

RAILWAY SENTINEL



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' UNION

Vol. 65 No. 6

June 2015

Price :

Single : 3 Rupees

Annual : Thirty Rupees

MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

Mumbai Division: Udhna Branch of WREU BCT Division organized a meeting on the occasion of May Day. The meeting was addressed by Com. Lalit Kumar, Branch Chairman and Com. Alex Jacob, Branch Secretary. During the function, the Branch honoured S/Shri Bharat B. Sailor, Loco Pilot (Pass.), O. P. Batham, ALP, GM and DRM Awardee respectively during the recent Railway Week Award function and Shri G.L. Soni, CTNL-UDN, who retired from railway service on 30.04.2015.

A meeting of contract workers employed on Western Railway Mumbai Suburban section was held at Dadar Union Office on 1st May 2015 and the gathering was addressed by Com. D.Y. Mahale, Wkg. Chairman of WREU BCT Division and Com. Milind Raut.

Vadodara Division: On the occasion of May Day, large number of railway employees assembled at Vadodara Saloon siding. Com. R. S. Singh in his speech mentioned about importance of May Day and its brief history. Com. Santosh Pawar, Vinod Manjrawala and Vijay Sengar also addressed the meeting and appealed the employees to be more alert and vigilant to safeguard the right and privileges which we got through sacrifice and hardships of our predecessors.

Sabarmati Workshop Branch: More than 500 railway workers attended the public meeting organized on 1st May 2015 at Sabarmati Workshop. Com. R. C. Sharma, J.R. Bhosale, Ajit Gajjar, H. S. Pal, Narendra Dave, Amrut Makwana, Sanjay Suryabali and Smt. Pragna Parmar were on dais. While addressing the gathering, Com. R. C. Sharma gave details of the recent meetings of AIRF with the 7th CPC and specific details of demands of workshop and technical staff placed before the Commission. He exhorted the Railwaymen to be in readiness for intensive struggle on the call of AIRF.

Com. J. R. Bhosale in his address, mentioned the back ground of the May Day and said that

workers conditions are still not improved as imagined by our ancestors. He gave details of the demands placed before the 7th CPC and explained how AIRF had tried to convince the Chairman and members of 7th CPC for the demands of the railwaymen and other Central Government employees. He said that present government got clear majority by their promise of "Achchhe Din" but it is not giving any gesture of "Achchhe Din". He criticized the anti-labour policies of present government by quoting recent efforts of various state governments in changing the labour laws to facilitate industrialists and MNCs. He strongly opposed the decision of allowing 100% FDI in Railways and explained the stand taken by the WREU/AIRF against this decision. He exhorted the gathering to be in readiness to fight for their rights. He congratulated Com. Dinesh Panchal and Rajiv Menon for organizing such a large meeting.

Sabarmati Diesel Shed Branch: The Branch organized a meeting in staff canteen under the chairmanship of Com. Shankarlal Verma. Com. R. C. Sharma, J.R. Bhosale, H. S. Pal addressed more than 200 workers assembled there. The leaders apprised them of the recent oral evidences by AIRF and various demands placed before the 7th CPC. They criticized the anti-labour policies of the present government and appealed them to be readiness for direct action. Com. H. S. Pal conducted the meeting and vote of thanks was conveyed by Com. Shankarlal Verma.

Ratlam Division: Office bearers and activists of WREU local Branches gathered in Union Office at 8.30 A.M. on 1st May, 2015 and hoisted Red flag and remembered the martyrs of May Day. Com. Govindlal Sharma, Shyambabu Shrivastav and Manohar Pachori, while addressing the gathering strongly condemned the anti-labour policies of the present Government and informed that Joint Council of Action of all Central Government employees including Railwaymen during the massive morcha before Parliament held on 28th April, 2015 decided to resort to Indefinite General

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Strike from 6 A.M. on 23rd November, 2015. They appealed the activists to move amongst the cadre, educate them and be prepared for upcoming struggle for achieving the legitimate demands.

ORAL EVIDENCE FOR LEFT OVER GROUPS BEFORE THE 7TH CPC

AIRF representatives made oral submissions before the 7th Central Pay Commission on 07.04.2015. Oral evidence for left over groups, viz. (1) Ministerial staff, Stenographer, Rajbhasha, Publicity Inspector, Welfare Inspector, etc.; (2) Accounts, Cash & Pay, EDP/IT; (3) Legal, School, RDSO, MTP, Canteen Staff & other Misc. categories; and (4) Women employees, were held on 19th May 2015. Comrades Santosh Pawar, Mahesh Chhaya, Geeta Pandoria from WREU and representatives from other Railways led by Com. Rakhil Das Gupta, Shiva Gopal Mishra, and Com. J.R. Bhosale effectively made submissions in respective of these left over categories before the 7th CPC. The delegation demanded for introduction of Family Care Leave instead of Child Care Leave, Maternity Leave to be increased to 365 days, Abortion Leave for actual abortions irrespective of limit, Creche Allowance, Granting of Annual Increment while on Maternity Leave and Child Care Leave, increase in Paternity Leave, 30% job reservation for women employees in Government Departments, improving promotional prospects of erstwhile Group 'D' staff in PB-1 GP Rs.1800 and non-availability of promotions to Law Assistants, etc.

During the discussion, Chairman, Pay Commission, opined that there should be parity in case of common categories such as Stenographers, Hindi Assistants, Typists between Field Offices and Secretariat. The Chairman indicated that Report of the Commission will be submitted by 28th August 2015 with recommendation to implement the same with effect from 1st January 2016. The 7th CPC has fixed final meeting with NC-JCM on 9th June 2015.

NATIONAL ANOMALY COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the National Anomaly Committee was held on 29.05.2015 in which Jt. Secretary (Estt.), Jt. Secretary(Pers.) and officials from other establishments and Ministry of Railways were present.

At the outset, Com. S.G. Mishra, Secretary(Staff Side), NC-JCM & General Secretary/AIRF expressed anguish for communication gap and non-finalization of the issues raised by the Staff Side JCM at various levels resulting into agitative mood amongst Central Government employees. Jt. Secretary (Estt.) assured that meeting on the pending items would be held soon and it was

agreed to hold a meeting on the pending items in the afternoon of 9th June, 2015. The following items were discussed:

Review of MACP to GP of Rs.2000: It was agreed to review the matter.

Granting of Additional Pay to Loco & Traffic Running Staff: Agreed to reconsider the issue.

Treatment of employees selected under LDCE/GDCE Scheme: The Official Side informed that whatsoever benefit available to the employees selected under LDCE and GDCE in the ACP will continue in the MACPS also.

Grant of minimum entry pay meant for Direct Recruits to Promotees: The Secretary Staff Side told to the Official Side that if the Hon'ble Finance Minister has some specific objection for implementing this issue, Staff Side would like to meet Hon'ble Finance Minister. The Official Side agreed that they will put up the case to the competent authority to approach the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

CAMPAIGN WEEK & BLACK DAY

All India Railwaymen's Federation had outrightly rejected the retrograde recommendations of High Level Railway Restructuring Committee headed by Shri Bibek Deb Roy in its Interim Report, which was reported in April issue of the Railway Sentinel.

The Standing Committee Meeting of the All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF) in its meeting held at New Delhi on 22-23 May, 2015 decided to observe "Campaign Week" from **23rd to 30 June, 2015**, which will culminate on **30th June, 2015** as "Black Day" through the length and breadth of the country by wearing black badges, holding processions, demonstrations, dharnas etc. to protest against the recommendations of the High Level Railway Restructuring Committee headed by Shri Bibek Deb Roy in its Interim Report and to create a mass awareness amongst the railway employees and travelling public against the anti-labour, anti-people policies of the government and to save the Indian Railways from privatization/corporatization. The High Level Railway Restructuring Committee in its Interim Report has recommended as under with a timeframe of seven years for implementation and an immediate task to allow private companies to run trains and charge freight and fare as their terms.

- 1) Formation of "Railway Regulatory of India" to decide outsourcing of train services, freight and fare etc.
- 2) Allow private companies to run trains and charge freight and fare as per their own terms.
- 3) Stop all types of concessions granted to the students, female, senior citizens, sick persons,

sportspersons, media persons, differently-abled persons.

- 4) Convert Railway Production Units and Workshops to private companies in the name "Indian Railway Manufacturing Company" to be run by the private companies.
- 5) Handover construction, operation and maintenance of the Railways to the contractors.
- 6) Close down Railway Hospitals, Railway Schools etc.
- 7) Handover activities of the RPF to Industrial Security Force/CRPF.
- 8) Rationalize the strength of the Railway employees.
- 9) Stop employment of the wards on Compassionate Ground and under LARSGESS.

The Railwaymen are appealed to participate in the campaign en-masse and register their protest and strongly oppose such retrograde recommendations, which will adversely affect the present service conditions.

MENON CUP CRICKET TOURNAMENT

Youth Wing of WREU BVP organized Inter Department Cricket Tournament (Menon Cup) from 25th April to 3rd May 2015. The closing ceremony of the tournament was held on 03.05.2015 in presence of Com. J. R. Bhosale, General Secretary/WREU, Shri. J. P. Pandey, DRM-BVP, Dr. P. K. Sardar, CMS-BVP and other officers and distinguished guests. Final match was played between PBR-11 and OCMG-11 and PBR-11 emerged victorious. Prior to prize distribution function, activists of Youth Wing organized a cultural programme. Attractive Trophies were presented to Winners, Runner-up, Man of the match, Best Bowler, Best Batsman, etc. Com. J. R. Bhoshle announced a cash award of Rs. 3500/- to winning team, Rs. 2500/- and Rs. 1000/- to cultural team.

Activists of WREU Youth Wing under the leadership of Com. Sunil Chauhan, Divisional Convener, Com. Sachin Parmar, Secretary, Youth Branch, Com. Manish Jadav, Com. Mukesh Badania, Com. Kirit Lathia, Com. Hardik Rathod, Com. Ashish Shukla, Com. Sonu Batham, Com. Harmesh Somaiya and others worked hard and made the Tournament and Prize Distribution function a grand success, which was appreciated by one and all.

WREU PANEL WON ELECTION OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' CO-OP. CREDIT AND THRIFT SOCIETY OF BHAVNAGAR

The panel of WREU candidates won the election of Railway Employees' Co-operative Credit and Thrift Society held on 10th May 2015. All the four posts of Executive Members are from WREU and four of out the five members

of Working Committee are also from WREU. Railway Sentinel congratulates all the Executive Members and Working Committee Members on their victory.

STAFF CONTACT CAMPAIGN & MEETING AT GANDHIDHAM

Com. R. C. Sharma accompanied by Com. R. S. Mishra, Haribuxsingh, Harphool Kumavat, and activists of GIM Branches visited all the units of Gandhidham area and contacted each and every staff working in the area. They heard their grievances and assured to take up the issue at appropriate level for early resolution. In the afternoon, Com. Sharma held meeting with the branch office bearers of both the branches and had organizational discussion with them.

In the evening, Com. R. C. Sharma addressed largely attended public meeting in the campus of Union office. He gave details of the achievements of WREU-ADI and especially for workers of Gandhidham area. He gave details of recent oral evidences by AIRF with the 7th CPC. He criticized NDA government for its moves for anti-labour policies and amendment in labour laws. The meeting was also addressed by Com. R. S. Mishra, Haribuxsingh and Harphool Kumavat.

WREU-ADI LAUNCHED ITS WEBSITE

WREU Ahemadabad Division launched its Website - "www.wreuadi.org", which was inaugurated by Com. J.R. Bhosale, General Secretary/WREU and Shri Rahul Agarwal, DRM-ADI in presence of Com. R. C. Sharma, Shri Ashutosh, ADRM, Com. S. K. Singh, Divisional Chairman, Officers and large number of railwaymen, in a grand function organized at DRM Office, Ahemadabad on 7th May 2015.

Com. J. R. Bhosale congratulated Com. R. C. Sharma and his team for their initiative in providing a very user friendly Website. He emphasized the need for regular updating so that it will be very useful to the high-tech new generation for gathering latest information and new developments which will in turn attract them to the organization.

DRM congratulated WREU and wished all success for its successful working. He stated that regular updating website is really a great challenge and usually most of the websites are not being updated regularly and hoped that WREU would be an exception.

The website is designed by Shri B. D. Patel, Ch.OS, Kalol and his team and it provides for latest orders of the Railway Board, orders/letters of HQ-CCG including PS and that of DRM-ADI. Employees can upload their complaints/grievances, which will be attended personally by Com. R. C. Sharma, President/WREU & Divisional

Secretary.

Com. R. S. Mishra anchored the function and Com. S. K. Singh conveyed vote of thanks. All the necessary arrangement for successful conduct of the programme was made by comrades of DRM office under the leadership of Com. Anil Mehta, Chairman of DRM Office Branch.

COMMERCIAL STAFF GET-TOGETHER

WREU Mumbai Division arranged a get-together of Commercial Staff working in Mumbai suburban area in Jagdish Ajmera Sabhagruh on 20th March 2015 in which more than 300 staff attended. The function was inaugurated by Com. J.R. Bhosale in presence of Shri A.C. Tiwari and Shri Prakash Chandra Pal, DCMs and ACMs of BCT Division, R.P. Gupta, Prashant Kanade, Vikas Gupte, P. Rajan and large number of Commercial staff. Com. Bhosale in his address mentioned various achievements of AIRF/WREU for Commercial staff and briefly mentioned about the demands placed before the 7th CPC in respect of Commercial categories and the ensuing oral evidence before the 7th CPC. DCM-BCT thanked WREU for organizing the function, which will surely bring togetherness amongst the staff. He assured the participants to solve their problems at divisional level. Number of participants discussed problems faced by Commercial staff in their day-to-day working and it was decided to prepare a memorandum mentioning their grievances and submit it to Divisional Administration for early resolution. Com. Suresh Mishra anchored the whole function.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S TOUR

General Secretary visited Bhavnagar on 3rd May 2015. He addressed organizational meeting of office bearers of all the local branches and activists and enlightened the cadre of WREU on pending demands, the historic morcha before Parliament on 28th April, 2015 and decision of Indefinite Strike by all Central Government employees from 6.00 A.M. of 23.11.2015. Thereafter, he addressed a separate meeting of Branch Secretaries and Divisional office bearers held in Divisional Secretary's Chamber and reviewed the position of enrolment of membership fees and bonus and Consent Forms to be obtained from employees and submitted to Supervisor concerned for necessary action.

During the visit of General Secretary at Ratlam on 10th May 2015, he addressed a meeting of office bearers of local branches. He congratulated WREU activists of Ratlam Division for large scale participation in Parliament March on 28th April 2015 and informed about the position of various pending demands. The decision of Indefinite Strike from 6.00 A.M. of 23.11.2015

was also discussed. The issue of deduction of membership fees and bonus through salary and Enrolment Form to be obtained from employees was also discussed and he appealed the office bearers to get Consent Forms to be filled up from employees and submit it to In-charge supervisors by June 2015. The meeting was also addressed by Asstt. General Secretary, Divisional Chairman and Divisional Secretary. It was also discussed and decided for making preparations for holding Annual Convention of WREU at Ratlam in second week of November 2015. During the discussion, Branches requested the General Secretary for considering the proposal of the Branches for reviewing the Divisional Body pending with HQ since March 2015.

UNLAWFULL RECOVERY STOPPED

As per the direction of SDGM & CVO-CCG vide letter dated 01.07.2014, Sr. DEN (Co-ordination)/Ratlam has started recovery of Rs 8,10,216/- from the salary of Shri A.A. Pathan, SSE (P. Way)N/Ratlam towards cost of some items on the alleged ground that he was custodian at the relevant time. WREU raised this issue of unlawful recovery in GM PNM under Item No. 63/2014 and discussed with the General Manager and demanded that no recovery should be made unless DAR Case is finalized. This case was again discussed with the General Manager on 31.03.2015 and the GM after examining the case in detail, advised SDGM for reviewing the case. Accordingly after reviewing the case, SDGM issued instructions to Sr. DEN (Co-ordination)/Ratlam to stop the recovery from the salary of Shri A. A. Pathan, SSE (P Way)North/Ratlam.

INTER-DIVISIONAL TRANSFER ORDERS CANCELLED

Shri Sanjay Yagnik, Lab Superintendent/Bhavnagar Railway Hospital, was transferred to Ratlam in same grade on the complaint of his colleague. This issue was represented by WREU before the General Manager vide letter No. WREU/BVP/11/2015 and it was contended that since the enquiry committee held both the employees equally responsible, transferring only Shri Sanjay Yagnik would amount to discrimination and it was requested to cancel his transfer order and just post both these employees at different places. GM after going through the case, agreed with the contention of the Union and cancelled the transfer order.

INCORRECT RECOVERY OF BED ROLL ITEMS STOPPED

At the insistence of HQ Accounts, Mumbai Divisional administration had ordered recovery of 100% cost of lost Bed Roll items from AC Coach Attendants in violation of the Board's orders. Although this issue was raised before DRM-BCT

vide Divisional PNM Item No.70/2014, the division proceeded to recover full cost of lost Linen from Coach Attendants. WREU, therefore, raised this issue before the General Manager vide Outset Item No. 7 on 31.03.2015 and after detailed discussion, GM issued instructions to CME and FA&CAO for recovery at depreciated cost as has been advised vide Railway Boards letter No. 2005/TG-V/10/17 dated 2.3.2006. This issue was also raised by WREU/AIRF in Railway Board PNM held on 20-21 May, 2015 and Board agreed to the Union's contentions and assured for issuing revised instructions in this regard on the basis of revised codal life.

MOTORMEN ELIGIBLE FOR LARSGESS

Mumbai Divisional administration has refused to grant benefit of LARSGESS to Motorman category and it was replied that benefit of this Scheme is not extended to Motorman category. This issue was taken up by WREU and was discussed with the General Manager vide GM PNM vide Item No.7 of 2015. WREU pointed out that this issue was discussed in detail earlier in WREU GM PNM Item No.96/2004 and Western Railway administration had taken a decision that Motorman is a part of the running staff and accordingly the item was finalized. Accordingly, General Manager (E) vide his letter No.E(R&T) 890/60/1/LARSGESS dated 21.05.2015 advised Mumbai division to grant benefit of LARSGESS to Motorman category.

ISSUES OF TICKET CHECKING STAFF

Various issues concerning the Ticket Checking Staff was raised at Railway Board's PNM vide AIRF's Item No.17/2014 and Board's comments on the same are given below:

- In regard to providing security to Ticket Checking Staff, instructions have been issued from Security Directorate to RPF staff to render necessary assistance to TTEs whenever required.
- All out efforts are made to fill up the posts of Ticket Collectors/Ticket Examiners. Second stage written examination for filling up 3445 posts of Ticket Examiner/Ticket Collector (under CEN number 4/2014) was held on 19.1.2014. Panel for about 2600 RRB empanelled candidates have already been supplied to indenting railways and balance are also expected to be supplied in next 2/3 months.
- As regard collection target for the ticket checking staff, it was clarified that targets are fixed in respect number of cases to be detected only and no target is fixed in regard to amount of railway dues to be realized from these cases.
- Zonal railways have already been advised that Ticket Checking Staff should not be deployed on non-ticket checking duties.
- Establishment Directorate has been taken decision to enhance minimum qualification for all NTPC categories (including that of Ticket Collectors) in Pay Band-1 (Grade Pay Rs.1900 to Rs.2400) to Class 12th Pass (+2 standards) from present educational qualification of matriculate.
- As regard providing Rest Room facilities to Ticket checking staff at par with other running staff, Zonal Railways have been asked to upgrade/improve the facilities in TTE Rest Houses to match the requirements as per Boards extent guidelines and also directed to conduct inspection of TTE Rest House over the next fortnight and advise status of facilities provided at the Rest House to Railway Board.

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF WORKERS

National Convention of Workers was held in New Delhi on 26th May 2015 under the banner of joint platform of all the Central Trade Unions of the country along with independent national federations of all sectors and service establishments. The Convention passed an unanimous Declaration expressing deep concern over anti-worker, anti-people and pro-corporate actions of the present Government at the centre in pursuance of the policy of globalization, which is reproduced below:

"National Convention of Workers being held under the banner of joint platform of all the Central Trade Unions of the country along with independent national federations of all sectors and service establishments expresses deep concern over anti-worker, anti-people and pro-corporate actions of the present Government at the centre in pursuance of the policy of globalization. During this period, the Government has been over-busy in amending all labour laws to empower the employers with unfettered rights to "hire and fire" and stripping the workers and trade unions of all their rights and benefits besides aggressively pushing through almost unlimited FDI in strategic sectors like Railways, Defence and Financial Sector. Also, through sweeping changes in the existing Land Acquisition Act, farmers' right to land and agri-workers' right to livelihood are being sought to be drastically curbed and curtailed.

The Government's aim in aggressively pushing through sweeping changes in labour-laws is nothing but to push out overwhelming majority of workers out of the coverage of all labour laws and to drastically curb the trade union rights. The CTUs had besides other issues raised the issue of strict enforcement of labour laws and universal

social security but this Govt. is doing away with all rights-components in all the labour laws aiming at creating conditions of bonded labour in all the workplaces. EPF and ESI schemes are proposed to be made optional which is also aimed at demolishing the PF and ESI schemes dismantling the basic social security structures available to the organized sector. And for the vast unorganized sector workers, old schemes are being repackaged and renamed, without providing for funds and implementation-machinery/ network with a view to befool the people. The Govt. has not taken any step to curb price rise of essential commodities and to generate employment except making tall claims of containing inflation in the media. On universalizing public distribution system, the Govt. is trying to scuttle it through Direct Benefit Transfer resulting further squeeze on the common people.

During the year with the support of the present Government, various state governments have brought about drastic anti-workers changes in basic labour laws viz., Industrial Disputes Act, Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, Factories Act and Apprenticeship Act, Trade Unions Act etc. introducing "hire & fire", throwing more than 71% of factories out of coverage of Factories Act and making all contractors employing up to 50 workers free from any obligation towards workers. The Central Govt. on its part has introduced amendments to Factories Act raising doubly the limit of workers for registration of factories, put in public domain the proposals for new small Factories (Regulations of Service Conditions) Bill which prescribes that major 14 labour laws will not apply to factories employing upto 40 workers. Labour Code on Wages Bill and Labour code on industrial Relations Bill which under the cover of amalgamation seek to make registration of unions almost impossible, making retrenchment and closure almost free for the employers class. These bills have been put in public domain without consulting the trade unions thereby violating the provisions of ILO Convention 144 on Tripartite Consultation. Amendments have also been brought in EPF & MP Act and ESI Act to make it optional with a sinister design to finally demolish the two time-tested statutory schemes for the workers. The Prime Minister's office has written to the Chief Secretaries of states to follow Rajasthan Model in labour laws. All these amendments are meant to exclude 90% of the workforce from application of labour laws thereby allowing the employers to further squeeze and exploit the workers.

The Convention also expresses dismay over the Government's total inaction in implementing the

consensus recommendations of 43rd, 44th and 45th Indian Labour Conferences on formulation of minimum wages, same wage and benefits as regular workers for the contract workers and granting status of workers with attendant benefits to those employed in various central govt schemes like anganwadi, mid-day-meal, ASHA, para-teachers etc. On the contrary, the Govt drastically curtailed budget allocations to all those centrally sponsored schemes meant for poor peoples' welfare. It is also noted with utter dismay that the present government is also continuing to ignore the twelve point demands of entire trade union movement pertaining to concrete action to be taken for containing price-rise and aggravating unemployment situation, for strict implementation of labour laws, halting mass scale unlawful contractorisation, ensuring minimum wages for all of not less than Rs.15000 per month with indexation and universal social security benefits and pension for all including the unorganized sector workers, etc. The demands also include compulsory registration of trade unions within 45 days ratification of ILO Conventions 87 and 98. Even the legislations passed by Parliament on the issue of Street Vendors is not being implemented appropriately.

The National Convention also denounced the retrograde move of the government in hiking/ allowing FDI in Defence, Insurance, Railways and other sectors and also its aggressive move for disinvestment in PSUs including Oil and Financial sector aiming at total privatization which will be detrimental to the interest of the national economy, national security as well as mass of the common people. The National Convention also condemned the sweeping change sought to be brought in the Land Acquisition Act permitting forcible acquisition of land from the farmers and putting in jeopardy the livelihood of agricultural workers. It is disgusting to note that 147 workers of Maruti Suzuki at Manesar are being forced to languish in jail for more than two years on false and fabricated charges. It is unfortunate that even after the assurance of the Prime Minister to revive the closed NOKIA Sriperumbudur Unit, the recent decision to sell it demonstrates Government's approach to deny protection to workers. The Coal sector has already been opened for commercial operation by private sector.

The Convention supports the decision of the constituents of JCM of Centre Govt. employees to go for indefinite strike from 23rd November 2015 and will decide at appropriate stage the form of solidarity action to be taken. The Convention also congratulates Coal, Postal, Transport and Telecom workers for their strike against policies

of the Government.

The Convention demands upon the Central Government to stop forthwith the process of making retrograde amendments to the labour laws. The Convention also demands immediate steps to implement the consensus recommendations of successive Indian Labour Conferences and also positive response to long pending demands of the entire trade union movement of the country. The Convention urges the Central Government to desist from mindless drive for disinvestment in CPSUs and liberalizing FDI in defence, insurance, Railways, etc. and the Convention also condemns the government's move of corporatization of major ports and postal services etc. The Convention urges the government to reverse the direction of the ongoing economic policy regime which has landed the entire national economy in distress and decline affecting the working people most.

The Convention calls upon all the trade unions, federations across the sectors to widen and consolidate the unity at the grass-root level and prepare for countrywide united movement to halt and resist the brazen anti-worker and anti-people policies of the government and in preparation to the same undertakes unanimously the following programmes:

- 1) Joint Conventions and campaigns during June-July in state, district and industry level wherever possible and taking initiative to involve common people in support of workers struggle.
- 2) All India General Strike on 2nd September 2015.

The National Convention calls upon the trade unions and working people irrespective of affiliations to unite and make the countrywide General Strike a massive success."

RELAXATION OF UPPER AGE LIMIT FOR DIRECT RECRUITMENT TO NG POSTS ON RAILWAYS

In terms of Board's letter of even number dated 10/05/1999 (RBE No. 99/1999), an across the board relaxation of three years above prescribed upper age limit in open market recruitment to all non gazetted posts including engagement of Substitutes on the railways has been provided. The currency of this relaxation contained in letter of even number dated 10.05.1999 has been extended from time to time and was available up to 03.02.2015 in terms of RBE No. 57/2012. General Secretary/AIRF vide letter No. AIRF/64 dated 7th April, 2015 requested the Railway Board to extend the currency of this relaxation further (See May issue of Railway Sentinel).

Accordingly, Railway Board vide letter No.E(NG)-II/94/RR-1/29 dated 11.05.2015 (RBE

No.45/2015) provided relaxation in the following manner above the prescribed upper age limit for recruitment of all non-gazetted posts including engagement of Substitutes:

| Sl. No. | Period | Relaxation (in years) in upper age limit above the prescribed age limits for various posts |
|---------|--------------------------|--|
| (i) | 04/02/2015 to 03/02/2017 | 02 years |
| (ii) | 04/02/2017 to 03/02/2019 | 01 year |
| (iii) | Beyond 03/02/2019 | No relaxation |

This order will take effect from 04.02.2015 and indents placed after 03.02.2015 are to be suitably amended.

REVISION OF NORMS OF MANNING OF COACHES

There was widespread discontentment amongst the Ticket Checking Staff against the Railway Board's order for manning 5 coaches by a TTE. WREU took up this issue at Board's level and it was included in Board's PNM vide AIRF's PNM Item No.28/2014. During the discussion held between GS/AIRF and EDPM on 8th May, 2015, it was agreed to by the EDPM to withdraw Railway Board's orders for manning of 05 coaches by a TTE and this decision will be implemented w.e.f. 1st July, 2015.

RECLASSIFICATION OF CITIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF HRA & TA

Soon after construction of EMU Carshed at Virar, WREU raised the issue of payment of HRA in Virar area at par with Mumbai as a special case citing example of New Mumbai vide its letter No.F/CCG/14/2012 dated 10.05.2012. Similarly, WREU demanded for revision of HRA to staff working in Ahmedabad city vide letter No.F/ADI/16/2013 dated 31.07.2013 on account of the fact that as per Population Census of year 2011, total population of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has crossed 50 Lakhs. Both these demands were vigorously pursued by the AIRF at Board's level as also with Central Government. It is heartening that Central Government has agreed to reclassify Ahmedabad city as 'X' Class and Vasai-Virar Municipal area and Ujjain Municipal area as 'Y' class cities so that employees working in these cities will get HRA @ 30% and 20% respectively. Further, Indore Urban Agglomeration has been included in "A-1/A" city for the purpose of Transport Allowance and accordingly employees in GP below Rs.4200 will get Transport Allowance Rs.600 + DA and those in GP Rs.4200, 4600 and 4800 will get Rs.1600

+ DA and GP above Rs.5400 will get Rs.3200 + DA thereon. Notification to this effect will be issued soon.

DEDUCTION OF MEMBERSHIP FEES THROUGH SALARY

Joint Procedure Order (JPO) for deduction of membership fees and bonus from salaries of employees was circulated in the month of January 2015. The Consent Form should be signed by the employee in the presence of a witness (who should invariably be a serving employee), to be countersigned by the respective union representatives and submit to Supervisor/Chief OS/Clerk (in triplicate copy), who will forward the same to the bill drawing authority. General Manager (E), Western Railway, vide his letter dated 12.05.2015 instructed all concerned to circulate the JPO and Consent Form among all the Sections and Units and give wide publicity and further instructed all Supervisors to give a copy of duly filled "Acknowledgement" of willingness of employees in Annexure 'A' to the representative of the Union for record.

VETERANS RETIRES

Com. S. Anthony and Com. S. S. Palav, Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively of WREU EMU/POH/MX Branch retired from railway service on superannuation on 30th May, 2015. The Branch organized a grand farewell function on 29th May, 2015 in the Auditorium of Mahalakshi Workshop to honour them. On this occasion, other superannuated comrades, viz. S/ Shri S. S. Dehade, Ashok Pednekar, S. N. Joshi, Kashinath Chikne, Santosh Waghulade, were also honoured. Shri Gupta, CWM along with other officers graced the function. CWM honoured these retired employees by presenting each of them Shawl, Bouquet and an attractive Memento. Com. Vikas Gupte, Com. P. Rajan and Com. Abhishek Bhargava highly appreciated the selfless services rendered by these comrades, especially Com. S. Anthony and Com. S. S. Palav and wished them healthy and peaceful retired life. Com. Sanjay Girkar, Branch Secretary and his team arranged the function.

ALERT GUARD & MOTORMAN SAVE TWO LIVES

Shri Dinesh Kumar Yadav, Guard-CCG, while working set No.342 (train No.90258) reached Churchgate platform No.2 at 9.40 A.M. when he found two visually challenged persons (a man and a woman) lost their way and fell down on track of platform No.3. Realising that at this point of time

a train from Marine Lines was to enter platform No.3, he rushed with red flag and waved to the Motorman of incoming train. On seeing red flag, Motorman of train No.90288 stopped the train by applying emergency brake just 10 feet away from the visually challenged duo. Shri Yadav with the help of other commuters took them to ARO's office, sprinkled water on unconscious blind man and rendered first aid to both of them and thereafter allowed to leave to their work place. DRM-BCT and CPRO highly appreciated the presence of mind and prompt action of Shri Ram Swaroop Meena, Motorman and Shri Dinesh Kumar Yadav, Guard, who saved two precious lives and assured to reward them suitably. WREU & Railway Sentinel also praise both Shri Yadav and Meena for their commendable work.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GIRL CHILD FROM SBF

It has been decided by CSBF Committee that a girl child of serving non-gazetted railway employees, who is studying in higher education, i.e. after 12th and residing in a hostel may be granted Rs.1000/- per month from the head "Woman empowerment" subject to the condition that the ward is availing School Pass. In case hostel subsidy is received by the employee from Railway Revenue and Lodging & Boarding is provided free of cost by Government, this benefit is not available.

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 |
|----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 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 |

* Average Price Index for January 2001