

# RAILWAY SENTINEL



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**WREU WISHES THE RAILWAYMEN, THEIR FAMILY & SUBSCRIBERS OF RAILWAY SENTINEL  
A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR-2015**

## **NATIONAL PROTEST DAY**

WREU cadre all over Western Railway observed Protest Day on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014 demanding scrapping of New Pension Scheme, remove ceiling limit for bonus, merger of Dearness Allowance with pay w.e.f. 1.1.2014, interim relief, implementation of 7<sup>th</sup> CPC w.e.f. 1.1.2014, filling up of vacancies, stop 100% FDI on Railways and against anti-labour policies of the government, etc.

**Mumbai Division:** A gate meeting was held in front of DRM Office, Mumbai Central, in which employees from DRM's Office and working in suburban areas participated in large numbers. WREU activists from PL-MX Workshop, Press & Stores, GLO-CCG & Accounts also attended the meeting. Com. J.R. Bhosale, D. Y. Mahale, Prashant Kanade and Rajan P., addressed the participants. Com. Bhosale criticized the new government policies, inordinate delay in resolving the anomalies of the 6<sup>th</sup> CPC, etc. He stated that JCM constituents are meeting at New Delhi on 11<sup>th</sup> December and future course of action will be decided in the meeting.

**Vadodara Division:** WREU-BRC held demonstration on 04.12.2014 at DRM's office in which more than 500 employees took part and chanted slogans against Government's policies. The participants marched in a rally which culminated into a huge gathering at WREU/PRTN's office. Com. J. R. Bhosale, Santosh Pawar, S.D. Meena and Vinod Manjarawala addressed the gathering and appraised on the affect of Government's policies on labours and appealed them to be prepared for direct action.

On 05.12.2014 WREU activists in large numbers joined the massive rally organized by Joint Action Committee of Labour Unions in front of Collector's office at Vadodara. Prominent labour leaders while addressing the participants

appraised the situation and advised them to be prepared for joint action. A memorandum opposing government's policies was handed over to Shri Vinod Rao, Collector of Vadodara for onward submission to the Prime Minister's Office.

**Ahmedabad Division:** More than 500 employees participated in the meeting held at DRM Office, Ahmedabad on 5.12.2014 during lunch hours. Com. R.C. Sharma addressed the meeting and criticized the government's anti-labour policies and allowing PPP & FDI on Indian Railways.

Around 400 active workers of WREU joined huge rally taken out by Central Trade Union Organizations led by HMS from Tilak Baug to J.K. Chouk, Khanpur. More than 5000 employees from different organizations participated in the rally, which converted into a mass gathering at J.K. Chouk. The huge gathering was addressed by various Central Trade Union leaders. Thereafter, Com. R.C. Sharma, President/WREU handed over a memorandum to Central Labour Commissioner mentioning strong protest of the labour organizations against the government's anti-labour policies.

**Sabarmati Workshop:** A gate meeting was held at SBI Engg. Workshop as a part of the Protest Day and the huge gathering was addressed by Com. Dinesh Panchal and Com. Rajeev Menon.

**Rajkot Division:** A massive dharna was organised by WREU-RJT on 05.12.2014 before DRM Office, Rajkot. All Divisional and Line staff from outstation branches, viz. Morvi, Wankaner, Surendranagar, Hapa, Okha, Jamnagar, Khambalia and Rajkot area attended the dharna by taking own leave to show their unity and solidarity with WREU. Throughout the dharna, the participants shouted slogans - "WREU Zindabad, AIRF Zindabad" and "Rail Bachao - Desh Bachao" to highlight the anti-labour attitude of the

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Government. Com. Mahesh Chhaya and Nikhil Joshi exhorted the staff and Trade Unions to come together and express their resentment against the anti-labour policy of the Government. They also highlighted the most important issues i.e. FDI/PPP, NPS and amendment in Labour Laws adversely affecting the interest of workers. Com. N. P. Khatwani and Bhavesh Mehta spoke on anti-labour activities by Government and on local problems.

**Bhavnagar Division:** A Rally from Union office at Bhavnagar Para to DRM office was organized in which large number of employees participated by wearing Red T-shirt, displaying banners and placards against PPP and FDI in Railways, NPS, amendment in Labor Laws, etc. At DRM Office, the rally was converted into an open meeting, which was addressed by the divisional leaders. Later on the participants staged dharna/demonstration for the whole day by shouting slogans and beating drum & Dhol Nagara.

The demonstration was also held at Bhavnagar Para station from 8:30 hours to 9:30 hours and thereafter a Rally was taken out from BVP station to BG/W-shop/BVP where it converged into dharna and Slogan Shouting.

Similar programmes were also held at Junagadh, Veraval, Gondal, Jetalsar, Porbandar, Gandhigram, Mahuva, Savarkundla, Visavadar and other important stations of BVP division. The wide publicity of the campaign was made through print and electronic media.

**Ratlam Division:** A massive meeting was held at Bhopal by WREU-RTM on 05.12.2014 as a part of Protest Day. Com. G.L. Sharma, S.B. Shrivastava and others addressed the gathering and criticized anti-labour policies of the government. A memorandum was handed over to the Governor of Madhya Pradesh by Com. G.L. Sharma, AGS/WREU.

**Dahod:** All the 4 Branches of Dahod area, viz. Workshop, Electrical/Medical, Stores and Station Branch observed All India Protest Day by holding dharna at Platform No. 2 of Dahod Railway Station and shouted slogans against anti-labour policies of the Government and attracted attention of the travelling public on arrival of each and every train. While concluding, Com. Sanjay Kapoor thanked all and appealed the cadre and activists of WREU to be prepared for struggle.

### MEETING OF JCM CONSTITUENTS

National Joint Council of Action of Central Government Employees Organisations participating in JCM convened a meeting at New Delhi on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014. After detailed deliberations, the following Charter of demands and Action Programme were chalked out. The National JCA will communicate to

the Government the declaration adopted at the convention and seek settlement of the demands. National JCA will meet again on 11th January, 2015 at New Delhi to decide future course of action.

### Charter of demands:

- 1) Effect wage revision of Central Government employees from 1.1.2014 accepting the memorandum of the staff side JCM; ensure 5-year wage revision in future; grant interim relief and merger of 100% of DA. Ensure submission of the 7th CPC report with the stipulated time frame of 18 months; include Grameen Dak Sewaks within the ambit of the 7th CPC. Settle all anomalies of the 6th CPC.
- 2) No privatisation, PPP or FDI in Railways and Defence Establishments and no corporatisation of postal services;
- 3) No Ban on recruitment/creation of post.
- 4) Scrap PFRDA Act and re-introduce the defined benefit statutory pension scheme.
- 5) No outsourcing; contractorisation, privatisation of governmental functions; withdraw the proposed move to close down the Printing Presses; the publication, form store and stationery departments and Medical Stores Depots; regularise the existing daily rated/casual and contract workers and absorption of trained apprentices;
- 6) Revive the JCM functioning at all levels as an effective negotiating forum for settlement of the demands of the CGEs.
- 7) Remove the arbitrary ceiling on compassionate appointments.
- 8) No labour reforms which are inimical to the interest of the workers.
- 9) Remove the Bonus ceiling;
- 10) Ensure five promotions in the service career.

### Programme of Action:

- 1) Organise State/District/Divisional level Joint convention to popularize the declaration before February, 2015.
- 2) To organize massive dharna/rally at all state capital/major Defence centres jointly by all the participating Unions in March, 2015.
- 3) To organize campaign fortnight throughout the country in the first two weeks of April, 2015.
- 4) To organize Rally before the Parliament House in the month of April when the house will be in budget session to declare the date for the commencement of the indefinite strike action and the programme and date of serving strike notice.

### AIRF'S CALL FOR PROTEST WEEK

In the wake of new developments, the AIRF has decided to observe "All India Protest Week" from **12-17 January, 2015** to mobilize the cadre

to prepare for total struggle. During this period, active workers and office bearers of WREU should organize mass mobilization programmes to create awareness among the Railwaymen down the line, particularly at the grassroots level.

#### **PENSIONERS CONFERENCE AT RATLAM**

Under the aegis of Pensioners' Joint Co-ordination Committee, Ratlam (Madhya Pradesh), a Conference of Pensioners was organized in Railway Institute at Ratlam on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2014. Com. Govindlal Sharma, General Secretary/HMS(MP) & AGS/WREU and Shri A. K. Nema, Sr. DPO-RTM jointly inaugurated the Conference by lighting lamp. Two minutes silence was observed in memory of massacred students of Army Public School, Peshawar (Pakistan) by terrorists. Com. Govindlalji and other eminent leaders strongly criticized the anti-labour policies of the Government and the decision of allowing 100% FDI in Railways and Defense Sectors, promoting PPP and arbitrary changes in labour laws. They further stated that these policies will adversely affect on employment opportunities and will lead to curtailment of pensionery and other social benefits. The speakers while condemning these anti labour decisions appealed all to be united and make workers' solidarity an effective force to reckon. Com. Pachori and Com. Ramkhilawan also addressed the gathering. Shri Bhagatsingh Bhadoria, newly elected MLA was honoured on this occasion. Com. Narendrasingh Solanki and Kailash Gujjar and their team of WREU-RTM made necessary arrangements for the conference.

#### **SENIOR LEADERS CAMP AT MUMBAI**

A Camp was organized in Jagdish Ajmera Sabhagrih, Grant Road, Mumbai from 14-16 December, 2014 for Senior Leaders of WREU including Youth and Women Leaders to discuss about the current situation of Railway Industry, challenges posed before Railway Trade Union in particular and Trade Union Movement of the Country in general. Shri Shailendra Kumar, DRM-BCT, inaugurated the camp and expressed his views on the changing scenario. Com. J. R. Bhosale elaborated in brief the aims and objectives of the camp and appealed all to participate freely in the discussions on pending demands of the railwaymen, approach of the Government and challenges before the industry. Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra addressed the participants and exhorted them about various committees constituted by Railway Ministry for restructuring the Railway Board, improving financial condition of the Industry, etc. He explained in detail the stand taken by the AIRF in its 90<sup>th</sup> AGM and decision of Indefinite Railway Strike. He stated that when he meets MR, he will place the views of the organized labour before him on the issue of 100%

FDI, PPP, Assured Off-take, etc.

The subjects such as Induction of 100% FDI, Privatization, Restructuring of Railway Board, Pending demands of Railwaymen were discussed and it was decided to mobilize the railwaymen for struggle to "Save Railway – Save Nation" to protect the hard earned rights of the labours.

The issue of collection of membership subscription and special contribution through salary was discussed in detail. Other important issues were also discussed.

On the concluding day, Shri Sanjay Suri, CPO, Shri M. R. Goel, CPO(IR) and Shri S. B. Marshale, Dy. CPO(IR) attended. CPO interacted with the leadership of WREU and heard the problems and queries patiently.

With the concluding remarks of Com. R. C. Sharma, President/WREU that the fruitful discussion will further strengthen WREU, the Camp was concluded.

#### **ZONAL T.U.E.P. FOR WORKSHOP STAFF**

Zonal Trade Union Education Programme for Workshop staff was organized at Pratapnagar Workshop, Vadodara on 26-27 December 2014. Shri Nilotpal Dey, CWM-PRTN, inaugurated the Programme. Educators - Com. Dinesh Panchal, Vinod Manjrawala, Pravin Bhargava and Vikas Gupte dwelt on various subjects such as Trade Union Structure & Finance, One Union One Industry & Dual Membership, Payment of Membership subscription through salary, J. C. Bank, Right to Information Act, Use of latest technology & publicity, National Pension Scheme, 7<sup>th</sup> CPC and latest developments & FDIs, etc. Necessary arrangement were made by Youth Wing under the leadership Com. Bharat Makwana.

#### **DEC MEETING OF WREU RJT DIVISION**

The Divisional Executive Committee Meeting of WREU RJT Division was held at Rajkot on 24.12.2014. The meeting was chaired by Com. M. K. Chhaya, Vice President & Divisional Chairman. Com. Chhaya in his welcome speech mentioned about organisational matters, efforts of WREU-RJT division to sort out staff problems, adverse effect of allowing PPP and FDI on Railways and current scenario of Indian Railways.

Com. J. R. Bhosale, General Secretary, spoke on check-off system, Indefinite Railway Strike and latest discussions with Railway Minister and Railway Board levels regarding FDI & PPP on Railways and also on discussion held at Board's level on various staff grievances.

Com. Nikhil Joshi, Divisional Secretary, briefed about organisational matters, check off system and appealed all to work hard with team spirit. Com. Satish Oza, Divisional Treasurer, placed Accounts of WREU Rajkot division, which was passed unanimously.

Divisional Office Bearers thereafter gave their report on account, membership, bonus and on organisation matters and assured to work hard to strengthen the union.

### **BLOOD DONATION CAMP AT SURENDRANAGAR**

WREU SUNR Branch of RJT Division organized a Blood Donation Camp at Surendranagar on 01.01.2015 on the birthday of Com. A. N. Dave, Ex-Divisional Chairman, WREU-RJT Divn. S/Shri Sanjay Aglate, ADEN-SUNR, C. P. Verma, DMO-SUNR (CMP), Dr. Trivedi, in-charge C. U. Shah Medical College Blood Bank, M. K. Chhaya, Nikhil Joshi, Ghanshyamsinh Sodha & others were present in the inauguration function. Fifty Four employees from different Departments under the leadership of Com. H. B. Vachharajani, G. N. Jadeja and B. R. Kadam donated the Blood. One Hot Tiffin Box was given to each of the Blood Donor by SUNR Branch. Com. Jitendra S., Jayesh Gandhi, Pujarabhai and their team of SUNR Branch made necessary arrangement for the Camp.

### **ACTIVE WORKERS CONFERENCE AT UDHNA**

A meeting-cum-education class for WREU active workers of Non-suburban Branches was held at Sr. Railway Institute at Udhna on 21-22 December 2014. Prior to start of the meeting, a procession led by Com. Prakash Savalkar, P. Rajan, Raghunath Chauhan, Alex Jacob and others was taken out from Udhna Station to the venue of the meeting with trumpet and drum beats and shouting slogans, which reached at Sr. Railway Institute at 10.30 A.M. Com. Prakash Savalkar, Divisional Chairman, chaired the meeting. Com. Vikas Gupte, Zonal Treasurer, inaugurated the meeting, who in his address dwelt on PPP, FDI on Railways, Check-off System for Membership subscription and other issues related to railway industry. While addressing the gathering, Com. P. Rajan dwelt on local issues and achievements of WREU BCT Division and Vinod Manjrawala on National Pension Scheme. On the second day, Com. Prakash Savalkar spoke on organizational matters and Com. Raghunath Chauhan detailed about Staff Benefit Fund. Com. Deepak Mathai and Com. Alex Jacob, Chairman and Secretary respectively of Udhana Branch and their team made necessary arrangements.

### **THREE DAYS EDUCATIONAL CLASS AT RAJKOT**

WREU-RJT organised Three Days Educational Class from 18.12.2014 to 20.12.2014 at Rajkot under the sponsorship of Maniben Kara Foundation (MKF). Shri Vinay Babiwale, DRM-RJT inaugurated the Class in the presence of Shri Rituraj Mishra APO(T)-RJT and office bearers of WREU-RJT. DRM appreciated WREU for

conducting such type of classes for the benefit of Railwaymen. Com. Mahesh K. Chhaya and Nikhil Joshi welcomed DRM, APO, Educators and the participants and briefed about importance of organizing such type of classes and non-bargaining activities.

The Educators - S/Shri Dinesh Panchal and S.K.Srivastava briefed about the struggles and sacrifices of WREU/AIRF for attaining the present benefit enjoyed by the Railwaymen. He also shared with the participants his past experiences in Trade Union Movement and important role played by WREU Trade Union Organization in depth. Subjects such as (1) History of Trade Union Movement; (2) Trade Union Structure and Finance; (3) Dual Membership and check of system; (4) Grievance Handling Machinery; (5) Staff Benefit Fund were dwelt in detail. Com. S. H. Oza, Naresh Khatwani, Sudhakar L., K. M. Vaghasia and others made necessary arrangements for successful conduct of programme.

### **ONE DAY TRAINING PROGRAM AT HIMMATNAGAR**

One Day Training Program for grass root workers was organized at Himmatnagar on 02.12.2014 by HMT Branch of WREU-ADI. Activities and achievements of WREU, J.C. Bank election and latest developments at the railway and national level after formation of NDA Government, etc. were discussed. Com. H. S. Pal, Dinesh Panchal, Atanu Ghosh and Amrut Makwana guided participants. Com. Pankaj Patel, Branch Secretary, conducted the proceedings.

### **ONE DAY TRADE UNION CLASSES AT DOK AND GIM**

One day Trade Union Classes were arranged at WREU office at Gandhigram on 19.12.2014 and at Dholka Railway Station on 20.12.2014 for newly recruited employees under LARSGESS. Com. V. R. Mishra, Secretary/ Dholka Branch and Com. S. K. Shrivastava, Divisional Organizing Secretary of WREU-BVP enlightened the participants on various subjects.

### **SEMINAR AT SBI WORKSHOP**

Com. Dinesh Panchal and Com. Rajeev Menon conducted One day Seminar on 24.12.2014 in the Conference Hall of SBI Engineering Workshop to brief the office bearers and activists of WREU on the deliberations of 3 days Senior Leaders Camp held at Mumbai. The participants were guided on issues, viz. status of 7<sup>th</sup> CPC, 100 % FDI in railways, PPP, proposed indefinite strike, latest developments after decision of indefinite strike by WREU/AIRF, Membership subscription through check off system, etc.

### **DHARNA/DEMONSTRATION AT BRCY/TRS SHED**

TRS Branch of WREU/BRC has been protesting

against non-cooperative and anti labour attitude of the administration by staging dharna/demonstration and wearing black ribbon since November. Union has also served notice to intensify the agitation by resorting to relay fast, following which the administration was compelled to take concrete time bound decision on restructuring and DRM/Sr.DPO gave written assurance that restructuring orders will be issued within 15 days and steps are undertaken to provide uniform to staff. On the assurance of the administration, Union decided to withdraw dharna/demonstration for the next 15 days.

### **ORGANIZATION MEETING OF BRCP-II BRANCH**

In order to appraise the latest development in regard to amendment to Labour Laws, PPP and 100% FDI on Indian Railways and other related issues, a meeting of Office Bearers of BRCP-II Branch was held on 13.12.2014. All the office bearers assured to interact more vigorously in the field and organize the grass root workers for direct agitation.

### **DHARNA/DEMONSTRATION AT BRCY/ MEMU SHED**

MEMU Shed branch of WREU/BRC staged dharna/demonstration, silent procession by wearing black ribbon for 05 days starting from 01/12/2014 against the anti labour attitude of administration in not implementing of Cadre Restructuring w.e.f. dated 01/11/2013 and surrendering of higher graded posts. On the assurance of the administration that restructuring orders will be issued within 15 days, dharna / demonstration is withdrawn.

### **GUJARAT HAMAL SABHA**

A meeting of Collies was held at Ahmedabad station on 03.12.2014 under the banner of Gujarat Hamal Sabha (affiliated to Hind Mazdoor Sabha) in coordination with Western Railway Employees Union. Com. R. C. Sharma, President/WREU presided the meeting and Mr. Kamlesh Tiwari, Sr. DCM was the Chief Guest. More than 400 Collies working in Ahmedabad station attended the meeting. A memorandum containing various grievances of Coolies was handed over to Sr. DCM for early redressal.

### **WORLD'S HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY**

On the occasion of World's AIDS Day on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014, the activists of Women Wing of WREU(E&M) Dahod under the leadership of Com. Perin Sophiya Harsh, Com. I.J. Ramwani, Com. C.J. Singh, Com. R. K. Das and Com. Naim Ahmed assembled in early morning in front of Electric Mains and Electrical Workshop Dahod and pinned-up on shirt of each and every employee 'Red Logo' of HIV AIDS. They displayed posters and placards related to HIV/

AIDS and spread awareness about HIV AIDS and its preventive measures.

### **GS/AIRF'S LETTER TO PM**

Looking to the uncertainty prevailing on Indian Railways on account of setting up of various Committees to restructure Indian Railways and allowing 100% FDI on railway industry, Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary/AIRF wrote a D.O. letter to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, vide D.O.No. AIRF/24(C) dated 26<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The contents of the letter are reproduced below:

"Respected Shri Narendra Modi Ji,

During recent past, Railwaymen had been feeling highly demoralized and disgusted on account of apprehensions of privatization of the Indian Railways owing to 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and constitution of a High Level Railway Restructuring Committee for Restructuring of Ministry of Railways (Railway Board). Yesterday, on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2014, while celebrating the 91<sup>st</sup> Birth Anniversary of Hon'ble Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as "Sushasan Diwas" in Diesel Locomotive Workshop, Varanasi, you publically announced that there would be no privatization of the Indian Railways, rather number of Railway employees shall be increased during the time to come, for which, we, on behalf of around 13 lakh Railway employees, express our hearty thanks for giving this assurance.

Sir, though the assurance given by you that the Indian Railways shall not be privatized, has provided some relief to the Railwaymen, who were feeling hurt and discouraged for the last six months, at the same time you have mentioned that FDI is essentially required in the Indian Railways, still creates some confusion. Although, there have been constructive discussions with the Hon'ble MR, which we hope, shall continue in future also.

AIRF has always supported and contributed a lot in the development and modernization of the Indian Railways through transparent process, as such, we would urge further assurance, so that the moral of lakhs of Railwaymen is kept high.

Your goodself very-well know that there has been all round development in the Indian Railways after the Independence, and not only the Indian Railways have expanded a lot, but also have touched new horizons by adopting latest technology in different spheres, by virtue of which, Indian Railways are now running over 19,000 pairs of trains per day transporting more than 20 million passengers and around 35 lakh tonne freight every day. Obviously, there has been dedicated contribution of the Railwaymen in this endeavour, not only this, but also the dedication of the Railwaymen can be adjudged from the fact that, while performing their duties,

they even sacrifice their lives, and it has been established that hundreds of Railway staff lose their lives every year, as endorsed by the High Powered Committee, headed by Dr. Anil Kakodkar, in its report.

We, therefore, once again request you that, with a view to boosting morale of the Railwaymen, there should be clear and specific assurance by the government that the Indian Railways shall in no way be privatized, so that the staff shall be motivated to perform their duties with even more dedication and sincerity.

**Wishing you very-very Happy New Year on behalf of all the Railwaymen and their family members!"**

### **BRIEF ON GMS' CONFERENCE HELD ON 30.12.2014**

The following are the outcome of General Managers' Conference held on 30.12.2014 at Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble MR, in his address mentioned that there is not even one percent chance of privatization of the Indian Railways. He recalled the PM's speech at DLW, Varanasi on 25th December, 2014 in which Hon'ble PM had categorically stated that there would not be any privatization in the Indian Railways. MR assured that the arrangement of money through FDI or PPP is not going to affect the ownership of the Railways. MR also assured that Railways will also not sell any piece of land but will try to exploit our land commercially and will discuss each and every step to be taken by the Ministry of Railways transparently at all levels. Therefore, there should not be any confusion on the issue of ownership of the Railways. He emphasized on decongestion of routes, safety, rakes and passenger fare etc. He stated that 13 lakh railway employees are our top priority, and at the same time we also have responsibility towards the rail users. We should think how to reduce the cost.

MR asserted on decentralization of powers and empowering of the GMs, DRMs and SMs. He stressed on cleanliness drive and advised for integrating with the local Municipal Committee/Municipal Board. He advised opening of new base kitchens, laundries and installing CCTVs on the railway stations and also in the coaches. He informed that he is pursuing with the MPs to utilize their funds for the development of the Railways. He further informed that the Hon'ble PM has a plan for skill development on the railway stations utilizing the spare capacity available. He informed that Railways are going to provide the facility of train tickets on mobile phone to facilitate the rail users.

Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble MoSR, while addressing the Conference said that Railways

have been of the habit to establish large projects, but could not complete the same. He added that we should fulfill our promise for manning of all Unmanned Level Crossings. He asked the GMs to give moral boosting to dedicated and honest workers of the Railways.

Shri Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary/AIRF, appreciated Hon'ble PM and MR for making statement that there would not be privatization of the Indian Railways, but simultaneously asked the Hon'ble MR that the issue must be discussed with full transparency and we should not invite FDI or money from the national resources which could harm the Indian Railways because of over capitalization or payment of interest on the borrowed capital. He thanked the MR for earlier meeting with the federations on 18<sup>th</sup> December and asked for another such meeting where all the apprehensions should be thoroughly discussed and cleared. He stated that lots of rumours are spreading about restructuring of the Railway Board and the Railway System on account of forming too many Committees. He said that new trains are being operated without creation of posts, provision of manpower and infrastructure, which is affecting the safety. He stated that LARSGESS in the Railways has given lot of motivation to the Railwaymen and it needs to be further expanded for more productivity and efficiency. He emphasised the need for allocation of adequate funds in the ensuing Railway Budget for proper maintenance of railway quarters, most of which are in dilapidated condition. He requested for a speedy decision making system in the Railways and review of punishment of 'Removal from Service' in SPAD cases. He asserted that earlier promise made with the federations in regard to NPS should be pursued with the Finance Ministry and Old Pension Scheme should be restored as has been done in the case of Defence.

The MR made a commitment that he is ready to discuss the issue at any time, and he has already promised a meeting in every three months.

General Secretary/AIRF demanded for constitution of a committee in association with the organized labour at the Railway Board's level for implementation of the announcement made by the Hon'ble PM for skill development and women empowerment.

### **DoPT EXTENDS TIME FOR FILING THE PROPERTY RETURNS**

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) extended the date for filing the property returns, i.e. details of the assets and liabilities under the Lokpal Rules till April 30, 2015. The DoPT had formed a committee for recommending simplified formats for declaration of movable property, debts and other liabilities and the

revised formats will be notified soon.

In September the DoPT had notified the Public Servants (Furnishing of Information and Annual Return of Assets and Liabilities and the Limits for Exemption of Assets in Filing Returns) Amendment Rules, 2014, extending the date for the filing of returns to December 31. As per the rules, every public servant shall file the returns of his assets and liabilities, including that of his spouse and dependent family members, on March 31 every year on or before July 31 of that year.

### **DHD W/SHOP ACT APPRENTICES BACK TO DAHOD**

18 Course Completed Act Apprentices of Dahod Workshop were absorbed as Khallasis on BCT Division in June 2005. They approached WREU for their transfer to Dahod. WREU raised this issue before the GM vide GM PNM Item No. 32/2012 and demanded that whenever a fresh batch is allotted to BCT Division, the request of these Khallasis should be considered. This was agreed to and minutes were recorded accordingly. CPO(IR) vide his letter No. E/EL/1140/277/DHD W/shop dated 11.08.2014 advised Sr. DPO-BCT to consider these cases. Out of which, 4 of them were submitted their unwillingness. BCT Divisional administration has issued order for relieving the remaining 14 Khallasis in the last week of December, 2014. Com. Prashant Kanade, AGS & Divl. Secretary/BCT, had pursued this case for early issue of orders.

### **CLARIFICATION REGARDING VERIFICATION OF GENUINENESS OF CASTES/COMMUNITIES BELONGING TO SCS/STS & OBCS**

Railway Board clarified that whenever an addition/deletion to the existing list of Scheduled Castes, Schedules Tribes and Other Backwards Classes is done by Government of India through Gazette Notifications, the same becomes binding on all the concerned irrespective of the fact that the same has been circulated by Railway Board or not. Verification of genuineness of Castes/Communities belonging to SCs/STs and OBCs may be done through online from the lists available at the links -

- i) <http://socialjustice.nic.in/sclist.php> (List of SCs)
- ii) <http://www.tribal.nic.in/Content/scheduledtribes.aspx> (List of STs)
- iii) <http://socialjustice.nic.in/policiesacts4.php> or
- iv) [http://ncbc.nic.in/User\\_Panel/CentralListStateView.aspx](http://ncbc.nic.in/User_Panel/CentralListStateView.aspx) (Central List of OBCs)

(Rly.Bd's letter No. 2014-E(SCT)I/31/1 dated 27.11.2014 RBE No.130/2014)

### **EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP UNDER SBF EXTENDED TO ALL N.G. STAFF**

WREU raised the issue of extending the

Education Scholarship under SBF to all N.G. Staff (which was curtailed by Railway Board vide RBE No.83/2014) vide letter No.F/CCG/20/14 dated 25.08.2014 and by AIRF vide letter No.AIRF/150 dated 3.09.2014 at Board's level. Railway Board has considered our request and extended the Education Scholarship under SBF to all N.G. Staff vide letter No.E(W)2014/FU-1/1 dated 08.12.2014 (RBE No.136/2014) (Please see Railway Sentinel of October 2014 issue)

### **RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYMENT ON THE RAILWAYS**

Railway Board clarified that qualification of four year part-time Diploma in Civil Engineering may be accepted wherever minimum prescribed qualification is three year Diploma in Civil Engineering subject to the condition that such Diploma certificate should not have been obtained through distance education mode.

(Rly.Bd's letter No.E(NG)II/2013/RR-I/2 dt.10.12.2014)

### **DISPENSATION OF RESIDENCY PERIOD**

Railway Board clarified that in the restructuring orders of Group 'C' and Group 'D' categories effective from 01.03.1993, 20% of posts were placed in senior grade in the various grades of Drivers and Guards. Hence, for promotion to non-functional grades such as ALP to Sr.ALP and Goods Guard to Sr. Goods Guard etc., staff are not required to render two years service in the basic grade for promotion to senior grade posts, as earmarked in the restructuring orders ibid. However, this dispensation in residency period is restricted to senior most 20% staff lying in this block only.

(Rly. Bd's letter No. E(NG)I/2014/PM7/5 dt.10.11.2014)

### **FIXATION OF PAY ON APPOINTMENT FROM ONE EX-CADRE POST TO ANOTHER EX-CADRE POST**

Railway Board reiterated that on appointment to a second or subsequent ex-cadre post in a higher pay scale than that of the previous ex-cadre post, the pay may be fixed with reference to the pay drawn in the cadre post and if the pay so fixed happens to be less than the pay drawn in the previous ex-cadre post, the difference may be allowed as personal pay to be absorbed in future increases in pay. This is subject to the condition that on both the occasions the employee should have opted to draw pay in the scales of pay attached to the ex-cadre posts. Ref. AIRF's PNM Item No. 8/2008.

(Rly. Bd's No.E(P&A)-II/2014/PP-9 dt.20.11.2014 & E(P&A)II-85/PP-24 dt.31.12.1985)

### **FIXED MEDICAL ALLOWANCE INCREASED**

Railway Board circulated DoP&PW's O.M.

### ENTITLEMENT OF ACCOMMODATION TO THE RUNNING STAFF

The revised entitlement for allotment of quarters in respect of the running shall be as under:

Sr.No.	Category of Staff	GP as per Sixth CPC	Entitlement (Type)
1.	Second Fireman	1800	Type-II
2.	Sr. Second Fireman, Fireman-I, ALP (Dsl/Elect), Asst. Guard, Brakesman	1900	Type-II
3.	LP (Shntg)-II, Sr. Fireman-I, Sr.ALP (Dsl/Elect), Sr.Asst. Guard, Sr.Brakesman	2400	Type-III
4.	Goods Guard	2800	Type-III
5.	LP (Shntg)-I, Guard (Pass.), Sr. Goods Guard, Mail/Exp Guard, LP(Goods), LP (Pass.)/Motorman, LP (Mail/Exp)	4200	Type-IV

(Rly.Bd's No.2010/LMB/10/17 dt.10.12.2014 )

No.4/25/2008-P&PW(D) dated 19.11.2014 enhancing the amount of Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) from Rs.300/- to Rs.500/- per month to pensioners/family pensioners residing beyond 2.5 Kms of Railway Hospital/Health Unit and do not avail OPD facility (except in case of chronic disease). These orders will take effect from 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 i.e. the date of issue of DoP&PW's OM on the subject. (Rly.Bd's letter No.PC-V/2010/A/Med./1 dt.19.12.2014 RBE No.146/2014)

#### HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE FOR IMPROVING FINANCIAL HEALTH OF INDIAN RAILWAYS

Railway Board have decided to constitute a High Level Committee to identify factors, issues and avenues for improving financial health of Indian Railways, consisting - Shri D.K. Mittal, IAS (Retd.) former Secretary to GOI as its Chairman, Advisor (Accounts), Railway Board as its Member Secretary and Secretary, Economic Affairs (or his representative), Chairman & Managing Directors of RITES, IRCON, CONCOR, Managing Director of RLDA, M/s. Boston Consulting Group (I) Pvt. Ltd. and M/s. McKinsey India as its Members. Ms. Namita Mehrotra, EF (Resource Mobilization) will be associated on behalf of the Ministry of Railways. Finance (Budget) Directorate of Railway Board will be the Nodal Directorate to coordinate with the Committee. The Committee should submit its Report by 21<sup>st</sup> December 2014. (Rly. Bd's order No.ERB-I/2014/23/49 dt.03.12.2014)

#### REPORT OF THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE

The High Level Committee chaired by Shri D.K. Mittal submitted its report on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 to Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu.

The committee recommended for hike in passenger train fares, particularly in suburban service and increase in the minimum distance. The committee said the minimum distance of

travel in passenger train should be increased from existing 10 km to 20 km and in mail/express segment it should be increased from 50 km to 100 km. As per the recommendation, the suburban fares need to be increased by 2 paise per km every two months till they reach a break-even point. But it did not specify the quantum of hike needed to be made in long-distance mail/express train services.

The committee has also suggested that railway PSUs should be given the task to execute the rail projects. The PSUs should be given a free hand to raise funds from the banks and after completion of the projects, it would be handed over to railways.

The committee suggested various measures for reduction in spending after detailed study on the efficacy and sufficiency of the existing revenue structure and avenues for raising income besides identifying its leakages.

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

Month/ Year	Base Year 2001= 100 Average	Total of 12 months	12Monthly Average	% Increase over 115.76* for DA
Dec. 2013	239	2786	232.16	100.55
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

\* Average Price Index for January 2001