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FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE COM. UMRAOMAL PUROHIT AND OBSERVANCE OF 'MAZDOOR EKTA DIWAS'



Com. Bhosale addressing Seminar

DRM-BCT presents trophy to winner

GS-WREU presents trophy to runner-up

WREU observed First Death Anniversary of our beloved leader, Late Com. Umraomal Purohit, Ex. President, WREU/AIRF/ITF, Ex. General Secretary, Chief Advisor/HMS & Secretary, NC-JCM (Staff Side) on 27th February 2015 and paid homage to the great leader. All HMS affiliates in the country observed the Day as "Mazddor Ekta Diwas". On this occasion, WREU organized a Seminar on the topic "Role of Late Com. Umraomal Purohit in forging Unity in Labour Movement in India". Com. R. C. Sharma was in chair. Prominent labour leaders, viz. Comrades S. N. Pathak (AIDF), Haniff, All India Dock Workers' Federation, Satya Naryanan (MES), Y.G. Joshi (NRMU), Suryakant Bagal, (HMS), Banasure (BMS), Shankar Rao Salvi (MMU), Rajendra Giri (MKI), R.A. Desai, Labour Expert, Anil Golatkar (T&DWU), Sanjay Vadavkar (HMS), Jayshree Samant (T&DWU), Anjali Bedekar (UNI), Vikas Gupte (WREU) and Prashant Kanhade (WREU), delivered lectures on the above subject. All the speakers recalled the yeomen services rendered by Com. Purohit in uplifting the labour class and particularly about his efforts to evolve unity amongst the Labour movement in India. Initially, all the leaders paid floral tribute to Com. Purohit and observed two minutes silence in memory of Late Com. Purohit ji as also other recently departed labour leaders - Com. S.K. Vyas and Com. Jagannath Jadhav. Com. J. R. Bhosale conducted the meeting and also recalled his experiences with Com. Purohit. All the family members of Com. Late Umraomal Purohit, including his wife, Smt. Mohini Purohit, also attended.

Similar programmes were organized in all the branch offices and major Railway stations in Mumbai

Suburban area, Main Line and Tapti Line section wherein WREU leaders and activists paid homage to the departed leader.

WREU leaders from Commercial Staff of BCT Suburban area visited major stations and distribute food packets to the needy and poor.

Youth Wing of Mumbai assisted by activists from BCT Division, CCG-GLO, CCG-Accounts, Parel and Mahalakshmi Workshops, Press-Stores/MX organized a Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament in Memory of late Com. Umraomal Purohit with the sponsorship from Maniben Kara Foundation at Mahalkshmi Sports Complex from 25-27 February, 2015 in which 16 teams from different departments participated. On 25th the tournament was inaugurated by S/Shri Kalimuthu, CWM-MX and Vivek Dixit, Sr. DEE & Sports Secretary, BCT Division in presence of Headquarter Office Bearers, Divisional Office Bearers and large number of Railwaymen.

Semi-final and final matches were played on 27th February. Before start of the match, Com. Bhosale garlanded the portrait of Late Com. Umraomalji and two minutes silence was observed to pay tribute to him on his First Death Anniversary. Final match was played between BTC/Parel and T/IL Parel and the team of BTC-PL emerged victorious. The prizes were distributed to the winners and runner-ups by Com. R. C. Sharma, Com. J. R. Bhosale, Shri Shailendra Kumar, DRM-BCT, Shri Kalimuthu, Dy. CWM(M&P), Shri Sandeep Rajvanshi, ADRM(T)/BCT and Shri Rajesh Choudhari, Sr. DPO, in presence of HQ Office Bearers and Divisional leaders. Attractive Trophies and cash award was given to winners, runner up, Man of the

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Match, Man of the Series, Best Batsmen and Best Bowler.

Comrades of Youth Wing, viz. Vivek Kamble, Nilesh Haldankar, Santosh Rokde, Rakesh Singh, Nitin Adhikari, Mahendra Rathod, Chandras Manchekar, Shri Bhimesh Shah took initiative to organize this tournament under the guidance of Com. R. P. Gupta, Prashant Kanade, P. B. Bhargava, Nasser Sahikh, Vikas Gupte and Sanjay Girkar.

BRC Division: On 27th February, before starting the matches of the ongoing Cricket Tournament on the Pratapnagar Cricket Ground, Youth Wing of BRC Division and PRTN W/shop, paid homage to Late Com. Umraomalji.

In the afternoon, Anand Branch No. I and II organized a meeting at Union office and paid homage to Late Com. Umraomalji in which Divisional Office bearers were also present. Com. Santosh Pawar, Vijay Sengar, Nitin Thakkar, R.K. Nair and Vincent remembered the contributions of Umraomalji for the working class especially for the Railwaymen.

In the evening, a meeting was arranged in front of DRM Office which was addressed by Com. Santosh Pawar and Sadhna Trivedi, H. P. Pandya and Javeed Haldarwa. After the meeting, hundreds of railwaymen visited WREU Office at PRTN and paid floral tribute to the departed leader and shouted slogans 'Mazdoor Masiha Umraomal Purohit Amar Rahe - Amar Rahe'.

Ahmadabad Division: In the meeting organized in the Auditorium of DRM Office at Ahmedabad under leadership of Com. S K Singh, Divisional Chairman, to pay homage to Late Com. Umraomalji, all WREU leaders of the Division, Local Branches and large number of Railway employees including women attended. Shri Asutosh, ADRM, Shri M. L. Jain, DPO, other officers also attended the meeting and paid homage to Late Com. Umraomalji. The gathering was addressed by S/Shri Asutosh, ADRM, Com. S K Singh, R. S. Mishra, H. S. Pal and Dinesh Panchal. Com. Ajit Gajjar, Narendra Dave, Girish Vyas, Smt. Pragna Parmar and Sanjay Suryabali were also present. Com. Hanif Pathan recited a poem praising Com. Umraomalji. All the participants paid their respect by laying rose petals before the portrait of Com. Umraomalji.

In a specially organized function in the OPD of Sabarmati Railway Hospital on the next day, Com. R. C. Sharma in presence of doctors and large number of WREU activists, handed over 50 Milton Tiffin Boxes in name of Com. Umraomal Purohit, to CMS-ADI for daily use of Indoor patients.

SBI Workshop Branch: A Shraddhanjali Sabha was organized at the main gate of Engineering Workshop/SBI under leadership of Com. Dinesh Panchal and Com. Rajeew Menon. Com. H. S. Pal gave a brief speech on life-sketch of Late Com. Umraomal Purohit ji. More than 250 employees from both Engineering and Signal Workshops attended the Shraddhanjali Sabha paid homage to Late Umraomalji by laying rose

petals before the his photo.

Similar functions at Branch level were also organized at ROH Depot, SBI and SBI Diesel Shed.

Ratlam Division: First Death Anniversary of Com. Umraomalji was observed as "Mazdoor Ekta Diwas" in Senior Railway Institute, in which labour leaders from various trade unions attended. After garlanding the portrait of Com. Umraomal Purohit and paying floral tributes, the participants observed two minutes silence in his respect. The gathering was addressed by Com. Govindlal Sharma, H. L. Joshi (Postal Union), Manohar Pachori, S. B. Shrivastava, S. S. Sharma, Rakesh Mishra, Premlata Jain and Seema Kaushik and Narendra Singh Solani and leaders from HMS (Madhya Pradesh). They remembered the contributions of Com. Umraomalji towards unity amongst trade unions in the country and his achievements for welfare of the labours in general and Railwaymen in particular. The speakers mentioned about the ensuring Parliament March on 28th April and exhorted one and all to make it successful by participating in large numbers. On this occasion, a colourful Life sketch of Com. Umraomalji narrating his achievements was distributed.

Rajkot Division: A Blood Donation Camp was organized at Rajkot on 27.02.2015 in which 151 employees from different departments donated Blood voluntarily under the Leadership of Com. Mahesh K. Chhaya and Shri Nikhil B. Joshi. The Camp was inaugurated by Shri. Vinay Babiwale, DRM-RJT. All the Branch Chairmen and Secretaries of WREU-RJT Division along with Office Bearers took interest in organizing Blood Donation Camp successfully.

Bhavnagar Division: WREU leaders and activists paid homage to Com. Umraomalji at Union Office at Bhavnagar Para, Bhavnagar Workshop and at all major stations.

PRTN W/shop: A meeting was organized at the main gate of the workshop in which CWM /PRTN garlanded the portrait of Late Com. Umraomalji and paid tribute. He praised the yeomen service rendered by Umraomalji for betterment of the working class and particularly railwaymen. Earlier, in the morning, under the leadership of Com. Bharat Mackwana and Sanjay Pawar, youth team cleaned up the premises and vehicle parking area under Cleaning campaign, which was appreciated by all railwaymen.

Dahod Area: In the morning, a meeting was organized in G.B. Sukhi Sabhakaksha to pay tribute to late Com. Umraomalji and to observe 27th February as "Mazdoor Ekta Diwas". After observing two minutes silence, Com. Kapoor addressed the gathering and mentioned that the present status enjoyed by the railwaymen are due to the visionary leadership of Umraomalji and his yeomen services and therefore the Railwaymen proudly call him as "Mazdoor Masiha". Com. Sunil Harsh informed about the past and present situation of labour movement in the country and efforts done by Umraomalji for forging unity amongst all Central Trade Unions on a common 10 point charter

of demands.

In the afternoon, leaders and activists of all 3 branches, viz., Workshop, Electrical & Medical and Stores branches, visited Dahod Main Hospital and distributed fruits to the indoor patients under the leadership of Com. Kapoor, Sunil Harsh and Com. Sophiya.

RAILWAY BUDGET 2015-16

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Railway, in his maiden Rail Budget announced a record investment plan of over Rs. 1 lakh crore in 2015-16 without increasing passenger and freight fares. Deviating from the earlier practice, this budget did not announce any new train or project but give emphasise on completing the earlier projects.

The size of the Plan Budget has gone up by 52% from Rs.65,798 crore in 2014-15 to Rs.1,00,011 crore in 2015-16. Support from the Central Government constitutes 41.6% of the total Plan Budget and Internal generation 17.8 %.

The Budget gives thrust to technology upgradation, Capacity Augmentation, improving train speed, Safety and Cleanliness, Station Redevelopment, improvements to Management Processes and Systems, Resource Mobilisation, Energy and sustainability, Transparency and Governance initiatives, Expansion of freight handling capacity, Private Partnership for Development, etc.

In the next five years, priority will be to significantly improve capacity on the existing high-density networks. The emphasis will be on gauge conversion, doubling, tripling and electrification. The Budget proposes to formulate integrated transport solutions to meet growing demand of suburban rail networks in metro cities, viz. Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. Towards this end, MUTP III for Mumbai will be taken up soon.

The Budget proposes to draw up a comprehensive policy to tap the latent advertising potential by harnessing all avenues including offering stations and trains for corporate branding. Further, a Coastal Connectivity Program is being launched in partnership with the concerned ports, which is expected to mobilize investment of approximately Rs 2000 crore. The Budget propose to launch projects worth Rs 2500 crore through BOT/ Annuity route. These include Wardha-Nagpur 3rd line, Kazipet-Vijaywada 3rd line, Bhadrak -Nargundi 3rd line and Bhuj- Nalia Gauge Conversion.

Financial Performance 2014-15:

There is a net reduction in Gross Traffic Receipts by Rs 917 crore in RE compared to the BE of Rs 1,60,165 crore. Ordinary Working Expenses (O.W.E) in BE were provided for at an increase of 15.5% over 2013-14 which has been scaled down to 11.7% in the RE. The budgeted O. W. E. of Rs 1,12,649 crore have been decreased in the RE 2014-15 to Rs. 1,08,970 crore i.e. by Rs 3,679 crore. BE provided for an appropriation of Rs 28,865 crore to Pension Fund. But pension outgo

has been assessed to be higher than the provision made in BE and Pension Fund has been increased to Rs. 29,540 crore in RE. Internal resource generation also improved and accordingly the appropriation to DRF has been scaled up to Rs.7,975 crore in RE from the BE 2014-15 provision of Rs 7,050 crore.

After taking into account the above, "Excess" of receipts over expenditure stands at Rs 7,278 crore in RE 2014-15. With the above estimates, the targeted Operating Ratio is 91.8% against 92.5% in BE, which is an improvement of 0.7% percentage point over BE and 1.8% over 2013-14. Plan size for 2014-15 has increased from Rs 65,445 crore in the B.E to Rs 65,798 crore in the Revised Estimates i.e. by Rs 353 crore with higher provisions under internal resource component and market borrowings for rolling stock requirement.

Budget Estimates 2015-16:

Passenger earnings growth has been pegged at 16.7% and earnings target has accordingly been budgeted at Rs. 50,175 crore. The freight traffic is fixed at 85 million tones and Goods earnings is proposed at Rs. 1,21,423 crore. Other coaching and sundries are projected at Rs. 4,612 crore and Rs. 7,318 crore. Gross Traffic Receipts are estimated at Rs 1,83,578 crore which is a growth of 15.3%.

Ordinary Working Expenses have been proposed to grow at a modest 9.6% over RE 2014-15. Traction fuel bill constituting 30% of ordinary working expenses in 2013-14, decreased to 27.4% in RE 2014-15 and is expected to shrink to 25% in BE 2015-16. Higher provisions have been made for safety maintenance and cleanliness. Lease charges, interest component of the current and previous market borrowings, have had to be provided with a growth of 21%.

With the above estimates, the targeted Operating Ratio is 88.5%. Appropriation to Pension Fund is proposed at Rs 35,260 crore and appropriation to DRF at Rs 8,100 crore to cater to the plan investment requirement of Rs 7,500 crore from this source. An appropriation of Rs 7,616 crore is proposed to be made to Capital Fund meet Plan requirement of Rs 6,293 crore from this Fund for payment of principal component of lease charges to IRFC and also to build up the reserves in the Fund for debt obligation to be discharged in subsequent years.

Plan Outlay 2015-16:

Railways propose a Plan Outlay of Rs 1,00,011 crore, an increase of 52% over RE 2014-15. It is anticipated that the Plan size will get higher once resources from institutional bodies are formalized during the course of the ensuing financial year. With a Gross Budgetary Support of Rs 40,000 crore and a provision of Rs 1,645.60 crore as Railway's share of diesel cess from the Central Road Fund, Market borrowing under EBR is projected at Rs 17,655 crore, an increase of about 46.5% (Rs 5,609 crore) over RE 2014-15. Balance Plan outlay includes Rs 17,793 crore from Internal Resources and Rs.5781 crore from PPP.

The Budget proposes a number of steps to increase

passenger amenities and to augment capacities, highlights are as under:

- The speed passenger trains across nine corridors will be increased to 160-200 km from 110 km and new train sets saving 20% of journey time will be introduced.
- To introduce air-conditioned coaches for suburban trains
- Wi-fi to be made available at 400 railway stations
- Tickets can be booked 120 days in advance instead of 60 days
- SMS alert to be introduced for train timings
- To revamp station redevelopment policy completely and to have bidding system for redevelopment of stations
- Special mention to repair Railway quarters, barracks and Holiday Homes.
- To develop 10 satellite railway stations this year
- 800 km of gauge conversion will be commissioned
- E-catering introduced in 108 trains, can order on IRCTC website
- To expand water vending machines on more stations
- On-board entertainment facility could be extended on Shatabdi trains
- Mobile charging stations will be introduced general class coaches
- More general class coaches will be added to select trains
- Feasibility report of high speed train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad expected by mid-2015
- Wagon-making scheme to be reviewed to make it easier for private investment
- To improve cleanliness & design of bed linen
- All India 24x7 grievances helpline 138 to start soon
- 7,000 more toilets to be replaced by Bio-Toilets, New toilets at 650 stations, more vacuum toilets
- Mobile application to address complaints of people is also being developed
- Introduction of integrated ticketing will be done
- Hand-held devices for ticket checkers for moving towards paperless ticketing
- Centrally managed railway display network in over 2000 stations in next 2 years
- Rail-cum-road ticket to be extended to many stations
- To provide rail connectivity to North Eastern states
- Transport Logistic Corporation of India to be set up to aid expanding freight handling capacity and provide end-to-end logistic solutions
- PPP model to augment resources and to generate more employment
- 6608 kms of track to be electrified
- Projects worth Rs. 96,182 crore to expand capacity of 9,420 km rail lines
- CCTVs to be introduced in select trains and suburban trains for women safety
- Train Protection Warning System, Train Collision Avoidance System
- To set up full-fledged Railway University in FY 2016
- Drawing up comprehensive policy to tap latent advertising potential
- Online application for all recruitment process
- 917 safety work projects to eliminate over 3,000 unmanned crossings in all states

Proposed Investment Plan (2015-2019)

Item	Amount (Rs. in cr.)
Network Decongestion (including DFC, Electrification, Doubling including electrification and traffic facilities)	199320
Network Expansion (including electrification)	193000
National Projects (North Eastern & Kashmir connectivity projects)	39000
Safety (Track renewal, bridge works, ROB, RUB and Signalling & Telecom)	127000
Information Technology / Research	5000
Rolling Stock (Locomotives, coaches, wagons - production & maintenance)	102000
Passenger Amenities	12500
High Speed Rail & Elevated corridor	65000
Station redevelopment and logistic parks	100000
Others	13200
TOTAL	8,56,020

OBSERVANCE OF GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION FOR RIGHT TO STRIKE

On 18th February, Trade Unionists and Activists worldwide stood shoulder to shoulder to deliver a strong message to Governments and Employers that 'Right to Strike' will be defended by the workers. In Mumbai, ITF and HMS Affiliates and AIRF affiliated Unions, viz. NUSI, MUI, Mb.PTDW & GE Union, T&DWU, MSTWU, WREU, NRMU organised a Campaign Meeting in J. A. Sabhagrih, WREU Complex, Grant Road, Mumbai. Com. S. N. Pathak, President/AIDEF was in chair and Com. J. R. Bhosale coordinated the function. Com. Bhosale in his opening address threw light on the condition of labours in the country in pre and post independence era and informed about the stand taken by the Government of India for non-ratification of the Core Labour Conventions, especially, No. 87 and 98. Com. Rajendra Giri thanked the organizers for the initiative taken by them in arranging such a grand meeting and stated that Strike is the only tool available to workers and if Right to Strike is banned or denied, then the workers cannot achieve any of their genuine demands. Com. S. N. Pathak, Y. G. Joshi, Maruti Rethrekar, Sudhakar Dhuri, S. K. Shetty, J. G. Mahurkar, Muthuswamy addressed the gathering and shared their experiences in the field of collective bargaining and the need of using the ultimate weapon of giving call for strike and conducted as and when situation call for. Com. Pathak stressed on the need of unity and stated that "No Work - No Pay" is nothing but modified form of denial of strike.

All other Divisions and Branches conducted similar programmes in their jurisdiction to defend 'Right to



Strike'.

WREU-ADI SUBMITS MEMORANDUM TO GM

A delegation of WREU-ADI under leadership of Com. S. K. Singh, Divisional Chairman and Com. B. P. Gadhavi, Chairman, Palanpur Branch, met to Shri S. K. Sood, General Manager, Western Railway on 9th February, 2015 and handed over memorandum containing following issues: - (1) Construction of Community Hall at Palanpur; (2) Allotment of funds for renovation of Railway Institute at Palanpur; (3) Dilapidated condition of Railway Colonies in ADI Division; and (4) Tie-up of Pathological Laboratory at Palanpur.

Radhanpur Branch of WREU-ADI under leadership of Com. Suresh Kumar, Branch Secretary, Ajit Rami, Branch Chairman and others, submitted a memorandum to GM on following issues:- (1) Construction of Overhead Water Tank at Radhanpur; (2) Provision of funds for quarters and service buildings maintenance in Kutch Railway Corporation (KRCL); (3) Supply of tools and machinery for routine maintenance of assets on KRCL; (4) Providing Road Vehicles for track maintenance; (5) Provision of Gang Chawl at Dhanakwada and Quarter for JE; (6) Installing Tele-medicine Centre at RDHP Health Unit; and (7) Repairing Of Subordinate Rest House At RDHP.

At both the places, General Manager gave patience hearing to WREU delegation and assured to do needful.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES GROUP INSURANCE SCHEME

Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure vide O.M. No.7(1)EV/2014 dated 22nd January, 2015 revised the ratio distribution from existing 67:33 to 60:40 towards Saving Fund and Insurance Fund respectively. The existing rate of contribution and rate of interest are also revised. New Tables of Benefits as per the revised formula has been worked out in the table annexed thereto. Railway Board circulated the above O.M. vide letter No.PC-III/2000/GIS/2 dated 23.01.2015 RBE No.6/2015.

PROPOSAL FOR MERGER OF CADRE OF TICKET CHECKING CADRE, COMMERCIAL CLERKS AND ECRCs

Railway Board vide its letter No.2014/TG-II/12/20/Merger of Comm. Cadre dated 20.02.2015 addressed

to Chief Commercial Managers of all Zonal Railways sought views on amalgamation of different categories of Commercial staff, viz. Ticket Checking Cadre, Commercial Clerks and ECRCs and also the issue of seniority of those who have different Grade Pay and educational qualifications.

In view of scarcity of manpower and concept of multi-skilling of staff for booking activities, the proposal for merger of cadre of Proposal for merger of cadre of Ticket Checking Cadre, Commercial Clerks and ECRCs is being considered by the Board with following conditions:

- The Direct Recruitment entry grade pay for merged cadre would be Rs.2800.
- The qualification for this post would be Graduate level degree.
- The category of medical fitness for this may be 'B-2'.
- Ticket Checking staff, Commercial Clerks and ECRCs shall be recruited under direct recruitment as "Commercial Assistant" in one category.
- They shall be trained, posted and deployed interchangeably as ticket checking staff and booking/parcel/goods/enquiry/reservation clerks.

DEMAND TO CALL HIGHER NUMBER OF CANDIDATES FOR APTITUDE TEST OF ALP

Com. Rakhal Das Gupta, President/AIRF vide letter No.AIRF/55(378) dated 02.02.2015 addressed to the Secretary (E), Railway Board, requested that looking into account large scale failure of candidates in Aptitude Test for the post of Asstt. Loco Pilot, adequate number of candidates should be called for Aptitude Test for filling up the post of ALP similar to that of ASM and Clerical staff, i.e. eight times of vacancies.

WREU-RJT SUBMITS MEMORANDA

WREU delegation consisting of Com. Nikhil Joshi, Mahesh Chhaya, Naresh Khatwani, Narendrasinh Jadeja and Smt.Kirtida Buch met Shri Sunilkumar Sood, General Manager, Western Railway, during his visit at Rajkot on 03.02.2015 and handed over a memorandum containing of various staff grievances, viz. (1) Injustice with Trackmen on RJT Division; (2) Acute hardship faced by the running staff of RJT Division at BRC Running Room; (3) Delay in providing Office accommodation to WREU Rajkot Branch; (4)

Incorrect revision of periodical transfer orders of TTE-staff by overlooking the policy guidelines of the Railway Board and GM(E)CCG; (5) Delay in resolving LARSGESS related issue, and (6) Processing of indent of Clerical & Accounts staff due to Mass retirement in 2015-16.

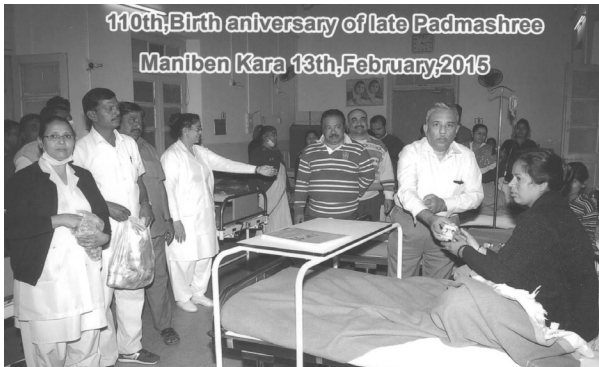
A delegation of WREU led by Com. Nikhil Joshi and Mahesh Chhaya met Dr. D.P. Pandey, CMS/Western Railway, during his visit at Rajkot on 03.02.2015 and handed over a memorandum containing various shortfall in medical services in Rajkot Division

Acute shortage of Railway Doctors/ CMP Doctors on Division.

1. Acute Shortage of Pharmacist at Railway Hospital, RJT.
2. Tie up of Multi-specialty treatment Hospital for Railway staff & their family members.
3. Injustice to Railway staff referred to Civil Hospital, due to non-availability of medical facilities and Doctors in Railway Hospital, RJT.
4. Hardships faced by staff due to non-availability of Medical facilities at OKHA area.
5. Sanction of GM for tie-up with local Blood Bank for purchase of Blood for the Railway beneficiaries.

OBSERVANCE OF 110TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF MANIBEN KARA

WREU activists of DHD (E&M) Branch observed 110th Birth Anniversary of Padmashree Maniben Kara on 13th February 2015 by distributing food packets



to indoor patients of Dahod Main Railway Hospital.

FILLING UP POSTS OF LIS/PRCS/CCS.

Railway Board clarified that all the driving duties performed by a Loco Pilot in the Locomotive Cab are footplate duties. The experience gained by a Loco Pilot by performing actual footplate duties is his driving experience. The minimum guaranteed kilometers, incentive/ghat sections kilometers and shunting kilometers, where actual footplate duties are not performed, may not be taken into account while considering the eligibility criteria of the running staff for selection of Loco Inspectors/Power Controllers/Crew Controllers. (Rly.Bd's letter No.E(P&A) II-2007/RS-14 dt.12.02.2015 RBE No.11/2015)

LETTER TO PM BY GS/HMS

Com. Harbhajan Singh Sidhu, General

Secretary, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, vide his letter dated February 18, 2015, addressed to Shri Narendra Modi ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, brought to his notice the anxiety of trade unions and the working class in regard to various amendments being made in Labour friendly provisions of major Labour legislations, the content of which is reproduced below:

"Dear Shri Modi ji,

I would like to draw your kind attention towards the unilateral moves of Govt. of India and of some of the states like Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh whereby anti worker amendments have been made in Labour friendly provisions of major labour legislation, for example Govt. of Rajasthan has amended section 25K of Industrial Disputes Act 1947 whereby industrial units/establishments employing less than 300 workers will not need to seek prior permission of the appropriate Government before lock out, lay off, or even closure of the unit. Present limit was 100 employees. Similarly according to amended Contract Labour Act it will apply on institution where minimum 50 employees are engaged existing limit was 20. Factory has been defined under Factory Act 1948 as an establishment using power and employing 10 or more employees or units employing 20 or more employees not using power and engaged in manufacturing process. Now thresh hold limit has been enhanced to 40 or more. It is learnt that Madhya Pradesh has also initiated amendments in 19 major labour law. Govt of Haryana is also in the process. Union Govt. has made several changes in Factories Act, few to mention are Maximum no of hours of overtime to be done by any worker in a quarter has been enhanced from 50 to 75 and in emergency from 75 to 115 hours. State Govt. has been empowered to enhance it to 125 hrs in exceptional cases. Women workers who were barred from working between 7 P.M. to 6 A.M. have been permitted to work in night shift as well with some so called safeguards. This is not in conformity with ILO Convention in this regard which India has ratified. Number of such amendments have been proposed under Factories Act, Trade Union Act 1926,, raising number of workers for registration of union to 30%. The union Govt. has brought out an exclusive Bill for Small Factories in the name of Small Factories Bill 2014 without any prior discussion with Central Trade Unions and in violation of ILO Convention 144 on Tripartite Discussions which India has ratified.

The Bill proposes common crèches, common urinal, common first-aid facilities by a group of employers in case of "scarcity of space". The establishments employing less than 40 workers will be covered under the Bill. Previously small medium industries were defined on the basis of their turn over but nothing has been mentioned in the Bill in this regard. Exemption from almost all basic laws has been proposed under the Bill. Surprising fact is that there is no provision of separate toilet for women workers.

A new trend has started. The State Govts. are

coming forward with pro-employer and anti workers amendment in labour laws, the union Govt. is encouraging the state Govts to follow the Govt of Rajasthan. It is learnt that your office has written a letter to Chief Secretaries of all State Governments advising them to follow the Govt. of Rajasthan in case of so called "Labour reforms". The letter is addressed by Shri Nripendra Mishra, Principal Secretary in your office.

The Government is adopting "Ordinance mode" to ensure disinvestment from Public Sector Undertakings specially Coal. The decision of raising FDI from 26 to 49% in Insurance and strategic sector like Defence production and 100 % in Railways is also an anti worker act.

All these decisions have been jointly opposed by the Central Trade Unions, Independent Federations, across the nation. The trade unions have shown their resentment through all peaceful democratic methods requesting the Government to follow the practice of Tripartite consultation on such issues but the efforts have not yielded any positive results.

Despite our repeated requests to spare some time for discussion on long pending genuine demands of the working class you could not. Under these circumstances, the central trade unions have no other option but to raise their voice through mass action like "satyagraha" on 26th February, 2015.

Once again on behalf of millions of workers request your goodself for your immediate intervention in the matter as "Pradhan Sewak" and to safeguard the interests of the workers and their families."

UNION BUDGET 2015-16

Hon'ble Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley, on 28th February 2015 presented the Budget for F.Y 2015-16 aimed at boosting infrastructure development and high growth. He aimed a GDP growth of 8 to 8.5 percent with a Fiscal deficit of 3.9 percent of GDP in 2015-16 and expects consumer inflation to remain close to 5 percent by March. Highlights of the Budget are as under:

- Propose to create a universal social security system for all Indians. An insurance coverage of Rs.2 lac is proposed with a premium of Re.1/- per day and Accident benefit of Rs.2 lac is proposed with Re.1/- per month.
- Insurance Scheme for Senior citizens (Varishtha Pension Yojana) to become Service Tax free.
- Govt to use Rs. 9,000 crore unclaimed funds in PPF/EPF for Senior Citizens Fund.
- To launch a national skills mission soon to enhance employability of rural youth.
- To enact a comprehensive new law on black money. Accordingly, amendment is to be made to FEMA Act to make non-declaration and concealment of income a punishable offence with rigorous imprisonment of 7 and 10 years respectively. It is also proposed to introduce Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Bill to fight black money in the country. This law will enable confiscation of benami

property and provide for prosecution. Changes in I.T. laws will be made so that effective from June 1, 2015 all transactions such as loans or deposits or advances for transfer of immoveable property are done through an A/c Payee cheque or A/c Payee Bank Draft or by electronic clearing system through a Bank Account if the amount involved is Rs.20,000 or higher.

- Allocates 346.99 billion rupees for rural employment guarantee scheme.
- Plans to set up national investment infrastructure fund.
- Investment in infrastructure will go up by 700 billion rupees in 2015/16 over last year
- Proposes tax-free infrastructure bonds for projects in roads, rail and irrigation projects
- To introduce gold monetisation scheme to allow depositors to earn interest and to introduce Indian-made gold coin to reduce demand for foreign gold coins.
- Proposes to increase service tax rate and education cess to 14 percent from 12.36 percent. On implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) by April 2016, Service Tax and other local taxes are to be subsumed in GST.
- Propose to upgrade 80,000 secondary schools and to set up Senior Secondary Schools in every 5 Km. radius in the country.
- Allocation of additional Rs. 1,000 crore to Nirbhaya Fund for women safety and Rs.100 crore for Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme.
- Government to provide Rs.79.4 billion capital infusion to state-run banks.
- Allocates 331.5 billion rupees for health sector
- Allocates 2.46 trillion rupees for defence spending
- Plan expenditure estimated at about Rs 4.65 trillion
- Non-plan expenditure seen at about Rs 13.12 trillion
- To bring a new bankruptcy code
- Propose to amend the RBI Act and provide for a Monetary Policy Committee
- To set up Public Debt Management Agency
- Proposes to introduce a Public Contract Resolution of Disputes Bill
- To establish an autonomous bank board bureau to improve management of public sector banks.
- Atal Innovation Mission to be established to draw on expertise of entrepreneurs, and researchers to foster scientific innovations; allocation of Rs. 150 crore.
- Six crore toilets across the country under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
- MUDRA bank will refinance micro finance organizations to encourage first generation SC/ST entrepreneurs.
- Housing for all by 2022
- EPF - Employee may opt for EPF or new pension scheme, employee's contribution to EPF below an income threshold will be optional without reducing employer's contribution.

- NBFCs registered with RBI above Rs. 5,000 crore to be considered financial institutions.

Taxation

- No revision of income tax brackets
- Exemptions for individual tax payers to continue. Details of deduction available -
 - Deduction u/s 80C: Rs 1,50,000
 - Deduction u/s 80CCD: Rs 50,000
 - Deduction on account of interest on house property loan (Self occupied property) Rs 2,00,000
 - Deduction u/s 80D on health insurance premium: Rs 25,000
- Exemption of transport allowance: Rs 19,200

Total: Rs 4,44,200

- Replaces wealth tax with additional 2% surcharge on super rich
- Proposes to cut to 25 percent corporate tax over next four years
- Proposes to rationalise capital gains tax regime for real estate investment trusts
- Plan to introduce direct tax regime that is internationally competitive on rates without exemptions.

In general, the budget did not full-fill the expectations of the common man and working class and there is feeling that it favours corporate, industrialists and rich people.

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
Feb. 2014	238	2817	234.75	102.79
Mar. 2014	239	2832	236.00	103.87
April 2014	242	2848	237.33	105.02
May 2014	244	2864	238.66	106.17
June 2014	246	2879	239.91	107.25
July 2014	252	2896	241.33	108.47
Aug. 2014	253	2912	242.66	109.62
Sept. 2014	253	2927	243.92	110.71
Oct. 2014	253	2939	244.91	111.56
Nov. 2014	253	2949	245.75	112.29
Dec. 2014	253	2963	246.92	113.30
Jan. 2015	254	2980	248.33	114.52

* Average Price Index for January 2001

RAILWAY SENTINEL (Regd.No. MCW/327/2015-17) FORM IV UNDER RULE 8 OF P.R.B.ACT	
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I, J. R. Bhosale, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. J. R. Bhosale Editor & Publisher	

OBITUARY

Com. S. K. Vyas (86), Secretary General, All India Central Govt. Employees Confederation, passed away in New Delhi on 13.02.2015 after brief illness. He was instrumental in uniting the various Unions of Central Govt. Employees. He was closely associated with HMS and particularly Late Com. Umraomal Purohit during negotiations in all the Central Pay Commissions. His death is a big loss to the Trade Union movement in India. WREU & Railway sentinel send its heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members.

Shri R. R. Patil, a leader of Nationalist Congress Party & former Dy. Chief Minister of Maharashtra, passed away on 16 February 2015. He rose from grass root level and was popular for his crusade against corruption. He was suffering from oral cancer and was hospitalized in Lilavati Hospital. WREU & Railway sentinel send its heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members.

Shri Jagganath Jadhav, a leader of HMKP & former Minister in Progressive Democratic Front Government of Maharashtra, passed away on 26.02.2015

Smt. Kamala Sinha (82), former Minister of State for External Affairs (1997 to 1998), former President of HMS (from 1987 to 1991), Ex Member of Parliament & Deputy Speaker of the House (RS), passed away on 31.12.2014. Smt. Kamala held several important positions during her illustrious career in service of the Nation. She was wife of eminent Freedom Fighter & Socialist labour leader Shri Basawon Sinha. WREU & Railway sentinel send its heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members.

Com. B. M. Dave (84), Ex.TIA & Divl. Chairman, WREU-RJT, breathed his last on 24.01.2015 after a brief sickness. Late Com. Bhagwatibhai Mulshankar Dave was appointed as TIA in 1954 in Railway Service. He was elected as Office Bearer and thereafter Divisional Chairman of WREU-RJT Divn. and retired on 30.10.1989 after completing 35 years service. He has taken active part in Historic Railway Strike of May 1974 and was arrested. He was very active leader and was very helpful in solving their problems. He was an expert of D&A Rules. The Officer Bearer of all the branches of WREU and Divisional Chairman and Secretary-WREU-RJT-Division paid homage to him and condolence to his family. WREU & Railway sentinel send its heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members.