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95TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF WREU

The 95th Annual General Meeting of WREU was held at Junior Railway Institute ground, Ratlam from 16th to 17th November 2015.

Open Session

The Open Session, which was presided by Com. R. C. Sharma, was held in the afternoon of 16th November, 2015 at Junior Railway Institute. Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary/AIRF, inaugurated the Open Session by lighting Lamp followed by other dignitaries present on the dais. Com. Rakhil Dasgupta, President/AIRF, Com. C. A. Raja Shridhar, President HMS & Vice President, ITF, Com. Harbhajan Singh Siddhu, General Secretary/HMS, Shri G. C. Agrawal, General Manager, Western Railway, Com. Mukesh Mathur, General Secretary/NWREU, Brother Mahendra Sharma, Ex. Regional Secretary, ITF (AP Region), Shri S. K. Albela, CPO (Admn.), Shri Manoj Sharma, DRM/RTM and Com. Dattaram Iswalkar, a prominent leader of Textile Workers Union in Mumbai, addressed the

gathering. The Reception Committee welcomed all the dignitaries by garlanding them and presenting shawl and beautiful memento.

Com. Mishra in his inaugural speech appraised about NJCA's decision to postpone proposed Indefinite General Strike by Central Government employees w.e.f. 23rd November 2015 to somewhere in February 2016 during Budget session of Parliament on account of engineered delay in submission of the report of the Seventh CPC and a resolution to this effect was unanimously adopted in AIRF's 91st AGM held at Jodhpur. He strongly criticized the policies of the Government in allowing 100% FDI and PPP in Indian Railways and congratulated the rank and file of WREU for holding demonstrations and observing 'Protest Day' on the call of AIRF and NJCA. He mentioned about many achievements by AIRF including that of implementation of LARSGES Scheme, continuation of PLB with the bipartite formula, improvement in recommendations of the successive CPCs and its implementation, etc. He



Releasing of Souvenir on the occasion of 95th Annual General Meeting of WREU

appealed all to fight for protecting hard earned rights and facilities of the working class and the need of intensifying the struggle for achieving the legitimate demands of the Railwaymen.

General Manager in his speech praised the mature leadership of AIRF/WREU in protecting the rights of the Railwaymen and expressed happiness for the cordial industrial relations on Western Railway, thereby Western Railway could surpass the targets in passenger and freight earnings. He congratulated Women Wing of WREU for the successful conduct of the Women Conference. A beautiful Souvenir published on this occasion was released jointly by Com. Rakhal Dasgupta and the General Manager.

Com. Rakhal Dasgupta and Com. Harbhajan Singh Siddhu in their speeches also criticized pro-privatisation policies of the government and proposed amendment in labour laws to dilute the existing rights and benefits of the working class. Com. Mukesh Mathur remembered Com. Umraomal Purohitji's contribution in getting implemented modified recommendations of 5th and 6th CPCs by which the Railwaymen were immensely benefited. He stated that NWREU feel proud being a part of WREU family.

Com. C. A. Raja Shridhar strongly criticized privatisation policies of the present government and allowing private stake holders on Indian Railways. While concluding the Open Session, Com. J.R. Bhosale read out messages received from various eminent personalities wishing the 95th Convention of WREU all success and thanked galaxy of leaders present on dais.

Delegate Session

Delegate Session was held in the Junior Railway Institute ground, Ratlam, at 10.00 hours on 17th November, 2015. Com. R. C. Sharma, President/WREU, was in chair. After paying rich tribute to departed leaders and other comrades who left for heavenly abode since last AGM, by observing two minutes silence, Com. Bhosale placed the General Secretary's Report followed by Accounts by the Treasurer. Thereafter, following two Resolutions - (1) Charter of Demands; proposed by Com. M.R. Zaveri and seconded by Com. Nikhil Joshi, and (2) Problems of Railwaymen on Western Railway, proposed by Com. Prakash Savalkar and seconded by Com. H. S. Pal, were moved.

There were detailed deliberations on the Resolutions and General Secretary's Report. Following delegates participated in the

deliberations, viz. S/Shri S. D. Meena, J.S. Vagaria, Sanjay Kapoor, Ravikant Baghel, Javid Haldarva, Rakesh Singh, Manohar Pachori, Bharat B. Mackwana, Alex Jacob, Sushant Bharti, Bhavesh Mehta, S.K. Shrivastava, Rakesh Mishra and Smt. Premlata Jain. General Secretary explained the various issues raised by the delegates and on his instance, Com. Sadhna Trivedi gave report on Women's Conference held on 16th November and informed about the resolution passed therein. Com. Vivek Kampli and Miss. Geeta Pandoria elaborated activities of Youth and Women Wings, respectively and Com. Dinesh Panchal reported about T.U.E.P. and Non-bargaining activities conducted since last AGM. After deliberations, General Secretary's Report was adopted and Accounts for year ending 31.12.2014 was unanimously passed. Both the resolutions were unanimously passed. M/s. Ashok Dalal & Co., Chartered Accountant, was appointed as Auditors for the coming year.

While concluding, Com. President and General Secretary thanked all the distinguished guests, well-wishers, media personnel, decorators and caterers for their contribution in successful conduct of the Convention. They also thanked delegates, visitors and WREU activists for their active participation and co-operation. They also thanked Western Railway administration in general and DRM-RTM and divisional administration for their support and co-operation. Finally, they thanked Com. G.L. Sharma, Manohar Pachori, Shyambabu Shrivastava and their team of dedicated volunteers for excellent arrangements made for successful conduct of the Convention. The meeting was concluded with vote of thanks to the chair shouting loud slogans – "WREU-AIRF-HMS Zindabad - Kamgar Ekta Zindabad".

WREU WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Women's Conference was held in Annexe building of Officers Club, Ratlam on 16th November, 2015. More than 400 women employees attended the Conference, which was inaugurated by Mrs. Savita Agrawal, President, WRWWO, by lighting lamp and garlanding the portrait of Late Com. Padmashri Maniben Kara in presence of Smt. Jaya Agarwal, Convener, AIRF's Women Committee, Smt. Divya Sharma, President, WRWWO-RTM, Smt. Tarun Suri, Member, WRWWO and Convener and Chairpersons of Women Wings of all Divisions and Non-divisional Units of WREU. Com.



Inauguration of Women Conference

Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary, AIRF, Rakhal Dasgupta, President. AIRF, Harbhajan Singh Siddhu, General Secretary, HMS, C. A. Raja Shridhar, President HMS and Com. J.R. Bhosale grace the occasion and encouraged the women employees and assured all type of support in their activities. Smt. Savita Agrawal in her informative speech put forth the problems of women employees, their position in the society and with data, stress on the need of increasing their share in nation building. Com. Jaya Agarwal in her inspiring speech motivated the women employees by quoting various achievements by AIRF for working women. Com. Geeta Pandoria placed the activity report of Women Wings of WREU since last conference in a summarized way. A resolution was placed by Smt. Perin Sophia Harsh and was seconded by Smt. Anjali Korgaokar. Women Leaders from all divisions/units participated in the discussion namely, Smt N. S. Hiwale, Yashoda Hegde, Prabha Patel, Pragnya Parmar, Rani Mathew, Preeti Joshi, Alka Agnihotri, Shabana Shaikh and Geeta Yadav. The resolution was adopted unanimously with shouting slogans 'Nari Sahkti Zindabad'. 'WREU/AIRF/HMS/ITF Zindabad'. Smt. Sadhana Trivedi chaired the meeting. Smt. Premlata Jain anchored the programme.

SEVENTH CPC SUBMITS ITS REPORT

The 7th Central Pay Commission has submitted its report to Shri Arun Jaitley, Hon'ble Finance Minister of India on 19th November 2015. The report was not up to the expectations. Apart from

the fact that there is no sizable increase in the salary, around 52 allowances are abolished and HRA is decreased from the present 30, 20 and 10% to 24, 16 and 8% for 'X', 'Y' and 'Z' class cities. Instead of removing the existing anomalies in the MACPS, the Pay Commission has introduced passing of examination as another criteria for granting MACP benefit and Benchmark changed from 'Good' to 'Very good' for MACPS. The Pay Commission has recommended that Annual Increment of employees whose performance is not "Very Good" be stopped after 20 years of service and he may be allowed to opt for Voluntary Retirement. Further, CPC has recommended for introduction of "Performance Related Pay" (PRP) and that the existing PLB Scheme should be subsumed under PRP. Further, the demand of Duty Specific Special Allowances for categories of Technical Supervisors of P. Way, Works, Bridges & Track Machines and Risk Allowance for Technical Supervisors has not been considered. In case of Child Care Leave for women employees, leave wage shall be reduced to 80% for second spell of 365 days CCL. The Commission has also refused to make any recommendation against the NPS. National JCA and AIRF has strongly protested against the retrograde recommendations of the 7th CPC and has called for observing Black Day on 27th November and protest meetings and massive demonstrations to show the anguish of the Railwaymen against such retrograde recommendations. The following are some of the highlights of the recommendations:

- 1) Recommendations will be implemented from 01.01.2016.
- 2) Minimum pay Rs.18,000/- & Maximum Rs.2.25 Lakh; Rs.2.50 Lakh for Cabinet Secretary; 3% annual increment; Actual hike in salary 14.29%; 23.55% increase in overall salary when taking in to account increase in allowances. Grade Pay System and 52 allowances abolished.
- 3) The fitment of employee in the new pay matrix is proposed to be done by multiplying his/her basic pay on the date of implementation by a factor of 2.57. The figure so arrived at is to be located in the new pay matrix.
- 4) Pay fixation example: In case an employee is drawing basic pay of Rs. 24,200 in PB-2, i.e. Basic 20,000 + GP Rs.4200, his salary would be fixed by multiplying basic pay by 2.57, which amounts to Rs. 62,194/- and would be placed at Level 6 in the Pay Matrix.
- 5) On promotion, first add one increment in existing pay and horizontally pay fixed to the nearest, next higher figure in the column of figures for next level.
- 6) Departmental Exam & training for MACPS in 10, 20 and 30 years of service and Benchmark changed from 'Good' to 'Very good' & regular fixation as on promotion.
- 7) The Commission recommended for continuance of existing formula and calculation of DA
- 8) 24% Hike in Pension.
- 9) One Rank One Pension (OROP) proposed for retired Govt. employees.
- 10) Gratuity is enhanced from Rs.10 Lakh to 20 Lakh and ceiling on Gratuity to be raised by 25% for every increase of DA by 50%.
- 11) **Revised rates for payment of death gratuity:** Length of Service less than one year Rate of Death Gratuity 2 times of monthly emoluments; Length of Service One year or more but less than 5 years Rate of Death Gratuity 6 times of monthly emoluments ; Length of Service 5 years or more but less than 20 yrs Rate of Death Gratuity 12 times of monthly emoluments ; Length of Service 20 years or more Rate of Death Gratuity 12 times of monthly emoluments; Half month of emoluments for every complete six monthly period of qualifying service subject to a maximum of 33 times of emoluments.
- 12) **House Rent Allowance** reduced from the present 30, 20 and 10% to 24, 16 and 8% respectively for 'X', 'Y' and 'Z' class cities. HRA will be raised to 27, 18, and 9% when DA increases to 50% and further raised to 30, 20 and 10% when DA increases to 100%.
- 13) **Night Duty Allowance:** Present system of weightage retained.
- 14) **NHA** rates increased by 1.5% and it will increase by 25% whenever DA raised by 50%.

Level	Rate of NHA
1-2	384
3-5	477
6-8	630

- 15) Over Time Allowance abolished. However retained for Operating and Industrial Employees governed by statutory provisions.
- 16) Uniform Allowance renamed as Dress Allowance and it will be payable annually. Station Masters will get Dress Allowance @ Rs.10,000 p.a. and others eligible employees will get Rs.5,000 p.a.
- 17) **Commercial:** TC in GP Rs.1900 upgraded to Rs.2000 and those in GP Rs.2400 upgraded to Rs.2800. Recommended for merger of cadre of TC, ECRC and Booking staff.
- 18) Accounts Dept: Sr.SO in GP Rs.4800 will be placed in GP Rs.5400 after completion of 4 years.
- 19) Breakdown Allowance abolished.
- 20) **Training Allowance:** Reduced from existing 30% to 24% in case of National level Training Centres & for the remaining from 15% to 12%.
- 21) **Non Practicing Allowance** payable to Doctors reduced from 25% to 20%.
- 22) **Composite Transfer Grant** reduced from 100% of the basic pay to 80%.
- 23) **Children Education Allowance:** Rs.2250 p.m. and will be paid once a year after production of certificate from School/College. Hostel Subsidy @ Rs.6750 p.m. or actual.
- 24) Family Planning Allowance abolished.
- 25) All interest free advances abolished.
- 26) Interest bearing advances:- PC Advance-50000/- or actual price (may be allowed maximum 05 times in entire service.)
- 27) **House Building Advance:** 34 times of basic pay or Rs.25 Lakh or anticipated cost of House whichever is less.

28) **CGEGIS :-**

Level of employee	Monthly deduction	Insurance amount
10 and above	5000/- pm	50,00,000/-
6 to 9	2500/- pm	25,00,000/-
1 to 5	1500/- pm	15,00,000/-

- 29) Recommended for introduction of Health Insurance Scheme.
- 30) Introduced Special Train Controller Allowance @ rate of Rs.5000/- p.m. to Section Controllers and Dy. Chief Controllers. This Allowance will be increased by 25% on DA raises by 50% each time.
- 31) Station Masters in GP Rs.2800 will be upgraded to GP 4200 first on 1.1.2016 and then fixation formula will be applied. Recommended abolition of ASM designation.
- 32) Additional Allowance has renamed as **Special Running Staff Allowance** to Running Staff.

Designation	Rate of Allowance
LP (M/E)	Rs.2250/-pm + DA
LP (P)/Motorman & Guard (M/E)	Rs.1125/- pm + DA
LP (G) & Sr. Passenger Guard*	Rs.750/- pm + DA

* Newly introduced as demanded by AIRF.

The practice of determination of pay element and rate of kilometerage continued.

- 33) All 04 categories of **Track Maintainers** (Trackmen) shall be granted Risk & Hardship Allowance on cell R3H2 (Rs.2700/- pm) and Special Gate Keepers granted with Risk Allowance.
- 34) **Transport Allowance:-**

Pay level	Higher TPTA Cities	Other places
9 and above	7200+ DA pm	3600+ DA pm
3 to 8	3600+ DA pm	1800+ DA pm
1 and 2	1350+ DA pm	900+ DA pm

- 35) **Leave:-** Casual Leave, Child Adoption Leave, Commuted Leave, EOL, Gazetted Holidays and RH, Leave not due, Maternity and Paternity Leave and Study Leave remained as it is. Hospital, Special disability and Sick leave have been subsumed and named as work related leave or injury leave.
- 36) CCL has been extended to single male parent also.
- 37) TA rate have been enhanced around 1½ times.

Levels as per the Pay Matrix

Existing Pay Bands	Existing levels of Grade Pay	New Levels
PB-1	1800	1
	1900	2
	2000	3
	2400	4
	2800	5
PB-2	3400	5A
	4200	6
	4600	7
	4800	8
	5400	9
PB-3	5400	10
	5700	10A
	6100	10B
	6100	10B
	6600	11
PB-4	7600	12
	8000	12A
	8400	12B
	8700	13
	8700	13
	8900	13A
	8900	13A
	9000	13B
10000	14	
HAG		15
HAG +		16
Apex		17
Cabinet Secretary, Defence Chiefs		18

WREU OBSERVED 'PROTEST DAY'

As per the unanimous decision taken in the 91st Annual Convention of AIRF held at Jodhpur from 3-5 October, 2015, to observe 19th November, 2015 as "Protest Day" all over Indian Railways to press upon the major demands, viz. (i) Undue delay in publishing the report of the VII CPC; (ii) Scrap proposal of inducting FDI/PPP in the Railways; (iii) Scrap NPS and cover all the Railwaymen under Guaranteed Pension/ Family Pension irrespective of appointment in Railways; (iv) Remove ceiling of Rs.3500 p.m. for computing PLB to Railwaymen; (v) Scrap report of High Level Railway Restructuring Committee; (v) Resolve all the long pending outstanding demands of the Railwaymen, etc., WREU cadre all over Western Railway observed Protest Day by holding dharnas, meetings and demonstrations at Unit, Divisional and Zonal Headquarters and also at important stations, as under:

Zonal HQ Office, Churchgate: A gate meeting was held at GM's Office Lawn during lunch

hours, which was attended by large number of Railwaymen from BCT Division, PL-MX Workshops, Printing Press, Stores, EMU-POH/MX and Churchgate GLO and Accounts Offices. Com. J.R. Bhosale while addressing the gathering criticized the government for allowing 100% FDI and PPP on Indian Railways and Defence and dwelt on the charter of demands submitted by NJCA. He stated that 7th CPC is about to submit its report today and NJCA will continue with its agitations till all the demands mentioned in the Charter of Demands are resolved. Com. R.K. Singh criticized the government on allowing 100% FDI in Defence Sector and also on skyrocketing prices of essential commodities. Com. Prashant Kanade also addressed the meeting and Com. P.B. Bhargava conveyed vote of thanks. Com. Nasir Shaikh, Vice President/WREU & Secretary, GLO-CCG Branch and Com. Unnikrishnan, Secretary, Accounts Branch along with their comrades made necessary arrangements.

BRC Division: Around 300 employees participated in protest meeting organized at TRS Shed BRCY on 19.11.2015. Com. Santosh Pawar, Sanjay Pawar, Rajesh Maurya explained the background of observing of protest day.

A mass dharna was organized by **WREU-Rajkot** on 19.11.2015 at DRM Office-RJT, in which more than 400 employees participated. Com. Mahesh K. Chhaya and Com. Nikhil Joshi explained core issues and the pro-privatisation policies of the government.

In **Bhavnagar Division**, protest meetings were organized at DRM Office, BVP BG work shop, DLJ, JND, JLR, GDL, VRL and many other branches.

Ratlam Division: WREU-RTM observed protest day by holding demonstrations and by conducting Gate Meetings at various places. The demonstration held at Ujjain Station was addressed by Comrades S/Shri Govindlal Sharma, S. B. Shrivastava, S. S. Sharma, Ravindra Upadhyay and Mohd. Afzal. The leaders in their address briefly explained about the pending demands, resolutions adopted in the AIRF and WREU conventions and stated that if needed be ready to intensify the struggle including that of direct action of indefinite strike. At Mhow led by Com. Jitendra Jaiswal and Pradeep Tiwari, all the local branches held demonstration in front of the office of Station Manager. At Indore under the leadership of Com. Anil Yadav and Shirish Velankar a demonstration was held at CDO

Office. Dahod and Piplod Branches joined other branches of Dahod area in the gate meeting organized at AEN office. The activists and leaders of Chittorgarh and Nimuch branches joined the protest meetings organized by Local JCA under the leadership of Com. Dinesh Dashoura, Shrikant Sharma and Mahesh Sharma.

Dahod: A largely attended meeting held at the AEN Office Dahod was addressed by Com. Sanjay Kapoor, Perin Sophia Harsh, Hemant Gupta and Amarnath Yadav.

WREU OBSERVED 'BLACK DAY'

National JCA in its meeting held on 20th November 2015 directed all the constituents of NJCA and their affiliates to hold massive demonstrations, bearing black badges, on 27th November, 2015, against the retrograde recommendations of the VII CPC. As per the call of NJCA and AIRF, WREU observed Black Day on 27th November, 2015 and distributed Handbills/Leaflets on the shortcomings of the 7th CPC report and pinned black badges/black ribbons on dress of each and every employee.

Mumbai Division: A massive protest meeting was organized during lunch hours on 27th November, in front of DRM Office, Mumbai Central, in which more than 800 employees, wearing red shirt and black badges participated. Com. Prashant Kanade, Nasir Shaikh, R. P. Gupta, Prakash Savalkar, Jintendra Singh, Rajan P. and Smt. N.S. Hiwale addressed the gathering and mentioned about the retrograde recommendations of the 7th CPC and exhorted them to be ready for direct action if these recommendations are not improved.

A gate meeting was held at **EMU POH Workshop**, Mahalaxmi, which was attended by hundreds of workers from EMU POH, Parel Workshop, Printing Press and Stores/MX with black ribbon tied up to their dresses. Com. Vikas Gupte, P.B. Bhargava, Abhishek Bhargav, Sanjay Girkar and Praful Jamsandekar addressed the meeting.

Vadodara Division: Protest meeting was held during lunch hours at DRM Office Pratapnagar. Comrade Santosh Pawar, R. S. Singh, Vinod Manjarawala, Smt Sadhana Trivedi gave their views on the report of the 7th CPC and its shortcomings and called upon the large number of employees present in the meeting to be ready for direct action. After the protest meeting, the participants marched in a rally through DRM office and Railway Hospital, Pratapnagar.

Ahmedabad Division: Protest meetings were held at DRM-ADI Office, Ahmedabad Railway Station, Sabarmati Workshops, Vatva Diesel Shed, Kankaria, Viramgam, Dhangadhra, Malia, Radhanpur, Kalol, Mehsana, Palanpur, Himmatnagar, Gandhidham and Comrades R.C. Sharma, H.S. Pal, Dinesh Panchal, Ghanshyam Yadav, Atanu Ghosh, Sanjay Suryabali, Rajiv Menon and other leaders addressed the meetings. In the morning, Divisional and Branch office bearers met each and every employee at their work place and distributed leaflets and pinned up black ribbons.

In Rajkot Division, the entire team of Divisional office bearers and Branch office bearers roamed through the offices and workplaces and met each and every Railway workers at their work place, distributed Handbills/Leaflets and tied black ribbon on their cloth.

BVP Division: A meeting was held at DRM office BVP during lunch hours, in which employees in large numbers attended by wearing black badges. Similar protest meetings were held by other branches also.

RTM Division held protest meeting in front of DRM office/RTM and the gathering was addressed by Com. Govindlal Sharma, S.B. Shrivastava, Manohar Pachori, S.S. Sharma, Rakesh Mishra and Narendra Solanki. The Railwaymen participated in large numbers by wearing black ribbons in protest against the 7th CPC recommendations. The speakers criticized anti-labour recommendations and exhorted the workers to be ready for any industrial action on the call of AIRF.

U.N. DAY FOR ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

On the occasion of United Nations day for Elimination of Violence Against Women, one of the ITF affiliated union in Mumbai (Maharashtra State Transport Kamgar Sangthana) arranged a full day programme in Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Chowpatty, Mumbai on 25th November 2015. Women leaders Comrades Geeta Pandoria, N. S. Hiwale and Chitra Bhujbal and activists of WREU from Mumbai area joined the programme and rally arranged by HMS and ITF affiliates. On behalf of WREU, Com. Vikas Gupte addressed the gathering and congratulated the Women Workers of Transport Unions of Mumbai and Maharashtra for the "Nirbhaya Campaign Week", providing access to Helpline "103" for women workers in transport sector and attractive posters.

Dahod (E&M) Branch observed the United Nations Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women on 26th November 2015 at CHI Office, Dahod, under the leadership of Com. Perin Sophiya Harsh and Com. Mrs Cynthia J. Singh. Com. Perin Sophiya Harsh addressed the gathering and explained in detail about Women Rights and importance of observing the Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women.

TRADE UNION EDUCATION CLASS AT BVP

Bhavnagar Division organized a Trade Union Education Class at Basic Training Center at BVP BG Workshop from 25th to 27th November 2015. 40 participants, mainly from Youth and Woman Wings, attended the Class. S/Shri J. P. Pandey DRM-BVP, Bhrahamprakash, CMS-BVP, R. B. Vijayvargiya, CWM-BVP and other officers were present in the inaugural function. DRM and other officers appreciate the non-bargaining activities carried out by WREU in Bhavnagar Division. On occasion of "KOMI EKTA DIVAS", WREU donated 25 Tiffin box, steel glass and spoon to Railway Hospital, Bhavnagar Para, which was highly appreciated by CMS.

Shri Dharamvir Tandi, Sr.DFM-BVP, delivered lecture on 'Work Culture'. Dr. B. N. Vyas, District Quality Assurance Medical Officer of Bhavnagar, made speech on 'AIDS Awareness' and Smt. Chhyaben talked on 'Parenting'. Com. Dinesh Panchal, V. K. Sharma, Vikas Gupte and D. N. Prakash rendered their valuable services as Educators. Com. Sachin Parmar, Branch Secretary, Youth Branch, Com. P. G. Desai (Kaku), Com. Tukaram of Workshop Branch, Com. Ahemadraja and other comrades of Workshop branch made required arrangement for the Class.

ZONAL TRADE UNION EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR WORKSHOP STAFF

Zonal Trade Union Education Programme for the Workshop Staff was organized on 23-24 November, 2015 at G. B. Sukhi Sabhakaksha, WREU Union Complex, Dahod. Twenty workers, mostly new entrants, from PL-MX, EMU-POH, PRTN, SBI and Dahod Workshops and Electrical Workshop Dahod participated in the Class. Shri G. C. Ponikar, CWM – Dahod, inaugurated the programme by garlanding the portrait of Late Com. Maniben Kara. Com. Shaikh Nasir, Vikas Gupte and Dinesh Panchal rendered their services as Educators and dwelt upon various labour/union related subjects. They also dwelt on the recommendations of the 7th CPC. Com. Nasir held a separate session on DAR for senior activists

of WREU/Dahod in Union Office. Com. Sanjay Kapoor and his team made excellent arrangements for stay and food for the participants.

GENERAL SECRETARY ATTENDED CHOGM MEET

Common Wealth Foundation held a preparatory meeting of the representatives of the civil societies [The Common Wealth People's Forum (CPF)] at Malta from 23-26 November 2015. Com. J. R. Bhosale was one amongst the two representatives represented the trade union group from India in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). Following subjects were discussed in different groups – (i) Indigenous knowledge as a driver of resilience; (ii) Planning for resilient urbanization; (iii) Climate resilience in Small States; (iv) Resilient societies; (v) Transformative education and sustainable development in Small States; (vi) Building resilient health systems for an ageing population, etc. Dr Vandana Shiva, Director of The Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy & a world-renowned environmental thinker, delivered Keynote speech. In her address, she explored why resilience needs to be examined in new ways, and frame the discourse of resilience in governance. All the 350 representatives were taken to House of Representative, Parliament of Malta at Valletta and discussed problems faced by common man in different countries. The discussion was chaired by Speaker of Malta.

PUBLICATION OF BOOK - "LUST FOR LALBAUG"

A book written by Shri Viswas Patil on Textile Mill Workers Indefinite Strike led by Late Dr. Datta Samant and published by Rajhans Publications was released by the hands of Shri Anil Purushottam Kakodkar, a prominent Scientist, on 8th November 2015 in Bharat Mata Cinema Theatre. A well-known Labour Advocate & Retired Chief Justice of Supreme Court Shri Hemant Gokhale was the Chief Guest. S/Shri Datta Iswalkar, Dada Samant, Suresh Patil, Sadanand Godse, Ramji Tiwari, Ashok Bagve, Badkamkar, Damodar Madhav, Anwar Hussain, Waman Kendre (famous Film Director) and many other prominent labour leaders and social workers were present on the occasion. The book contains about 18th January 1982 Textile Mill Workers Indefinite Strike led by Late Dr. Datta Samant and how the Textile Workers fought

and overcome number of problems caused by Indefinite Strike. Many of the speakers mentioned that the indefinite strike of Textile Workers was successful but it was broken by the Mill owners and Government at that time. Some speakers mentioned that Bombay is a Nursery of Marathi language.

Shri Hemant Gokhale mentioned that the present trade union movement in the country had failed to stop the present government from carrying out various anti-labour amendments to number of labour laws. All speakers congratulated Shri Viswas Patil for his book in bringing the situation faced by the textile workers of Lalbaug and Parel area and their families. Mrs. Viswas Patil was also honoured for pain taken by her in proof reading and supporting Shri Viswas Patil in bringing out this work. Com. Mahesh Keluskar anchored the whole programme.

RATES OF ALLIED RUNNING ALLOWANCES INCREASED

The rates of Allowance in Lieu of Running Room Facilities, Shunting Duty Allowance, Trip Allowance and Commercial Duty Allowance were increased by 25% w.e.f. 01.01.2011 consequent upon increase of Dearness Allowance to 51%.

WREU/AIRF raised the demand for its revision subsequent to enhancement in the rates of Dearness Allowance to 100% w.e.f. 01.01.2014 vide their letters No. AIRF/BCT/09/2015 dated 18th May 2015. Railway Board has accordingly revised the rates of these Allowances and increase by further 25% w.e.f. 01.01.2014 over the rates laid down vide Board's letter No. E(P&A)II-2015/RS-34 dt.01.10.2009. (Rly. Bd's letter No. E(P&A)II-2015/RS-34 dt.30.11.2015 RBE No.151/2015)

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
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	119.78
July 2015	263	3064	255.33	120.57
Aug. 2015	264	3075	256.25	121.36
Sept. 2015	266	3088	257.33	122.30
Oct. 2015	269	3104	258.66	123.45

* Average Price Index for January 2001