



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' UNION

Vol. 65 No. 7

July 2015

Price :

Single : 3 Rupees

Pages 8

Annual : Thirty Rupees

ALL INDIA PROTEST WEEK & OBSERVANCE OF BLACK DAY

In pursuance to the call of AIRF, WREU observed Campaign Week all over Western Railway from 23rd to 30 June, 2015 to protest against the recommendations of the High Level Railway Restructuring Committee headed by Shri Bibek Deb Roy. On concluding day, i.e. 30th June, 2015, "Black Day" was observed by the railwaymen by wearing black badges. It may be pertinent to point out that final report of the Bibek Deb Roy Committee was submitted to Minister of Railways on 12th June 2015 with slight changes in the interim report but majority of the recommendations in the interim report remained the same by paving way for private players in railway industry. The detailed report is as under:

Mumbai Division: During the Protest Week, gate meetings were held at IOW/BRI-Lower Parel on 24.5.2015, Carshed-BCT on 25.6.2015 and Vapi, TRS and CTCC-BL on 26.6.2015. Com. Prashant Kanade, Prakash Savalkar, D. Y. Mahale, P. Rajan, Milind Raut, Milind Thakur and other local leaders addressed meetings.

On concluding day, i.e. on 30.6.2015, a mass protest meeting was held in front of DRM-BCT office, in which large number of Railwaymen participated wearing black badges and placards. They shouted slogans against anti-labour and anti rail-users recommendations of Bibek Debroy Committee. Com. J. R. Bhosale explained in detail various anti-labour recommendations of the Committee and its probable adverse affect on Indian Railways and rail users, if implemented. Com. Prashant Kanade, Prakash Savalkar, D.Y. Mahale and P.Rajan also addressed the meeting. The latest position regarding 7th CPC was also narrated during the meeting.

Lower Parel Workshop: A protest meeting was organized by PL-MX Workshop Branch at Lower Parel Workshop on 29th June 2015 during lunch hours. While addressing the gathering, Com. Bhosale narrated in detail the progress of Indian Railways from its inception and large scale progress made after pre independent era while performing user friendly transport system bearing

huge social obligations. He criticized the anti-labour and retrograde recommendations of the Debroy Committee and stated that Indian Railways will be sold out if the recommendations are implemented. He appealed the Railwaymen to register their protest.

He also informed about the current status of the 7th CPC and demands placed by Staff Side NC-JCM in its final interaction with the 7th CPC on 9th June 2015. He also mentioned about the pending demands such as scrapping of NPS, raising calculation ceiling limit of PLB, cancellation of 100% FDI on Railways, resolving anomalies of the 6th CPC, etc. and AIRF's call for indefinite strike from 23rd November 2015 if the pending demands are not solved amicably. Office bearers and activists of all the

The meeting was also addressed by Com. P.B. Bhargava, Vikas Gupte and Prabhakar Mishra. The comrades of Printing Press & Stores, EMU-POH/MX Branches also attended the meeting in large numbers.

Vadodara Division: A mass demonstration was held on 24.06.2015 at DRM office PRTN. The gathering was addressed by Com. J.R. Bhosale, who strongly criticized the Bibek Debroy committee report. He stated that the Committee is of the opinion that Railway schools should be closed down and children of railway employees should be sent to other public schools but the committee has not thought about remote locations and distant villages and the plight of children of poor Gangman, Gateman & other staff working in remote area. Similarly, the Committee recommended hiving of Railway hospitals without considering the plight of the staff working in remote locations. Another recommendation of the Committee is that RPF should be done away with and the work of RPF should be handed over to private security agency, which is very dangerous. Com. Bhosale described these recommendations as the road map to privatization. He also gave information about the meeting between Staff Side NC-JCM and the 7th CPC and the discussions took place therein. More than 500 Railwaymen attended the demonstration



Com. Bhosale addressing the meeting at DRM Office -BCT



Gathering at Lowerparel Workshop



Dharna at Rajkot



WREU leaders addressing the meeting at RTM



WREU-BRC leaders displaying black ribbons



Demonstration at SBI Rly. Station - ADI Div braving torrential rain. Com. Santosh Pawar in his address thanked one and all for the massive success despite heavy rain and flood.

On 30th June 2015, the volunteers and office bearers of each branch of WREU moved office to office and distributed black ribbons among the staff and all the staff wore black ribbons as a mark of their protest against the retrograde recommendations of



WREU-BVP activists torching the report at GG Rly. Stn. the Bibek Debroy Committee and observed **Black day**.

Pratapnagar Workshop: The workshop branch organized a gate meeting on 30.06.2015 during lunch hours, which was addressed by Com. Vinod Manjrawala, R. K. Zala and Bharat Makwana. Com. Vinod Manjrawala dwelt on anti-labour recommendations of Bibek Debroy Committee

and latest developments on 7th CPC and likely submission of its report by August 2015. From early morning, WREU activists resorted to slogan shouting at workshop gate and displayed banners & poster of anti-labour report of Bibek Debroy Committee. They pinned black strips to all workshop staff including that of Ministerial, Accounts and Stores Departments.

Ahmedabad Division observed Awareness Campaign, Protest Week and Black Day in the most befitting manner under leadership of Com. R. C. Sharma, President WREU and Com. S. K. Singh, Divisional Chairman and other office bearers. Protest meetings and demonstrations were held throughout the week at different places as under:

- i) More than 200 employees attended the protest meeting held at C&W (BG) SBI on 23.06.2015, which was addressed by Com. Pal, Com. Ajit Gajjar, Com. A G Makwan & Com. A. K. Das.
- ii) About 175 employees have attended the meeting held at P. Way BG & Electric on 24.06.2015.
- iii) About 110 have attended the meeting held at CHI & IOW Old Colony on 25.06.2015.
- iv) About 150 employees have attended the meeting held at CHI & IOW New Colony on 26.06.2015.
- v) A mass meeting was held at Sabarmati MG Station on Platform No. 1 on 27.06.2015 to make aware of the passengers about adverse affect of the recommendations to rail users. Com. R. C. Sharma, Com. H S Pal and Dinesh Panchal addressed the meeting.
- vi) About 250 employees have attended the meeting held at DSL SHED SBI on 29.06.2015.
- vii) On date 27.6.15 large number of employees under the leadership of Com. H.S. Pal, Dinesh Panchal and A.B.Gajjar assembled on SBI Platform and held demonstration on arrival of Rajdhani Express. The gathering was addressed by Com. R.C. Sharma. He appealed all employees to be united for struggle.
- viii) Sabarmati Branch No. I & II, Sabarmati LOCO Branch and Sabarmati DSL Shed Branch of ADI division organized Protest Week right from 23.06.2015 to 30.06.15.
- ix) A massive meeting held in the campus of DRM Office/Ahmedabad on 25th June 2015 was addressed by Com. R.C. Sharma and Com. J.R. Bhosale.
- x) Com. J.R. Bhosale addressed a gathering of more than 400 Railwaymen at Vatva Diesel Shed on 25.06.2015.

On 30.06.2015, all Railwaymen wore Black Ribbon to show their protest against anti-labour and anti-rail user recommendations of the Debroy Committee.

Sabarmati Workshop: "Black Day" was observed by the Branch on 30th June 2015 by organizing

demonstration in front of the main gate of the Workshop. While addressing the gathering, Com Dinesh Panchal explained about anti-labour recommendations of the Bibek Debroy Committee and the need to register strong protest by all railway employees to force the government to discard such retrograde report. He recalled similar report of Rakesh Mohan Committee a few years back and how its report was discarded on account of strong protest by AIRF/WREU. The divisional office bearers - Com Narendra Dave, Amrut Makwana, Atanu Ghosh, H S Pal also took part in the function. All the staff wore black badge during the day as a mark of protest.

Rajkot Division: A massive dharna was organized on 30.06.2015 in front of DRM office Rajkot. More than 400 railway employees comprising of divisional and line staff including large number of women employees participated in the dharna. While addressing the gathering Com. Mahesh K. Chhaya mentioned about the anti-labour and retrograde recommendations of the Bibek Debroy Committee. Com. Nikhil Joshi and other divisional leaders addressed the gathering. He appealed all staff members and trade unions to come together and express their resentment against the anti-staff policies of the government. The dharna continued for the whole day. During the event, respective leaders also gave brief speech on different subjects.

Bhavnagar Division: WREU BVP Division held dharanas, demonstrations and open meetings throughout the week from 23.06.2015 to 30.06.2015. WREU activists resorted to slogan shouting at important railway stations such as BTD, GG, JLR, GDL, PBR, DME, MHV, VSW, VRL, JND and other stations to create public awareness on the Report of Bibek Debroy Committee.

A gate meeting was held at BVP BG-W/shop gate and all comrades of Bhavnagar area joined the meeting wearing Black Badges. The meeting is addressed by Com. M. R. Zaveri, Com. D. Nagendra Prakash and Com. Mukesh Doshi. Around 450 comrades joined the gate meeting held at Workshop gate from BVC, Loco-BVC, W-shop, SOJN, NDDS, DRM, Youth and Women Branch. After the meeting, the report of the Debroy Committee was torched as a mark of protest.

Ratlam Division: A protest meeting was held in front of DRM Office, Ratlam on 26th June 2015 and the huge gathering was addressed by Comrades Govindlal Sharma, S.B. Shrivastava, Manohar Pachori, S. S. Sharma, Maqbul Ahmad and Premlata Jain. The speakers condemned the report of Bibek Debroy Committee and pointed out anti labour and anti-Railway Industry recommendations of the Committee. The speakers opined that this is a move to decentralize the Indian Railway System which is an age old time tested system against all odds. The activists of Youth and Women Wing attended en-

mass to express their anger. While concluding the meeting, two minutes silence was observed to pay tribute to the Member of Parliament from Zabua, Late Shri Dilipsingh Bhuriya.

Dahod Workshop: A gate meeting was organized at Dahod Workshop on 27th June afternoon. The huge gathering was addressed by Com. J. R. Bhosale and Com. Sanjay Kapoor. Com. Bhosale narrated the anti-labour and anti-rail user recommendations of the Debroy Committee and stated that if these recommendations are implemented, Indian Railways would be sold out. He appealed the Railwaymen to unite and register their strong protest. He also informed about the current status of the 7th CPC and demands placed by Staff Side NC-JCM in its final interaction with the 7th CPC on 9th June 2015. He also mentioned about the pending demands such as scrapping of NPS, raising calculation ceiling limit of PLB, cancellation of 100% FDI on Railways, resolving anomalies of the 6th CPC, etc. and AIRF's call for indefinite strike from 23rd November 2015 if the pending demands are solved amicably. Office bearers and activists of all the four branches of Dahod area contributed for successful conduct of the protest meeting. More than 1200 Railwaymen registered their protest observing Black Day by wearing black badges on 30th June 2015.

Dahod Electrical & Medical Branch organized protest meetings at four different locations, viz. Railway Main Hospital Dahod, Main Electric Maintenance, Electric Workshop and CHI Office. On 30th June, office bearers of DHD (E&M) Branch distributed black badges amongst the employees and all the employees wore black badges observing Black Day.

The employees working in Traffic Accounts Office at Ajmer and Delhi Kishan Ganj also observed protest week and Black Day.

FIFTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE COM. C.S. MENON

WREU cadre all over Western Railway paid homage to Late Com. C. S. Menon on his Fifth Death Anniversary on 12th June 2015.

In the meeting organized in Jagdish Ajmera Hall at Grant Road, WREU activists from Mumbai Division, GLO Churchgate, Parel Workshop and Mahalaxmi Stores and Printing Press/MX Branches attended. The meeting started after garlanding the portrait of the Late Com. C.S. Menon and lighting lamp. Com. J. R. Bhosale, R. P. Gupta, Prashant Kanade, P. B. Bhargava, Vikas Gupte, P. Rajan and leaders of Youth and Women Wings remembered their long association with Late Com. C.S. Menon and his contributions to the Union and railway workers at large. Com. Bhosale in his speech threw light on Trade Union movement in the country during pre and post independence era in general and that of the railway Industry in particular and challenges we are facing today. The participants

observed two minutes silence and showered rose petals before the portrait of Late Com. C.S. Menon and paid tribute to him.

In the meeting organized at main gate of Sabarmati Workshop on 12th June 2015 under the guidance of Com. Dinesh Panchal, WREU activists and large number of railway staff paid tributes to Late Com. C. S. Menon, Ex General Secretary/WREU. Com. Panchal gave a brief life sketch of Late Shri Menon and his efforts and struggles for upliftment of the Railwaymen and their families during his life time.

A Shradhanjali Sabha was organized in Union Office at Ratlam on 12th June 2015 in which Com. Govindlal Sharma, Manohar Pachori, Shyambabu Shrivastav, Premlata Jain, Narendra Solanki and other leaders of Youth and Women Wings and large number of Railwaymen attended and paid tributes to Late Com. C.S. Menon. The leaders remembered their association with Late Com. Menon. Shradhanjali Sabha was concluded by observing two minute silence and showering rose petals before the portrait of the departed leader.

Bhavnagar Division organized Shradhanjali Sabha in Union Office (Menon Bhavan) and remembered Late Com. C.S. Menon, who served for a long period as Divisional Secretary of Bhavnagar Division and was fondly called Mama Menon.

In the meeting arranged by Dahod Workshop Branch in G.B. Sukhi Sabhakash, all office bearers of WREU, Youth and Women activists and large number of Railwaymen paid homage to Late Com. C.S. Menon. Com. Sanjay Kapoor threw light on simple life and sacrifices of Com. Menon. All the activists laid rose petals before the portrait of Com. Menon and observed two minutes silence.

Dahod Electrical & Medical Branch organized condolence meetings at three different locations, viz. Electric Maintenance, Electric Workshop and CHI Office. The meetings were addressed by Com. Perin Sophiya Harsh, I. J. Ramvani and R. K. Das. The meeting concluded by paying tribute to Late Com. C. S. Menon by observing two minutes silence and showering rose petals before his portrait.

NC/JCM (STAFF SIDE) MEETING 7TH CPC

A meeting of National Council JCM (Staff Side) with 7th Central Pay Commission was held on 09.06.2015 at New Delhi. It was the concluding meeting of the 7th CPC with JCM. The delegation of NC JCM Staff side discussed with members of the 7th CPC on issues of central government employees and pensioners. Com. Bhosale also attended the meeting and gave useful suggestions. The following points were discussed:

1. Principles of Wage Determination: Staff Side insisted that 7th CPC should adopt the need based minimum wage formula at the minimum level; the intrinsic value of the assigned job at the intermediary level; the necessity to keep the relativity both

at horizontal and vertical level and the need to provide a reasonable salary for the top bureaucrats, taking into account the perks, privileges, benefits, allowances and concessions that go with the posts.

2. Minimum Wage & Ratio of Minimum and Maximum Pay: It was urged that Need-Based Minimum Wage concept to compute pay at the minimum level may be adopted. Pay Commission should take into account the outside rates to determine the pay package at senior levels of bureaucracy but maintain the ratio between the minimum and maximum at 1:8 (MTS to Secretary to Govt. of India). Staff Side insisted that minimum pay at lowest level of Group C staff should be Rs. 26000.

3. Proposed Pay Structure and Rate of Increment: Staff side demanded open-ended pay scales to ensure that no employee stagnates without increment. Staff Side suggested only 14 Pay scales. Minimum of which is Rs. 26000 and Maximum Rs. 78000 for Group 'C' employees. It was suggested that the multiplication factor ($26000/7000 = 3.7$) may be applied uniformly in all the cases to arrive at the revised pay in the new scales of pay. It was also suggested to grant two increments in the feeder cadre as benefit on promotion.

4. Career Progression: Grant five promotions in the service career: The three time bound scheme of MACP instead of improving the situation has been found less beneficial and has therefore not gone to address the inherent problem of demotivation that has crept in due to the high level of stagnation. The discontent amongst the employees in the matter is of high magnitude today. The 7th CPC therefore, should recommend that the cadre reviews are undertaken wherever not done to ensure five hierarchical promotions to all employees in their career on the pattern obtaining for Group 'A' Officers.

5. Bonus: Presently, PLB and ad-hoc bonus are calculated on the deemed provision that one's total emoluments is only Rs. 3500/-. This is an absolutely irrational stipulation and must be removed. Staff Side requested the Commission to recommend to the Government to remove the said stipulation and grant bonus on the basis of the actual emolument of the employee.

6. New Pension Scheme: Staff Side requested the 7th CPC to review and recommend scrapping of NPS in the light of the observations made by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India that pension is a fundamental right. It was also insisted that compulsory imposition of NPS on employees has made it discriminatory and recommendation for scrapping NPS and the PFRDA Act may be made.

7. Pension and other Retirement Benefits: Staff side demanded that the amount of pension must be enough to enable a pensioner to live free from want with decency, independence, and self-respect and at a standard equivalent at the pre-retirement level.

Staff side urged the Pay Commission to examine the principles which should govern the structure of Pension and other retirement benefits, including revision of pension and granting parity between past and future pensioners.

8. Parity in pay scales: Staff Side demanded that wherever recruitment rules, training etc. are same, they should be brought into one singular grade/pay scale. It was also demanded to give parity to Stenographers working in Subordinate Offices with their counterpart working in Secretariat and also in other common categories like Rajbhasha, Paramedical Staff etc.

9. Insurance Scheme was discussed in detail. It was told by the Pay Commission that something substantial should be done in this regard and also to consider the issue of enhanced gratuity.

10. Educational Assistance: Staff Side demanded for Educational Assistance for two children, instead of two eldest children at present, and also to pay the same for Post Graduate and Professional Courses.

Staff Side demanded for implementation of the 7th CPC w.e.f. 01.01.2014.

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING OF BRC DIVISION

Working Committee Meeting of WREU Vadodara Division was held on 24.05.2015 at Vadodara. Smt. Sadhana Trivedi, Divisional Chairman chaired the meeting. Com. Santosh Pawar, Div. Secretary welcomed all the W.C. Members. Com. Vinod Manjarawala gave brief on the Report of Bibek Debroy Committee, its various anti-labour recommendations and the need to register strong protest against it. He stated that Debroy Committee's recommendations are similar to that of Rakesh Mohan Committee. The Committee has recommended separation of RPF department from Railways, hiving of Railway Hospitals, closure of Railway Schools, converting all the Production Units to companies and running of trains by private operators. The need to expedite enrollment of memberships and the details of observance of Protest Week and Black Day was also discussed. Divisional Secretary pointed out the need of an ambulance for PRTN Hospital and stated that the matter is taken up at HQ level and requested the administration to provide Ambulance on contract basis till a new one is procured. The members thereafter discussed various organization matters and the functioning of the union at their respective jurisdiction.

FAREWELL FUNCTION AT BRCP

BRCP-I & II Branches jointly organized Farewell function at Union Office on 30.05.2015 for honouring WREU activists – S/Shri Natubhai Mangalbhai, Org. Secretary of BRCP-I Branch, Fathesingh Gorabhai, P/Man, Shankarbai Ashabhai S/Wala, of BRCP-I Branch, Sashikant, MCF (C&W) and Shri Shankarbai Kojji, Sr.Kh. of BRCP-II

Branch, who are retiring from railway service in the month of May 2015. Com. Sanjay Tiwari, SM/BRCP, was the chief guest of the function. Com. Santosh Pawar, H. P. Pandya, Ashok Barot and Com. Khare along with all office bearers of BRCP I & II branches and other staunch activists attended the function and wished retiring comrades well wishes and happy retired life. Com. Santosh Pawar and Sanjay Kumar Tiwari highly appreciated the services rendered by these retiring staff to the Union and recalled the importance of unity to get desired results in every walk of life. He presented mementos to the retiring staff as a gesture of recognition to their services.

GATE MEETING AT DAHOD RAILWAY HOSPITAL

WREU DHD (E&M) Branch organised a gate meeting on 2nd June 2015 in front of Railway Main Hospital Dahod in protest against the proposal of transferring four vacant post of Nursing staff from DHD Workshop hospital to JRH-BCT. The meeting was addressed by Com. Perin Sophia Harsh, who strongly opposed the proposal of transferring the posts. She stated that the bed occupancy of the DHD Workshop hospital has reduced because of want of specialized doctor and the administration should post specialized Doctor-MD (Physician) instead of transferring the post of Nursing staff. She also stated that the recently constructed ICU in the hospital is lying unutilized as railway medical beneficiaries did not prefer Railway Hospital for want of specialized doctors. Com. Sunil Harsh also addressed the meeting.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON CURRENT DILEMMA OF RAILWAY RESTRUCTURING

A National Seminar was organized by Railway Samachar in Constitution Club at New Delhi on 26th June 2015. The subject was Current Dilemma of Railway Restructuring. The Ministry of Railways appointed Bibek Deb Roy Committee on 22nd September 2014 to study and suggest organizational Restructuring of Indian Railways and propose how to raise funds for managing revenue expenditure and creation of capital fund for development of Indian Railway System. The Committee submitted its interim report in the month of March 2015, which was studied and a decision was taken by All India Railwaymen's Federation to create awareness amongst Railway workers, users and all stake holders about adverse affects of its recommendation of privatization. The Seminar was organized after submission of its final report on 12th June 2015. Shri Suresh Tripathi, Editor, Railway Samachar, Dr. Mukesh Gautam, President, All India Ticket Checking Staff Association, Shri Manoj Tiwari, Shri M. B. Dave, Smt. Kavita and entire team of Railway Samachar had taken lot of pain for making the Seminar successful.

S/Shri A.K. Jain, Ex GM/N.Rly., A.P. Mishra, Ex ME/Rly. Board, Dr. M. Raghavaiayya, Gen. Secy./

NFIR, K. Satyanarayanji, Mg. Director, Distribution Logistic Infrastructure, Mangesh Deshpande, BRMS, Shiva Gopal Mishra, Gen. Secy./AIRF, J.R. Bhosale, Treasurer/AIRF, Sukhbir Singh, Ex ME, U.S. Jha, Secretary General, All India RPF Association, R. R. Jaruhar, Raman Sharma, Indian Railway Promotee Officers' Association, Amit Chaudhary and many others spoke in the Seminar. All the five speakers from the Federations have suggested to reject the recommendations of the Debroy Committee as they are neither in the interest of the Rail users or Railway industry. Majority speakers opined that there is a need for private vision and not privatization. Many speakers opined that this report is prepared keeping in view how corporate group should be benefitted by privatizing the existing Railway system. They also opined that breaking of the present Railway Board is not in the benefit of the industry. If Debroy Committee's advice is accepted and infrastructure and operations are separated, Railway Regulatory Authority of India is established, Railway Health Services are privatized, Maintenance and Production Units are given to private companies, it will affect interest of the Rail users and all other stake-holders. Some of the speakers opined the present Railway Board is spineless and there is need for introspection, Indian Railway should avoid over capitalization and there is need for finding out right people for right job. It was general consent that before any action is taken on the recommendations of Debroy Committee, the entire report should be deliberated involving five Federations of Indian Railways, Rail users and all other stake-holders to save Indian Railways from privatization.

NUSI HONoured WITH INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS WELFARE AWARD

National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) won "Best Welfare Organization of the Year Award-2015". The award was presented to Mr. Abdulgani Y. Serang, General Secretary-cum-Treasurer of NUSI by Mr. Koji Sekimizu, Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in a grand function organized at London on 9th June 2015. We congratulate NUSI and its office bearers for winning this prestigious Award.

GRANT FOR FUNERAL RITES FROM SBF

Western Railway administration has stopped paying funeral grant to family members of railway employees on the erroneous ground that it is not mentioned in Railway Board's letter No.E(W)2014/FU-1/1 dated 30.07.2014 (RBE No.83/2014) on the subject. This issue was raised in WREU GM PNM held on 31.03.2015 and was discussed at length with the General Manager as an Outset Item. As a result, CSBF Committee sanctioned Rs.39 Lakhs as grant for funeral rites vide letter No. E/SBF 1075/87/1 dated 05.06.2015. Accordingly, Rs.10000/- will be paid towards funeral assistance in case of death while in service and for family members amount

shall be disbursed as per old practice, i.e. Death in JRH Hospital (Non-suburban – Rs.8000/- and for Suburban – Rs.5000/-) and for other divisional/sub-divisional hospitals Rs.5,000/-. In such cases, claim is to be done within one month of death.

DEMAND FOR ABSORPTION OF MEDICALLY DECATEGORISED LOCO PILOT/SR. ALP AS SR. PASS GUARD/SR. GOODS GUARD ON ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT

AIRF vide their letter No.AIRF/55 dated June 9, 2015 addressed to the Secretary (E), Railway Board, suggested for absorbing Loco Pilots who do not pass "A-1" medical category but fit in "A-2 and below" as Sr. Pass Guard/Sr. Goods Guard looking to the large number of vacancies of Guards.

Presently, Loco Pilots who do not pass "A-1" medical category but fit in "A-2 and below" are given alternative stationary job as CC, PC, TFR etc. Whereas required medical category for Sr. Pass Guard/Sr. Goods Guard is "A-2 and below" and hence they can be very well absorbed in these categories if they are willing to work. This will benefit both the employees as well as the administration since they are acquainted with the safety rules and can be very easily absorbed after suitable training.

CASH AWARD SCHEME FROM SBF

In order to encourage wards of railway employees for their outstanding performance in the field of academics, a Scheme of Cash Award has been introduced by Railway Board under SBF. The wards of railway employees studying from VI standard to Post Graduation from any recognized Board/University are eligible for Cash Award provided there is continuity of the studies. Wards/students already in receipt of scholarships as per extant provisions under SBF shall also be eligible for award under the Scheme to the extent of the difference in the Scholarships amount of the two schemes. In case of tie between students, girl child will be given preference. In case of tie among boys or among girls, the senior in age would get preference. In case of any dispute, the decision of the SBF Committee shall be final.

Similarly, Cash Award has also been introduced from SBF for wards of railway employees for their outstanding performance in the field of sports effective from financial year 2015-16 onwards. Accordingly, the championship/event concluded during 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 shall be considered for cash award during the year 2015-16. For each recognized sports achievement, separate cash award shall be given. SBF Committee shall approve the names of eligible wards for cash award in consultation with the President/General Secretary of Sports Association of concerned Zonal Railway/Production Unit.

Railway employees shall have to submit their application to the respective SBF Committee in the

prescribed application form along with a certificate from the Head of the Institution (School/College) and attested photocopy of the mark sheet. The Scheme shall be effective from academic year 2015-16 onwards.

(Rly.Bd's letter No.E(W)2014/FU-1/1 dated 01.06.2015 (RBE No.54/2015)

REVISED RATES OF NIGHT DUTY ALLOWANCE

Consequent upon increase of Dearness Allowance, Railway Board vide letter No. E(P&A) II-2015/HW-1 dt.08-06-2015 RBE No. 58 /2015 revised the rates of Night Duty Allowance (NDA) w.e.f. 01.01.2015, as under:

For 'Intensive', 'Continuous' and 'Excluded' categories and Workshop staff

SR. NO.	Pay Bank	Grade Pay	Rates of NDA (Rs.)
1.	4440-7440	1300	71.75
2.	4440-7440	1400	72.70
3.	4440-7440	1600	74.70
4.	4440-7440	1650	75.20
5.	5200-20200	1800	143.65
6.	9300-34800	1900	144.65
7.	5200-20200	2000	145.65
8.	5200-20200	2400	149.60
9.	5200-20200	2800	153.55
10.	9300-34800	4200	260.05
11.	9300-34800	4600 & above	264.00

For 'Essentially Intermittent categories of staff

SR. NO.	Pay Bank	Grade Pay	Rates of NDA (Rs.)
1.	4440-7440	1300	47.85
2.	4440-7440	1400	48.45
3.	4440-7440	1600	49.80
4.	4440-7440	1650	50.15
5.	5200-20200	1800	95.75
6.	9300-34800	1900	96.45
7.	5200-20200	2000	97.10
8.	5200-20200	2400	99.75
9.	5200-20200	2800	102.35
10.	9300-34800	4200	173.35
11.	9300-34800	4600 & above	176.00

ABSORPTION OF MEDICALLY UNFIT STAFF OF RPF/RPSF IN ALTERNATIVE POST

Railway Board reiterated their instructions contained in letter No. E(NG)I 88/RE-3/2 dated 18.01.1989 wherein it was provided that medically unfit RPF/RPSF staff may be first considered for absorption in ministerial post in their own department. The Committee constituted for considering such alternative appointments shall include an officer of the Personnel Department. In case no suitable posts to so accommodate them in RPF department are available, they may be considered for absorption in alternative posts in other

departments of the railways within the framework of the provisions contained in Chapter XIII of the Indian Railway Establishment Manual Vol.I, Revised Edition 1989, First Re-Print Edition-2009. Similarly, when staff of other departments are medically de-categorised, they will also be considered for absorption against suitable posts in their own department at the outset and in case no posts are available therein then such staff will be considered against Ministerial posts in the RPF department. if such posts are available in that Department. These instructions/ procedure may be followed scrupulously. (Rly.Bd's letter No.E(NGI)-2015/RE-3/2 dt.12.06.2015 RBE No. 61/2015)

COM. RAGHUNATH KURUP DECLARED AS "MAN OF THE DIVISION"

Com. Raghunath Kurup, Motorman/CCG, has been declared as "Man of the Division" for the month of May 2015 by DRM-BCT for his vigilant and prompt action in averting a major OHE breakdown on 04.05.2015 while backing Rake 2253-2254 of train No.91141Dn in Bandra South Yard. He on noticing a hanging cable from OHE just below ROB applied emergency brake and dropped all pantographs thereby averting a big mishap. Com. Raghunath Kurup is active member of **WREU CCG Branch. WELL DONE COMRADE.**

CLARIFICATION ON CHILDREN EDUCATION ALLOWANCE

DOP&T issued clarification on reimbursement of Children Education Allowance in the form of 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQ) in terms of their O.M. No.I-11020/1/2014-Estt.(AL), which has been circulated by Railway Board vide letter No.E(W)2008/ED-2/4, dated 1.6.2015, as under:

Question	Answer
1) Whether reimbursement of Children Education Allowance is admissible for the:	
(a) Nursery/LKG/UKG as there is no provision of recognition of these classes in most of the States/UTs;	Reimbursement is permissible only if the child is studying in a recognized educational institution.
(b) Third child if either of the first two children is disabled to the extent that he/she cannot go to school;	Reimbursement is allowed to only to two eldest surviving children of the Government servant except when the 2nd child birth results in multiple births or the 3rd child is born due to failure of sterilization operation.
(c) The children borne out of second marriage or the children of second wife/husband in additions to children first marriage;	Reimbursement is allowed to only to two eldest surviving children of the Government servant.
(d) Entitlement of number of Note Books.	Reimbursement is permissible for any number of note books as may be prescribed by the recognized educational institution.

VETERAN RETIRES

Com. Gulab Giri, Hd. TE / BDTS, retired from Railway Service on 30.06.2015 after putting more than 42 years. He joined Western Railway as Platform Porter on 2/12/1972 and by sheer dedication and hard work rose to the post of Hd. TTE. He joined WREU soon after joining Railway service and was an office bearer of Dadar Branch. He was always at forefront to help the railwaymen and fought for their legitimate rights. A grand farewell function was organized in his honour at BDTS by ticket checking staff. Com. Gulab Giri & his family members, colleagues and large number of ticket checking staff attended the function. Com. R. P. Gupta, AGS/WERU and other office bearers were present in the function. They appreciated the services of Com. Gulab Giri and wished him happy retired life. While thanking, Com. Gulab Giri appealed all to be united with the union in order to fight against anti labour policies of the government.

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
June 2014	246	2879	239.91	107.25
July 2014	252	2896	241.33	108.47
Aug. 2014	253	2912	242.66	109.62
Sept. 2014	253	2927	243.92	110.71
Oct. 2014	253	2939	244.91	111.56
Nov. 2014	253	2949	245.75	112.29
Dec. 2014	253	2963	246.92	113.30
Jan. 2015	254	2980	248.33	114.52
Feb. 2015	253	2995	249.58	115.60
March 2015	254	3010	250.83	116.68
April 2015	256	3024	252.00	117.69
May 2015	258	3038	253.16	118.69

* Average Price Index for January 2001