; Misbahul Hasan, Manoj Kumar of VG Branch; Girish Vyas, Ashok Pandey of DHG Branch; Bhavesh Rana of MALB Branch and their teams tirelessly worked for two days, i.e. on 28 & 29 July 2015 and supplied food packets and drinking water to flood affected families and working staff at site. Comrades of DHG branch provided food and drinking water to passengers in stuck up trains at DHG. The relief work done by comrades of WREU was highly commended by one and all. WELL DONE COMRADES.

EID MILAN SAMAROH BY GUJARAT HAMAL SABHA

The Coolies and Hamals working at Ahmedabad Railway Station and surrounding areas organized Eid Milan Samaroh on 24.07.2015 under the banner of Gujarat Hamal Sabha, an affiliate of HMS, in the spacious Waiting Hall of Ahmedabad Railway Station. Com. R. C. Sharma, President, WREU was the chief guest in the function. He conveyed best wishes on the occasion of Holy Ramzad Eid and stated that such types of functions help for better communal harmony and fraternal unity amongst the workers. More than 150 coolies attended the samaroh, exchanged good wishes and distributed sweets.

'SHAHID DIVAS' OBSERVED BY WREU-PNU

Under the leadership of Com. S. K. Singh, Divisional Chairman, PNU Branch of WREU-ADI observed Martyrs' Day on 18.07.2015 in sacred memory of Late Com. Subhash Chandra Dubey, Com. Idris Husain and Com. Shantilal, who lost their lives in a fatal road accident while returning after rendering relief work to the flood affected railway families of PNU-BLDI Section. Large number of railway employees including office bearers and retired employees gathered in the union office and paid homage to the departed comrades by garlanding their photos and showering rose petals before their portraits. Com. B. P. Gadhvi, Branch Chairman, Com. Prahlad Hiragar, Anoj Jha and others made necessary arrangements for the function.

SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONAL TOUR BY WREU-BRC

WREU-BRC organized a special tour from 23rd to 25th July 2015 in which 50 comrades participated. The tour started from BRC Union office at 23:00 hours and visited Virpur (famous for Lajaram Bapa then Dui), Bagdana (famous for Bapa Sitaram), Kodhiyar Mata at Bhavnagar, Sarangpur (Hanuman), Butbhavani (Cot Ganesh), etc. Com. Santosh Pawar, Divisional Secretary, led the tour and during their halt discussed organizational matters and various hot burning issues of the branches. During the tour a special farewell function was arranged to honour S/Shri Dongareji and Bani Das and they were profusely garlanded and each of them was presented with a gift. Smt. Sadhana Trivedi, Divisional Chairman and Com. Santosh Pawar in their brief speech highly appreciated the services of Dongareji and Bani Das.

The functioning of the branches and its grievances were held in the second round of discussions, in which Branch Secretaries and Chairmen of BRCP, PRTN-I & II, PTD, ANND-I & II, BH, KSB etc. actively participated. Com. Santosh Pawar, Sadhana Trivedi H.P. Pandya, Ashok Barot, Vijay Sengar, Mehul Desai, Nitin Thakkar give their suggestions on various issues and guided the participants. Directors of RMCC - Shri Rajesh Pawar, Jayesh Desai and Director J.C. Bank - Shri R.K. Nair made special contributions apart from the contributions collected from the participants. The tour ended at BRC Union office on 25th July night with sweet memories and invigorated zeal.

WREU CANDIDATES WON DIRECTORSHIP OF RMCC

In the election held on 14.06.2015 for two director posts of RMCC/Pratapnagar, Com. Rajesh Pawar, an office bearer of WREU DRM-BRC Branch and Com. Jayesh Desai, Branch Secretary, WREU-MYG Branch, won with huge margin. All office bearers of PRTN I & II, MYG/BRCY-TF/BRCY-LoCo & TRS shed Branches under the guidance of Com. Santosh Pawar and Com. H. P. Pandya, actively canvassed for WREU candidates.

DEMAND FOR RESTORATION OF GR. 'D' POSTS IN C.G. ESTABLISHMENTS

During the course of oral evidence of Staff Side NC-JCM with the 7th CPC, the Staff Side stated that a large number of contract/casual, contingent and daily rated workers are deployed in various Central Government Establishments including Railways, Defence, Postal, Income Tax, etc. especially in the jobs performed by the erstwhile Group 'D' employees such as Chowkidar, Safaiwalas, Peons, Mali, Washerman, etc. The Chairman, 7th CPC after listening to the views of the Staff Side, desired that the Staff Side may give their views in writing for restoration of the erstwhile Group 'D' posts in Central Government Establishments.

Accordingly, Secretary, Staff Side NC-JCM, vide letter No.NC-JCM/7th CPC/2015 dated July 6, 2015 submitted a proposal to the 7th CPC for restoration of the erstwhile Group 'D' posts in Central Govt. Establishments with detailed justification, as under:

- (i) Minimum qualification of all the posts shall be 8th Std. pass or less and that persons possessing educational qualification beyond 10th Std. may be debarred from seeking employment in all the above posts.

- (ii) All the outsourced workers at present employed in various erstwhile Group 'D' posts either through contractors or through the system of outsourcing, casual/ daily rated workers may be absorbed against the existing vacancies subject to possessing the educational qualification or by imparting them in-house training. This will go a long way in curbing corruption and also exploitation of the poor contract and casual workers.

COMPASSIONATE APPOINTMENT GROUND

WREU raised the issue of incorrect approach of DRM-RTM in denying C.G. appointment to wards of deceased employees vide GM PNM Item No.4/2014. This issue was discussed number of times with the General Manager and finally GM(E)CCG issued instructions to all concerned vide letter No.E(R&T) 890/60/Policy Vol.VII dated 07/07/2015, which is reproduced below:

"The Competent Authority i.e. General Manager has since decided that for consideration of otherwise eligible candidates for appointment on Compassionate Ground, the financial condition need not be investigated, in future, in following type of cases:

- (a) Where application has been made in favour of either spouse or any child (son or daughter (married / unmarried/divorced/widowed), within five years of date of death of the employee; and
- (b) Where application has been made in favour of any child - son or daughter (married / unmarried/divorced/widowed), within two years from the date of attaining majority of the child who was minor at the time of death of the employee.

Accordingly, GM(E)CCG's letter No.E(R&T) 890/60/Policy Vol.IV dated 25/02/2000 (PS No.29/2000) stand modified to the extent as above. In other types of cases, the existing instructions should be followed."

SEMINAR ON "SOCIAL IMPACT OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENT"

Maniben Kara Institute organized a Capacity Building Workshop on "Impact of the European Union and India Free Trade Agreement on Human and Social Rights" from 4th to 6th July 2015 at NUSI Resort, Lonavala (Maharashtra).

India is a founder member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and World Trade Organization (WTO). The negotiations for EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) were launched in the year 2007 but still remained

inconclusive. The proposed EU-India FTA will cover bilateral as well as crisscross trade with 28 European countries. The said FTA covers wide range of issues like trade, investments, liberalizations of intellectual property rights (IPRs), services, public procurement, labour standards apart from merchandise trade with elimination of tariff and non-tariff measures. Therefore, it assumes great significance and will have its wider ramifications not only on trade and businesses but also on several socio-economic issues. Trade unions and other sections of India and international civil society are apprehensive that free trade agreements often do not fulfil the needs and aspiration of workers and their families. While the bilateral and multilateral negotiations/agreements are important from the trade and government point of view, it's equally important to understand and find out their ramification and impacts on industries, workers and unions in general and on human and social rights issues in particular.

The workshop/seminar was aimed at capacity building for office-bearers and activists of the trade unions and other civil society organizations through discussing and understanding the above issues and its intricacies.

The workshop was inaugurated by Com. J. R. Bhosale, General Secretary, WREU & Treasurer, Hind Mazdoor Sabha. In his inaugural speech he emphasized on the need of detailed discussion on social impact of Free Trade Agreements with countries and its impact on society and Trade Union Movement in the country. The Workshop was conducted by Com. Rajendra Giri and Com R. D. Desai of Maniben Kara Institute. The representatives from various sectors such as Insurance, Banking, Port & Dock, Railways and unorganized sectors attended the Workshop. Dr. S. T. Sawat, Director, ICSSR and prof. R. D. Joshi, experts in the subject, gave detailed information about the proposed Free Trade Agreements between India and European Union and its probable social impact on various industries such as Railway, Dairy, Pharmaceuticals, Port, Finance etc. and the country at large. They explained the FTA threadbare. Com. P. K. Walanj, GS, HMS/Gujarat, Com. Dhopeshverkar of Banking & Insurance, Com. Rane of Port & Dock held panel discussion involving all the participants.

WREU representatives - Com. Dinesh Panchal and Com. Nitin Shah, stressed the need of joint action by all National Level Trade Unions and

use of Social media, i.e. Face Book/Twitter for creating public opinion against FTA. The workshop was concluded with the decision to create awareness about the adverse affect and challenges of the FTA amongst the trade unions, social organizations and public as well. It was decided to hold a second round of discussion with the same participants after some months.

ROUNDING OFF OF A FRACTION OF RUPEE IN REGULATION OF ADDITIONAL PENSION

Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare vide their O.M. No.38/8/15-P&PW(A) dated 16th April 2015 instructed that while granting additional pension/family pension @ 20% to 100% to old pensioners/family pensioners of the age of 80 years and above, any fraction of a rupees should be rounded off to the next higher rupee. In cases where the pension/family pension of old pensioners has been fixed/revised without rounding off the additional pension, in those cases also, the additional pension may be rounded off to the next higher rupee hereinafter. However, no arrears would be paid in those cases. Railway Board circulated this O.M. vide letter No.F(E)III/2008/PN1/12 dated 02.06.2015.

GRANT OF FINANCIAL UPGRADATION UNDER MACPS TO PHARMACISTS

There was confusion in regard to financial upgradation under MACPS to Pharmacists after implementation of Fast Track Committee report. This issue was raised at NC-JCM and accordingly DoPT vide its letter No.35014/1/2014-Estt.D dated 10.06.2015 addressed to Secretary (Staff Side) NC-JCM clarified that Pharmacists who have completed 12 years of continuous service as on 01.09.2008 should be extended GP Rs.4600 as 2nd MACPS and GP Rs.4800 as 3rd MACPS to all those who have completed 22 years continuous service as the GP Rs.4200 Non Functional Grade (NFG) granted is counted for the purpose of MACPS. DoPT has also clarified that placement on completion of 2 years service not to be treated as financial upgradation / promotional hierarchy upto 31.08.2008 under ACP Scheme. Accordingly, Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, Secretary (Staff Side) NC-JCM & GS/AIRF, wrote to the Member Staff, Railway Board, vide letter No.AIRF/MACPS/2015 dated 30th June, 2015 for implementation of financial upgradation in case of Pharmacists working on Indian Railways, as per clarification of DoPT vide their letter dated 10.06.2015.

AIRF'S LETTERS TO RAILWAY BOARD

Sub: Revision of the rates of allowance in lieu of running room facilities & other allied allowances payable to Running Staff w.e.f. 01.01.2014

Railway Board vide their letter No.E(P&A)II-2005/RS-24 dated 01.10.2009 has decided the rates of allowance in lieu of running room facilities, Shunting Duty Allowance, Trip Allowance and Commercial Duty Allowance. Thereafter, vide their letter No.E(P&A)II-2005/RS-24 dated 22.04.2014 has increased above allowances by 25% w.e.f. 01.01.2011 consequent upon increase of Dearness Allowance above 51%.

However, above rates have to be increased further by 25% due to increase in the rate of Dearness Allowance to 100% w.e.f. 01.01.2014. Further, it may be noted that, rates of Kilometer and ALK are already increased by 25% vide Board's letter No.E(P&A) II-2005/RS-34 dated 24.06.2014 on increasing DA above 100%.

The Board are, therefore, requested to communicate necessary orders to all the Zonal Railways on the subject matter, duly increasing above mentioned allowances.

(No. AIRF/55 dated 3rd July, 2015)

Sub: Grant of one set Complimentary Pass to Widow/Divorcee/Unmarried Daughter drawing Family Pension of her parents

It has been represented by our affiliates that Widow/Divorcee/ Unmarried Daughter, drawing Family Pension of her parents, are not getting benefit of Complimentary Pass which was being given to their parents, as they are natural heir of the deceased pensioner. As such, they become entitle/eligible for the benefit of Complimentary Pass.

In view of the position explained above, the Board requested to issue necessary orders on the subject matter at an earliest.

(No.AIRF/82 dated 3rd July, 2015)

Sub: Exemption from passing Typewriting Test in respect of LDCs

DoPT vide O.M. No.14020/1/2014-Estt(D) dated 22.04.2015 has granted exemption from passing Typewriting Test in respect of LDCs on certain conditions(photocopy enclosed for ready reference), but Railway Board have not implemented the same on the Railways.

The Board are, therefore, requested to communicate necessary instructions to the General Managers of the Indian Railways to implement the instructions of the DoP&T,

contained in their O.M. referred to above.

(No.AIRF/64 dated 3rd July, 2015)

Sub: Protection of seniority and fixation on medical de-categorization of the Running Staff

Prior to issue of Railway Board's clarification dated 30.04.2013(RBE41/2013), scale of pay in case of medically de-categorized Running Staff was decided in terms of para 137, Chapter XIII of IREM Vol. I (Revised Edition, 1989) substituted vide Railway Board's letter dated 29.04.1999(ACS No.77). Accordingly, fixation of pay was done in alternative stationary post in terms of para 1308. As such, medically de-categorized Running Staff were offered alternative posts with fixation in higher pay scale/grade pay and consequently seniority between 01.01.2006 and 30.04.2013. Board's letters dated 05.10.2011 and 30.04.2013 are silent with regard to cases of medically de-categorized absorbed in alternative posts, which occurred prior to 30.04.2013. Accordingly, fixation of pay of medically de-categorized Loco Running Staff between 01.01.2006 and 30.04.2013 has been revised in terms of illustration of Board's letter dated 30.04.2008 by some of the divisions on Western Railway.

Our affiliate, Western Railway Employees Union, had represented to Western Railway Administration not to disturb the cases occurred between 01.01.2006 and 30.04.2013 since para (i) and (ii) of Board's letter dated 26.09.2012 clarify that promotions made between 01.01.2006 and 04.09.2008 will be protected and also seniority of the Railway Servant which existed on 04.09.2008 should be maintained. General Manager(E), Western Railway, vide letter No.EM 369/8/Loco Running/Seniority dated 01.06.2015 (photocopy enclosed), has, therefore, sought a clarification from the EDE(N), Railway Board, on the subject matter.

The Board are requested to communicate necessary clarification to all the Zonal Railways on the subject matter at an earliest.

(No. AIRF/55 dated 3rd July, 2015)

Sub: Advancement prospect for Paramedical Staff for promotion to Group `B' Cadre

In the Medical Department of the Indian Railways, a few categories of Paramedical Staff, like X-Ray Technician/Radiographer, Pathological Staff, ALC Staff, Physiotherapist, Malaria Inspector, do not have any advancement prospect to Group `B'. Only the Grade Pay of Rs.4200/Rs.4600, i.e. apex grade pay of Group `C', is available for these categories.

In the Nodal Ministry, i.e. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, these categories have been

provided with career progression to Group 'B' also, which is not available in Medical Department of the Indian Railways. There being serious discontentment among these categories of staff, this federation has taken up this issue as regular agenda item of Railway Board's PNM Meeting vide item No.14/2014 and was discussed during last PNM Meeting of AIRF held on 20-21 May, 2015 as well. It was informed, during the course of discussions, that the matter having been referred to the CMDs/CMOs of the Zonal Railways, reply was already received from 10 Zonal Railways, and the same was being referred to Estt.(NG) Directorate for taking necessary action in the matter.

AIRF, therefore, desires that, decision in the subject matter be taken expeditiously without waiting for reply from rest of the Zonal Railways, so that there is no unwarranted delay in this case.

(No.AIRF/PNM/25/2014 dated: July 13, 2015)

VETERAN RETIRED

Com. Haribux Singh "Thakur", MCF under SSE(C&W)GIM, Branch Chairman, GIM Branch and Divisional Vice Chairman of WREU-ADI retired from railway service on 30.06.2015 after putting in more than 40 years of service. He was appointed as a Khalasi and rose to the post of MCF. He was very popular amongst staff of GIM Branches. He served railway employees in his capacity as Branch Secretary and Divisional Vice Chairman of WREU.

GIM Branches organized a farewell function in his honour in the union office of GIM Branch on 03.07.2015, which was attended by more than 400 railway workers. Com. R. C. Sharma, R. S. Mishra, H. S. Pal, Harful Kumavat, G. R. Verma, Ajay Sharma, Govind, Surrender Singh as also ADME and ADEN of GIM attended the function. In their speeches, they applauded his selfless services and wished him a very happy, healthy and peaceful retired life. He was also honoured in a function organized by DRM Branch of WREU-ADI.

Com. Haribux Singh thanked the leadership of WREU for giving him such a high profile honour and also thanked comrades of DRM office Branch for their cooperation in discharging his duties as a Branch Secretary. Com. R. C. Sharma appealed all office bearers of GIM Branch to be more active in serving employees to fill up the vacuum on account of retirement of Com. Harbux Singh.

OBITUARY

Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam (83), former President of India passed away on 27 July 2015 at Shillong due to cardiac arrest. He was the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007. He was recipient of several prestigious awards, including the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour.

Dr. Abdul Kalam was born on 15 October 1931 in a poor family at Rameshwaram. He served for four decades as a scientist and science administrator in Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and was intimately involved in India's civilian space program. He thus came to be known as the Missile Man of India for his work on the development of ballistic missile and launch vehicle technology. He also played a pivotal role in India's Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998. From the humble beginning as a son of a boats man, he rose to the highest post as President of India. He was author of number of books and his Autobiography "Wings of Fire" inspires the readers to ignite the fire within themselves.

His body was laid to rest with full State honours at his home town at Rameshwaram on 30th July 2015. More than one lakh people and a galaxy of leaders including the Prime Minister of India attended the funeral of the "Peoples President".

Shri C.D. Ananthkrishnan (92), father of Com. C.A. Rajasridhar, President, Hind Mazdoor Sabha and Southern Railway Men's Union, Vice President of AIRF and ITF, passed away on 15.06.2015 at Chennai. Hundreds of HMS and SRMU comrades and office bearers attended the funeral and paid respect to him. WREU & Railway Sentinel send its heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members.

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 |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 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 |
| March 2015 | 254 | 3010 | 250.83 | 116.68 |
| April 2015 | 256 | 3024 | 252.00 | 117.69 |
| May 2015 | 258 | 3038 | 253.16 | 118.69 |
| June 2015 | 261 | 3053 | 254.41 | 109.76 |

* Average Price Index for January 2001