

RAILWAY SENTINEL



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ALL INDIA PROTEST WEEK

As per the directives of the AIRF to observe 'Protest Week' from 12-17 January 2015 to show anguish and anger of the Railway employees against apathy of the government in not resolving long pending demands of the Railwaymen including anomalies of the 6th CPC, anti-labour policies of the government and allowing 100% FDI on Indian Railways with assured Off-take WREU cadre all over Western Railway organized rallies, demonstrations, dharnas and meetings at Zonal and Divisional Headquarters, Workshops and important places
Mumbai: Massive Rally & Meeting At Churchgate



Com. J. R. Bhosale addressing the gathering

WREU organized a massive rally at Western Railway Headquarters at Churchgate on 13th January 2015, in which thousands of Railwaymen from HQ Office (Accounts and Non-Accounts Branches) and suburban areas of Mumbai Division, Parel-Mahalaxmi Workshop, Stores & Printing Press, Mahalaxmi, J.R. Hospital, Mumbai Central, etc. participated. The rally was converted into a meeting at the lawn of GM's Office and the huge gathering was addressed by Com. R.P. Singh, Coordinator, Central Government Employees' Confederation, Com. J. R. Bhosale, Com. Nasir Shaikh, Com. Prashant Kanade, Smt. Shakuntala Waval and Com. Ram Prasad, Leaders of All India SC&ST and OBC Employees' Association, respectively. Com. R. P. Singh criticized the anti-labour approach of the government in not acceding the demands of the organized labour and called upon the employees

to unite for direct action. Com. Bhosale narrated the demands of the NC-JCM placed before the 7th CPC and apathetic attitude of the government in not merging the DA and granting interim relief and assurance for implementation of the 7th CPC from 1.1.2014 to C.G. employees despite repeated demands of the JCM (Staff Side) and exhorted the participants to be ready for agitation including indefinite strike, if need be. Com. Bhosale criticized the government's approach in allowing 100% FDI on Indian Railways and Defence. He welcomed the statement of Hon'ble Minister of Railways in Mumbai on 9th January 2015 that ownership of Indian Railways will remain with Government of India and that there will be no privatization of Indian Railways and Government should support Railway development from general expenditure. The other leaders also in their respective speeches appealed all employees to be united for struggle and extended full support of their organization/association for achieving the demands of the employees. Apart from the aforementioned speakers, Com. R.P. Gupta, Com. P. B. Bhargava, both AGS/WREU, Com. Vikas Gupte, Treasurer/WREU, Com. D.Y. Mahale, Wkg. Chairman, WREU BCT Division, Com. P. Rajan, Jt. Div. Secretary, WREU BCT Division, Com. Limbuwala, Chairman, WREU GLO-CCG Branch, Com. J. S. Vagaria, Chairman, WREU CCG Accounts Branch and Com. Unnikrishnan, Secretary, WREU CCG Accounts Branch and all the comrades of CCG GLO Branch (male and female) have taken lot of pain for making the rally a grand success.

Ahmedabad Division: A mass meeting was organized on 17.01.2015 in Kankaria Loco Shed Campus at Ahmedabad, which was presided over by Com. S. K. Singh. More than 500 railway workers including large number of women and youth employees attended the meeting. Com. R. C. Sharma, President, while addressing the gathering explained the pros and cones of 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in railways and the stand taken by AIRF. He mentioned about anti-labour

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policies of NDA Government and various points against which the Protest Week is observed by AIRF/WREU. He explained comparative position of New Pension Scheme with Old Pension Scheme and the drawbacks of New Pension Scheme. He informed the gathering about Joint Action Committees' (JAC) formation and its future course of action and called upon the Railwaymen to be in readiness for direct action at the call of AIRF/WREU. Com. S. K. Singh, Com. Dinesh Panchal, also spoke on the occasion. Com. R. S. Mishra, Ajit Gajjar, Sanjay Suryabali, Smt. Pragna Parmar, Com. Atanu Ghosh and Com. Amrut Makwana, both contestants of ensuing JC Bank elections were present on dias. Com. H. S. Pal ably conducted the meeting. The meeting was concluded with raising slogans against anti-labour policies of NDA Government.

WREU, Sabarmati Workshop Branch observed All India Protest Week by organizing a gate meeting on 17.01.2015 at Sabarmati Engineering Workshop. Huge gathering of railway workers was addressed by Com. Dinesh Panchal. He spoke about the probable effects of 100% FDI in railways, particularly in workshops. He congratulated the railway workers for their mass demonstration on 05.12.2014 due to which the Government is compelled to declare that the railways will not be privatized and called upon the cadre to continue with the same zeal and spirit to fight against any move to privatize railways. The meeting was concluded with raising slogans "Rail Bachao – Desh Bachao".

Ratlam Division: WREU Ratlam Division organized number of meetings during the Protest Week. A meeting was organized in front of SM Office/Ujjain on 12th January 2015 by Ujjain Branch. Com. G.L. Sharma, S.B. Shrivastava, Manohar Pachori, S.S. Sharma, Shri Mohd. Afzal and Shri Ravindra Kumar Upadhyay, addressed the meeting. All of them exhorted the participants to be ready for indefinite strike.

Similar meeting was organised at Diesel Shed at Mhow on 13 January 2015, which was also addressed by G. L. Sharma and other divisional office bearers and Rakesh Mishra.

Piplod Dahod Branch organized a meeting on 15th January 2015 at Dahod Railway Station.

Dahod Workshop: A gate meeting was organised in front of the Dahod Workshop on 16th January 2015 evening, which was attended by large number of workers of DHD Workshop. Com. Sanjay Kapoor, while addressing the gathering criticised the Government's approach in privatising Railways under the pretext of development and exhorted them to be prepared for indefinite strike unless the government does not relent. He informed about

constitution of National Joint Action Committee (JAC) under the leadership of Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, Secretary, JCM (Staff Side).

Bhavnagar Division: A rally was organized from Community Hall, Bhavnagar Para to DRM-BVP Office on 12.01.2015 as a part of Protest Week. Com. R.P. Gupta, Com. M.R. Zaveri and Com. V.K. Sharma addressed the meeting.

WREU MUMBAI CELEBRATES MAKAR SANKRANTI

On the occasion of Makar Sankranti, Women's Wing of WREU-BCT celebrated Til-Gud functions at various places as under:

DRM-JRH Branch organized Til-Gud function in the Auditorium of Jagjivan Ram Hospital at Mumbai Central on 22nd January 2014 in which large number of women employees working in JRH participated. The participants exchanged pleasantries and til-gud on the occasion. On this occasion, a 'Spiritual Healing' programme by Shri Chandrakant Patil, a famous Yoga Teacher & spiritual healing practitioner, healed a number of participants who are suffering from various chronic diseases. Smt. Hiwale organised the programme with the help of Com. Mahesh Koli, Harshad Premji and others.

Women Wing activists of DRM Office Branch met women employees working in DRM Office at their table and exchanged greetings on the occasion of Makar Sankranti and distributed Til-Gud and Rose flower.

Similarly, WREU Women Wing activists of GLO-CCG & Accounts Branches, met women employees at their working table and distributed Til-Gud, Rose flower, gift and also exchanged greetings.

PL-MX Workshop Branch organized Til-Gud function on 22nd January, 2015 in canteen Hall under the leadership of Com. Yashoda Hegde. Com. J.R. Bhosale was the Chief Guest and Dr. (Mrs.) Suji, Dr. (Mrs.) Mugdha, Smt. Uma Natarajan, Sr. Audit Officer, Smt. Naitri Sharma, Sr. FA, Kum. Geeta Pandoria and Smt. Chitra Bhujbal, Women Wing/BCT, Com. S. A. Gupte and Com. P.B. Bhargava were present. More than 350 women employees were present in the function. All the participants were presented with flowers, til-gud and a special



Programme at Parel Workshop

gift. Com. P. B. Bhargava, conveyed vote of thanks. The team of WREU PL/MX presented an entertainment programme which was appreciated by all.

PDGR Branch, Grant Road organized Til-Gud Function in J. A. Sabhagrih on 19th January, 2015 in which large number of women ticket checking staff and commercial staff participated. Com. Vikas Gupte & Prashant Kanade were the chief guests. Com. P. Rajan, Jitu, Milind Raut, Mr. S.Y.Raut, ADCTI GTR, B. P.Nair, Br.Secy. Snehal Dongde, Vice Chairman, and Com Yashoda Hegde were present. Com. Geeta Pandoria and Com. Ujwala and other colleagues conducted the programme. The participants exchanged Makar Sankranti greetings, distributed Til-Gud and Rose flower. An entertainment programme was conducted on this occasion.

DEC MEETING OF WREU BVP

Divisional Executive Committee Meeting of Bhavnagar Division was held on 12th January 2015 in the Community Hall, Bhavnagar Para. Com. V.K. Sharma chaired the meeting. Com. R. P. Gupta was given a warm welcome. Com. Gupta explained about check-off system recently introduced on Western Railway for deduction of membership subscription and special contribution to recognized unions through salary.

Com. M.R. Zaveri reported about the activities, achievements and programmes conducted on the division and threw light on the pending issues at divisional, zonal and national level. After discussion of organizational matters and deliberation on the recent developments on the Central Government's move to dilute labour laws and allowing 100% FDI on Railways and Defence, the meeting concluded.

BLOOD DONATION CAMP AT BHAVNAGAR

A Blood Donation Camp was organized in DRM-BVP Office campus on 22.12.2014 in co-ordination with Blood Bank, Bhavnagar and Railway Medical Department. The Camp was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by Shri Sonvir Singh, DRM-BVP, followed by S/Shri Harish Gupta, ADRM, M.R. Zaveri, Dharamvir Tandi, DFM, A. P. Barad, Sr.DOM, Masua Ahamed, DCM, R.B. Vijayvargia, CWM & others. Com. M.R. Zaveri mentioned about the non-bargaining activities conducted by WREU-BVP and informed that Blood Bank, Bhavnagar is arranging blood to railway employees and their family members without replacement on recommendation of the Union. DRM and ADRM appreciated WREU for organizing the camp for the noble cause. 140 employees donated blood. Comrades of DRM, NDDS and Workshop branches made all arrangements.

GET-TOGETHER ON NEW YEAR EVE

As usual, WREU-BVP organized a get-together of the railwaymen and their family members at Union Office campus on the eve of New Year for strengthening brotherhood amongst the railway parivar. Shri R. B. Vijayvargia, CWM-BVP, Shri Dineshbhai Joshi, Principal, Calorex Public School, Smt. Anju Joshi from Citizen Council Bhavnagar, were the distinguished guests. The participants exchanged New Year Greetings amongst each other. Com. N.R. Bagda, Sunil Chauhan, Bharat Shukla, Sachin Parmar, P.G. Desai, Mukesh Doshi and other worked hard for making the get-together programme a grand success.

FELICITATION FUNCTION AT JAMNAGAR

A Felicitation function was arranged at Jamnagar on 29-12-2014 to honour Com. Mahesh Chhaya, Divisional Chairman, RJT Division, on his unanimous election as Vice-President of WREU for the consecutive second term in the 94th AGM of WREU held at Baroda. The function was chaired by Com. Bharat Kumar, Div. Vice-Chairman. Large number of Railway employees working in Jamnagar and Hapa areas, H. R. Dholakiya and Vasant Rawal attended the function.

Com. Mahesh Chhaya was profusely garlanded by office bearers of HAPA & Jamnagar Branches and other staff amidst loud slogans, viz. "WREU Zindabad", "AIRF Zindabad" & "Comrade Chhaya aage badho, hum tumhare saath hai". He was honoured by presenting him a Shawl and bouquets. Com. Mahesh Chhaya assured Railwaymen of his commitment, as a Senior Union Leader for more hard work to alleviate the hardships and injustice to Railwaymen. Com. R. P. Chatrala anchored the programme.

OPEN MEETING AT JAMNAGAR

An open meeting was held on 29.12.2014 in front of WREU Jamnagar office, which was attended by large number of Railwaymen working in Jamnagar and Hapa areas. The meeting was addressed by S/ Shri N. B. Joshi, Mahesh Chhaya, Naresh Khatwani, and Abdul Ghani. They called upon the Railwaymen to be vigilant and prepared for a fight with the Government against introduction of FDI & PPP in Railways. They also exhorted the staff to be united and ready for an Indefinite Railway Strike.

LOCO RUNNING STAFF MEETING AT CHURCHGATE

A meeting of Loco Running Staff was held in Churchgate Lobby on 7th January 2015 in which more than 150 Guards and Motormen attended. Com. J.R. Bhosale, Com. Venu Nair, General Secretary, NRMU (C.Rly.), Com. Prashant Kanade, Com. D. Y. Mahale and Com. Rajan P. addressed

the meeting. Com. Bhosale and Venu Nair in their respective speeches emphasized the need of unity of the running staff of Western Railways and Central under the banner of WREU and NRMU for the struggle to achieve the legitimate demands of the Railwaymen. Com. Bhosale mentioned about the supplementary memorandum submitted before the 7th CPC by AIRF exclusively for improving the pay and service conditions of the running staff. Com. Prashant Kanade narrated the achievements at divisional level and suggested to hold Branch Council meeting to elect the new body for Churchgate Branch of which maximum members are from the running category. Com. Sandesh Sawant, conveyed vote of thanks.

WREU-BCT SUBMITS MEMORANDUM TO GM

During the visit of Virar - Surat Section by the General Manager on 30.01.2015, WREU delegation led by Com. Prakash Savalkar, Raghunath G. Chauhan, Shraavan Kumar and comprising of office bearers of BL - I & II branches, welcomed General Manager and handed over a memorandum on following staff grievances:

- 1) Recognition of prominent private hospitals for emergency treatment of staff working and residing at Main line and TV sections.
- 2) Merger of seniority of Loco Pilot (Passenger) and Motorman leads to skirmishes and unrest among the Running staff.
- 3) Lack of vehicle parking space at Surat Railway Station for Railway employees.
- 4) Filling-up of vacancies in all categories including in safety category.
- 5) Filling-up of vacancies of Loco Pilot (Goods) and ALP.
- 6) Construction of new Dispensary at Palghar.
- 7) Construction of new quarters in lieu of dismantled/abandoned quarters over Main line.
- 8) Difficulties faced by the retired employees due to implementation of ARPAN pension portal.
- 9) Provision for office space for JCCS at Surat.
- 10) Delegation of power to DRM for appointment in TC category under CGA.

The General Manager gave a patient hearing and assured the delegation early redressal of the issues.

DHARNA BY WREU-BRC

On account of lethargic attitude of the BRC Divisional Administration towards solving various staff grievances, WREU-BRC staged dharna/demonstration in front of TRS shed from 21.03.2015 to 23.01.2015 and at DRM's office on 23.01.2013. The frustrated employees ultimately resorted to hold Dharna in present of Sr.DPO/BRC, which compelled the administration to wake from the slumber and initiate the following steps:

- 1) Restructuring of Bridge Organization has been implemented and promotion orders issued.
- 2) The administration agreed to implement restructuring in respect of TRS shed without any surrender within 10 days.
- 3) The issue of promotion orders of ALP will be finalized at the earliest.

WREU/AIRF SUCCEEDED IN CANCELLING TRANSFER ORDERS OF DKZ ACCOUNTS STAFF

The Accounts staff of Western Railway working at Ajmer (Traffic Account) and Foreign Traffic Accounts at Delhi Kishan Ganj were agitating for forcibly taking option from them for shifting to N.W. and N.Railway respectively on the alleged plea that the workload at these offices are reduced considerably. Ultimately, on intervention of WREU, the staff were allowed to withdraw their option and the administration assured to provide additional work, computers and strengthen the infrastructure.

However, the administration deviating from their assurance, forcibly relieved 28 staff of Delhi Kishan Ganj on 01.01.2015 and instructed them to report for duty at Northern Railway. The agitating staff were forcibly removed with the help of Railway Protection Force. General Secretary took up the matter with General Manager and FA&CAO and pended the orders for relieving till the issue is discussed with the FC, Railway Board. This issue was discussed with Adviser/Accounts, Railway Board on 12.01.2015 in which representatives of WREU/AIRF argued that as per the work study conducted during 2011, there is adequate work-load in the office and as such the staff working in the office of FTA/DKZ/ Western Railway are to be retained in that office itself and strongly objected to shifting the staff and work from DKZ office and if considered necessary they may be allotted additional work instead of shifting them to Northern Railway. Railway Board finally agreed to the suggestion of the WREU/AIRF and agreed to retain the staff and work at DKZ Office itself.

All staff of DKZ office assembled at AIRF office and profusely garlanded Com. Rakhil Dasgupta, S.G. Mishra and Com. J.R. Bhosale on 12th January and thanked them for successful settlement. They shouted slogans WREU ZINDABAD – AIRF ZINDABAD. All staff of Traffic Accounts Office sent a Thanks Giving letter expressing their deep gratitude and praising Com. Bhosale for taking keen interest and taking up the matter at Board's level for cancelling the transfer orders of 28 Compilation staff of Section.

PENSIONERS GET-TOGETHER

As usual, under the aegis of WREU & Central Government Retired Employees' Association, a

grand get-together of retired Central Government Employees was arranged at Jagdish Ajmera Sabhagruh, Grant Road (West), Mumbai, on the occasion of Republic Day on 26th January, 2015. The function started with National Anthem. S/Shri Rajesh Chaudhari, Sr.DPO-BCT, Ramji O.M., Sr.DFM-BCT, Dr. Richa Rastogi, Physician (MD) & Natural Therapist, Com. R.C. Sharma, President/WREU, Com. J.R. Bhosale, General Secretary/WREU, were the special guests. Com. R.P. Gupta, AGS/WREU & General Secretary/ Central Government Retired Employees' Association, welcomed distinguished guests and other participants and narrated the achievements of the Association in solving various grievances of the pensioners through various fora, including Pension Adalat. He expressed gratitude to Sr.DPO and Sr.DFM for their positive approach in expeditiously solving the grievances of the pensioners. Com. J.R. Bhosale and R.C. Sharma explained the present political situation and role the trade unions in the present scenario. They also explained the demands placed before the 7th CPC especially for pensioners. Com. Sharma appealed for forging unity amongst pensioners of all divisions in order to become a formidable strength and also to get their problems solved expeditiously. Dr. Richa Rastogi revealed useful tips to get away from old age diseases, keep the vigour and remain healthy. All the participants paid their respect and homage to the departed leaders of WREU - Late Com. Jagdish Ajmera, C.S. Menon and Umraomal Purohit ji and remembered their love and affection and contribution in strengthening the Union and its Pensioners Wing.

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF KKF & ADI BRANCHES

KKF-Yard, KKF-LoCo and ADI-CDO (MG) branches of WREU ADI Division jointly held their Annual General Meeting on 17.01.2015 in the KKF Loco Complex at Ahmedabad. The meeting was attended by more than 400 active workers and railway employees. Representatives from local branches also attended the meeting. Branch Secretaries Com. Hariram Meena, Baldhari Mahor and Girish Kumar of KKF-Yard, KKF-LoCo and ADI-CDO (MG) branches respectively submitted their branch reports containing activities and achievements of their branches. The AGM was addressed by Com. R. C. Sharma, S. K. Singh, Dinesh Panchal, Atanu Ghosh, Amrut Makwana and others. The AGM was ably conducted jointly by Com. H. S. Pal and Com. Sanjay Suryabali.

COM. BHOSALE ELECTED AS CONVENER OF JAC (MAHARASHTRA)

As per the direction of Joint Convention of JCM constituents held at New Delhi on 11.12.2014, a

meeting of local representatives of JCM constituent organizations in Mumbai was held in Jagdish Ajmera Sabhagruh, WREU Complex, Grant Road (West), Mumbai on 14.01.2015 and formed a Joint Action Committee (JAC) for Mumbai & Maharashtra State. Com. J.R. Bhosale, Treasurer HMS/AIRF & Standing Committee Member (JCM-NC) is unanimously elected as Convener of the local JAC of Mumbai and Maharashtra. Com. R. P. Singh of Confederation and Com. Pravin Bajpai of Railways were elected as Joint Conveners.

Since then number of JAC meetings were held and it is unanimously decided to organize state level convention at Railway Auditorium, Mumbai CST, on 23.02.2015 from 14 to 18 hrs. Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, Com. M. Raghavaiah, Com. S.N. Pathak, Com. R. Srinivasan and Com. M. Krishnan will address the Convention.

As per the decision, local comrades at Nasik, Aurangabad, Bhusaval, Nagpur, Kolhapur, Pune and other places are requested to constitute local JAC at their level and arrange similar programmes. They are also requested to participate in 23.02.2015 convention in Mumbai.

NC-JCM(STAFF SIDE'S LETTER TO CABINET SECRETARY, GOI

Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary/ AIRF & Secretary (Staff Side) NC-JCM, addressed a letter to the Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, vide letter No.NC/JCM/2015 dated 11th January, 2015, in regard to inaction on the part of the Government to the 10 point charter of demands. The contents of the said letter are reproduced below:

"I solicit your kind attention to my letter in No.NC/JCM/2014 dated 16th December, 2014, wherein we had conveyed the decisions taken at the National Convention of representatives of the organisations participating in the JCM. We are distressed that you have chosen not to respond to our letter till date. We have so far not received any communication from any quarter of the convening of the National Council of the JCM. No effort has also been taken by any Ministry to convene the Departmental Councils.

We have now been given to understand that the Government has taken serious steps to set up a corporation to carry on the functions of the 41 Ordnance Factories, presently functioning under the Ministry of Defence. We have also noted that the report of the Committee set up by the Government to corporatize the functions of the Postal Department. The inordinate delay in settling the demands for Interim Relief and Merger of DA is causing distress amongst the Central Government Employees. The Railwaymen are particularly agitated over the decision of the Government to

induct FDI to the extent of 100% in Railways, which we are aware cannot be done without privatisation of the Railways. The declaration of the Convention, which we had forwarded to you vide our letter cited had amply explained the anguish of the Central Government Employees.

In order to register our opposition to the recent decision of the Government to corporatize the functions of the Ordnance Factories, we have amended Item No.2 of the charter of demands. We send herewith the revised charter of demands.

The National JCA met today and took note of the silence on the part of the Government to our pleadings. The meeting has, therefore, decided to go ahead with the agitational programmes, the first phase of which will culminate in a massive March to Parliament by Central Government employees on 28th April, 2015. If no settlement is brought about on the 10 point charter of demands, we will be constrained to go for an indefinite strike action, the date of commencement of which will be decided on 28th April, 2015."

VARIOUS MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT CASES SETTLED

On representing the cases wherein medical reimbursement cases were turned down by RTM Divisional administration on the ground of delay in submission of the claims (Informal item No.92/2014), CMD-CCG vide letter No.MD/Misc. dated 3.7.2013 reiterated the guidelines in terms of IRMM Para 652 and Board's policies issued from time to time and also Joint Procedure Order on how reimbursement cases received after 6 months to be dealt with, to all CMSs with instructions to process such cases accordingly.

Further, the case of medical reimbursement of Smt. Sajuben Hirabhai, Ex Peon of DRM Office/BVP was taken as one of the CPO Informal items by WREU (Informal item No.40/2013), the administration has agreed to sanction an amount of Rs.1,07,000/- towards medical expenses. Accordingly, the case was reviewed by CMS-BVP and sent to associate Accounts for vetting. Soon after receipt of the claim from the Division, HQ office will arrange payment of medical reimbursement to Smt. Sajuben Hirabhai.

AIRF'S SUGGESTIONS FOR RAIL BUDGET 2015-16

Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary/AIRF, submitted suggestions for consideration and inclusion in the forthcoming Rail Budget for the year 2015-16, vide letter No.AIRF/60 dated 16th January, 2015 addressed to Hon'ble Minister for Railways. Com. Mishra brought to the notice of the MR various schemes for welfare of the Railwaymen announced

by successive Railway Ministers but none of these schemes are materialized till date. He requested the MR to keep in mind these schemes and various other issues concerning the Railwaymen while finalizing the Rail Budget and suggested the following:

- 1) Re-calling of instructions issued for the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Indian Railways.
- 2) For allocation of adequate funds for materializing various welfare schemes for the Railwaymen announced by successive governments, viz. establishing Medical Colleges, Nursing Colleges, Central Schools and Technical Institutions, Own Your House Scheme, Mobile Medical Van, etc.
- 3) Extension of the scope of the LARSGESS.
- 4) Improvement in the condition of Railway Colonies, Roads and Running/Rest Rooms
- 5) Improvement in medical facilities & implementation of "Smart Card" facility for getting cashless treatment.
- 6) Filling up of Safety Category Posts.
- 7) Extension of facilities of Privilege/Complimentary Passes.
- 8) Revision of New Pension Scheme.
- 9) Absorption of Quasi-Administrative Staff in the Railways.
- 10) Provision of proper infrastructure and manpower while introducing new trains.
- 11) Implement positive recommendations of the High Power Committee.
- 12) Proper Pathway should be provided for the Trackmen for performing their duties efficiently and safely.

REVISION OF RATES OF STIPEND FOR TRADE APPRENTICES UNDER THE APPRENTICES ACT, 1961

It has been decided that the Trade Apprentices engaged on the Indian Railways under the Apprentices Act, 1961 should be paid stipend with effect from 22.09.2014 at the revised rates as notified in the Directorate General of Employment & Training, Ministry of Labour & Employment's Notification No.G.S.R. 680(E) published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, by which amendment is made to the Apprenticeship Rules, 1992, as under: "Apprenticeship (Second Amendment) Rules, 2014

In the Apprenticeship Rules, 1992, for sub-rule (1) of rule 11, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(1) The minimum rate of stipend per month payable to trade apprentices shall be follows, namely:-

- a) During the first year of training : Seventy percent of minimum wage of semi-skilled workers

notified by the respective State or Union territory

- b) During the second year of training : Eighty percent of minimum wage of semi-skilled workers notified by the respective State or Union territory.
- c) During the third and fourth year of : training Ninety percent of minimum wage of semi-skilled workers notified by the respective State or Union territory.

Provided that in the case where the minimum rate of wage for a trade is not notified by the State or Union territory, then the maximum of minimum wage of the Scheduled Employment notified by such State Government or Union territory for semi-skilled workers shall be taken into account for paying the stipend in respect of that trade.

Provided further that in the case of trade apprentices referred to in clause (a) of Section 6 of the Act, the period of training already undergone by them in a school or other institution recognised by the National Council, shall be taken into account for the purpose of determining the rate of stipend payable". (Rly.Bd's letter No. E(MPP)/2014/6/8 dt.05.12.2014 RBE No.135/2014).

SCHEME FOR FILLING UP OF N.G. POSTS EXTENDED

The existing methodology and benchmarking for promotion, as enumerated in the Railway Board's letters issued from time to time in this regard, is further extended upto 31.12.2015. (Rly.Bd's letter No.E(NG)I-2008/PM1/15 dt.31.12.2014 RBE No.150/2014)

INTRODUCTION OF APAR OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN PB-1 GP 1900

In partial modification of Board's letter No.E(NG)I-81/CR/5 dated 30.09.1981, it has been decided that the concept of writing of Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR) on all Non-gazetted Railway servants working in Group 'C' PB-I, 5200-20200 in Grade Pay Rs.1900 and above be introduced on the Zonal Railways. Consequently, APAR may henceforth be written in the prescribed proforma for Railway servants in Grade Pay Rs.1900 and Railway servants whose initial grade pay is higher than Rs.1900 provided the next higher grade is a non-selection grade except in the case of highly skilled Artisan Staff for whom APAR shall be written for those in two grades below in selection grade. For those in Grade Pay Rs.1800/-, the system of working reports as and when required will continue. The procedure of writing of APARs for those Railway servants for whom it is already written will remain unaltered. (Rly.Bd's letter No.E(NG)I-2013/CR/1 dt.30.12.2014 RBE No.148/2014)

ONE TIME RELAXATION IN RULES FOR LEAVE ENCASHMENT DURING SERVICE

Number of Railway employees, who were unaware of the rules, failed to encash leave while in service despite fulfilling all criteria for the same. WREU/AIRF took up the matter at Board's level and on the persistence of the Federation, Railway Board agreed to allow leave encashment to the employees who have failed to avail the same during the previous block period (first three block periods) despite fulfilling the condition of availing of Pass/PTO and leave during the block, as one time exemption, with the condition that leave encashment will be made at the rate of pay applicable at the time of availing of leave, subject to fulfilment of the conditions as laid down in the Railway Board's letter of even Nos. Dated 29.10.2008 and 11.06.2009, as applicable on the day of leave availed, with the approval of leave sanctioning authority. The employees have to apply for the same along with the proof of grant of leave and pass during the block period within four months from the date of issue the Board's letter in this regard. (Rly.Bd's letter No.F(E)III/2008/LE-1/1 dt.15.12.2014 RBE No.141/2014)

ITF GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION FOR "RIGHT TO STRIKE"

International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) has called for observing 18th February 2015 as ITF Global Day of Action for "Right to Strike". Quite often, right to strike is denied or limited for transport workers, by utilizing the provisions of Essential Services Act. Since it is derailing the bargaining powers of the workers employed in Transport Sector, this issue was deliberated at ITUC's General Council and a resolution was adopted that calls for Global Day of Action on 18th February. We call upon all WREU activists and workers of Transport Sector to organize befitting programmes on 18 February 2015 with the theme of "Right to Strike" as a part of ITF Global Action Day.

MAZDOOR EKTA DIVAS

National Working Committee of All India Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) in its meeting held at Chennai on 16-17 January 2015 decided to observe 27 February, the Death Anniversary of Late Com. Umraomal Purohit, as "Mazdoor Ekta Divas" to commemorate his contributions for the working class and uniting trade union movement in the country. We call upon WREU cadre to observe "Mazdoor Ekta Divas" on 27th February 2015, the First Death Anniversary of Late Com. Umraomal ji by organizing befitting programmes.

WREU LEADERS GREET DR. G.G. PARIKH



A delegation of WREU leaders led by Com. J.R. Bhosale comprising of Com. R.P. Gupta, V.R. Gupte, Prashant Kanade, P. Rajan, Jitendra Singh, Navin Lobo met Dr. G.G. Parikh, Freedom Fighter & veteran socialist leader, on his 90th Birthday, greeted him and wished him a happy and healthy life to continue to fight for social justice.

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
Jan. 2014	237	2802	233.50	101.71
Feb. 2014	238	2817	234.75	102.79
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

* Average Price Index for January 2001

OBITUARY

Com. P.R. Menon, Ex President, Ex General Secretary & Wkg. President of National Railway Mazdoor Union (NRMU) breathed his last on 5.12.2014 at Mumbai at the age of 82. Com. P.R. Menon, fondly called as PR was born in Kerala on 15.4.1933. After completing his H.S.C. (XII std), he joined Central Railway in the year 1951. He served as General Secretary of NRMU from 1979 to 2013 and thereafter he opted out from General Secretary post due to his ill-health. He was bestowed the post of Working President of NRMU, which he continued till his last breath. He was Vice President of AIRF and Member of JCM/DC. He was instrumental in including Konkan Railway Corporation in the jurisdiction of NRMU and organizing Contract workers of Central Railway in a Union called "Rail Theka Mazdoor Union". WREU and Railway Sentinel express their heart-felt condolences to the bereaved family members of Com. P.R. Menon and comrades of NRMU.

A Condolence meeting to pay tribute to Com. P.R. Menon was held at Parel ground (C. Rly.) on 14.12.2014, which was attended by thousands of employees. All Headquarter office bearers of WREU, Divisional Secretaries/Chairman and large number of WREU activists led by Com. R.C. Sharma and J.R. Bhosale, General Secretary and President of WREU also attended the Condolence meeting. All the participants paid floral tributes to Com. P.R. Menon. Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra,

General Secretary/AIRF, while addressing the gathering remembers his close association with Com. Menon and regretted that Com. P.R. had left us at a time when his presence is badly needed.

Com. P. S. Kamani, OS/DSK(Store)-RJT & W.C. Member of WREU/DRM Office Branch, expired on 09.01.2015 at the age of 55 years, due to heart attack. His contribution as Co-ordinator in staging agitation against injustice meted out to staff in years 2008 and 2010 will be remembered by all staff of RJT Division. WREU & Railway Sentinel send their heart-felt condolences to the bereaved family members of Late Com. P. S. Kamani.

Com. Y. T. Modi (81), Ex Div. Chairman/BRC, passed away on 14.12.2014 at Ahmedabad. Late Com. Y. T. Modi joined the Indian Railways as an Assistant Goods Clerk and retired from railway service on 31.3.1991 as a Chief Goods Clerk, Kankaria. He was very popular and active amongst the railwaymen in Ahmedabad area of BRC Division. He had worked as a Branch Chairman of WREU-SBI Engg. & Signal Workshop around one decade. He had worked as Branch Secretary, Divisional Vice Chairman and Divisional Chairman of BRC Division during his service career. Even after his retirement from railway service, he helped the railwaymen in assisting DAR cases. WREU & Railway Sentinel send their heart-felt condolences to the bereaved family members of Late Com. Y. T. Modi.