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Deepavali Greetings

WREU and Railway sentinel wish all Railwaymen, their family members and subscribers of the Railway Sentinel a happy and prosperous Deepavali and New Year.

91ST ANNUAL CONVENTION OF AIRF

The 91st Annual Convention of AIRF was held at **Jodhpur** (N.W.Railway) from 3rd to 5th October, 2015, which was attended by more than 20,000 Railwaymen. Station premises of Jodhpur Railway Station and Main Street were beautifully decorated with the Posters, Festoons, Cut-outs and colorful lightings. Before start of the proceedings, the portrait of Late Comrade Umraomal Purohit, Ex President/AIRF, was garlanded by Com. Rakhil Dasgupta, President/AIRF, who spoke on the contributions made by Late Com. Purohitji in Trade Union Movement of the Country.

The 16th Annual Conference of AIRF Women's Wing was held at 10.00 hours on 3rd October, 2015. Mrs. D. Shaleel was the Chairperson. More than 1,000 women employees participated in the Conference. Com. Rakhil Dasgupta, Shiva Gopal Mishra, J.R. Bhosale and other Office Bearers of AIRF addressed and blessed the occasion. Com. Mahendra Sharma graced the occasion as a Chief Guest and appreciated the role played by the Women and Youth in AIRF and in Trade Union Movement. After detailed deliberations, the Conference passed resolutions opposing the implementation of Debroy Committee's Report. They also demanded scraping of New Pension Scheme, early submission of 7th CPC Report and supported decision of Indefinite Strike by the Railwaymen. The theme document on 'Women's Right' was also released on this occasion. The 16th Annual Conference unanimously pledged to fight for survival of the Indian Railways, to protect

the right and dignity of women and to strengthen the AIRF.

A Working Committee Meeting was held on 3rd October, 2015, in which detailed program of the Convention was finalized. National JCA's decision on 30.09.2015 to postpone Indefinite Strike by Central Government Employees to be commenced from 23rd November, 2015 was unanimously appreciated.

Prior to start of the Open Session, a colorful procession was taken out from Jodhpur Railway Station to the venue, i.e. Railway Stadium Ground, Jodhpur. Hon'ble Minister of Railways - Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, inaugurated the Conference. Shri Pradeep Kumar, Member Staff, Shri Anil Singhal, GM-NWR, Shri Rahul Kumar, DRM-Jodhpur, Shri Karan Singh, CPO-NWR, Shri Ghanashyam Ojha, Mayor of Jodhpur, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, M.P.(Jodhpur), Shri P.P. Chaudhary, M.P., Shri Narayan Panchariya, Member (Rajya Sabha), Shri U.S. Jha, Brother Mahendra Sharma, Office Bearers of AIRF and others dignitaries were on the dais.

Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary/AIRF, highlighted the expectations of the railway employees and pending demands such as scraping of New Pension Scheme, employment to one ward of all railway employees by enlarging the scope of LARSGESS, removing ceiling limit of PLB, not to implement the Debroy Committee's recommendations, timely filling-up of all vacant posts in all grades and creation of posts for additional assets and requested MR to address

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the gathering. Hon'ble MR while addressing the Conference appreciated the General Secretary's report and contributions of AIRF in progress of Railway Industry. He mentioned in his speech that "if the Railways run smoothly, development of the country will take place" (Rail Badhegi – Desh Badhega). He asserted on "Rail Safety Abhiyan". He stated that, "we are still pursuing the grievances of the Railwaymen, and I fully believe that we will overcome all the difficulties".

General Secretary in his speech stated that we have to be cautious about privatization in Indian Railways. He informed the house to fight unitedly against the challenges of NPS, FDI/PPP, non-filling-up of vacancies, etc. He stated, there is no immediate need to run bullet train but to double single railway line. He stated that a message should go to the government that the Railwaymen will not tolerate any more suppression from the government, and if the government proceeds in the direction of privatization, we will be left with no alternative but to resort to strike.

The delegates session was held on 04.10.2015 in which Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra placed before the house a detailed report of activities, Com. J.R. Bhosale, Treasurer placed Annual Account upto 31.12.2014. Three resolutions, viz. (1) Charter of Demand, (2) Socio-economic situation, and (3) Merger of Konkan Railway into Indian Railways were moved. The General Secretary's report and all three resolutions were adopted and the Accounts was passed unanimously. M/s. S. N. Mathur & Company, Chartered Accountant, was appointed as Auditor for the year 2015-16.

Com. Rakhil Dasgupta, President, Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary, Com. N. Kannaih, Working President, Com. J.R. Bhosale, Treasurer, Com. R.C. Sharma, AGS along with other 15 Office Bearers were elected unanimously. Shri S.B. Srivastava, Divisional Secretary/Ratlam was elected as Zonal Secretary and S/Shri Santosh Pawar, Prashant Kanade, V.K. Sharma, Nikhil Joshi, S. K. Kapoor, Mrs. Yashoda Hegde and Mrs. N.H. Hiwale were elected as AIRF Working Committee Members from WREU. Meeting concluded with Vote of Thanks to the Chair and many many thanks to Com. Bhupendra Bhatnagar, President/NWREU, Com. Mukesh Mathur, General Secretary/NWREU, Com. Manoj Parihar, Divisional Secretary/JU and their entire team for making excellent arrangements

in all respects with shouting slogans - "AIRF ZINDABAD, MAZDOOR EKTA ZINDABAD".

ALL INDIA DEMANDS DAY

In pursuance to the call of AIRF in its 91st Annual Convention held at Jodhpur (NWR) from 3-5 October, 2015, to observe **13th October, 2015** as "**All India Demands Day**" to put pressure on the government on the following long pending demands of the Railwaymen, viz. (i) Publish the report of the VII CPC without any further delay; (ii) Remove ceiling of Rs.3500 p.m. for payment of PLB to the Railwaymen; (iii) Scrap New Pension Scheme; (iii) Scrap proposal of inducting FDI/PPP in the Railways; (iv) Scrap report of High Level Railway Restructuring Committee; (v) Resolve all the outstanding demands of the Railwaymen, etc., WREU cadre all over Western Railway observed Demands Day by holding dharnas, meetings and demonstrations at Unit, Divisional and Zonal Headquarters and also at important stations.

Mumbai Division: A largely attended gate meeting was held in front of DRM office, Mumbai Central. Com. J.R. Bhosale, Prashant Kanade, Prakash Savalkar, D. Y. Mahale and Rajan P. addressed the meeting. Leaders from Division and Non-Divisional branches were also present on dais. Com. Bhosale in his speech dwelt on the 10 point charter of demands, especially NPS, enhancement of ceiling limit for PLB; scrap FDI/PPP on Railways, etc. and the progress of meetings held at Board's level. Divisional leaders address on various local issues. After conclusion of the meeting, a memorandum was served to DRM-BCT on local issues and it was decided to hold a dharna at DRM Office on 27th October to highlight local issues.



GS-WREU addressing the meeting at DRM-BCT's office

A gate meeting was held at **EMU-POH Workshop** at Mahalaxmi, in which employees from PL Workshop, Stores and EMU-POH

participated. Com. J.R. Bhosale, P.B. Bhargava, Rajan P., Sanjay Girkar, Prabhakar Mishra, Abhishek Bhargava and Smt. Yashoda Hegde addressed the meeting.

Vadodara Division: A massive rally was taken out from Pratapnagar Railway Station to Divisional office, which passed through Workshop and Railway Hospital shouting slogans. Com. Santosh Pawar, Smt. Sadhna Trivedi and other Divisional office bearers led the rally. The rally was converted into a meeting at DRM Office and Divisional Office Bearers - Com Santosh Pawar, Smt. Sadhana Trivedi, Com. R. S. Singh and Com. Sanjay Pawar addressed the gathering. Com Santosh Pawar handed over a memorandum to DRM-BRC containing demands such as stop FDI on Railways, stop privatization, implement restructuring of Track Maintainers, promotion to Loco pilots as per panel, fill-up all vacancies by 31.12.2015, etc. DRM assured to settle local issues at the earliest and that sentiments in regard to other issues will be appraised to Railway Ministry.

The gate meeting at **PRTN Workshop** was addressed by Com. Santosh Pawar and Com. Vinod Manjrawala. Com. Nitin Thakker, Chairman/PRTN-II Branch conveyed vote of thanks.

Ahmedabad Division: Protest meeting was held in DRM Office Campus at Ahmedabad on 13.10.2015, in which more than 600 railway employees participated. While addressing the meeting, Com. R. C. Sharma mentioned about the decision of National JCA to postpone the indefinite strike from 23rd November, 2015 to somewhere in Feb to April 2016 during Budget session of the Parliament on account of the engineered delay in submission of the 7th CPC report and its call to observe All India Demands Day to register the protest of the Railwaymen. He spoke on various local issues. He informed that Labour Ministry has sent a proposal to Cabinet for enhancing the calculation ceiling limit from Rs.3500 to Rs.7000. He called upon the railway workers to be in readiness for indefinite strike at the call of WREU/AIRF. Comrades of DRM Branch made efforts for mobilization of the staff and for successful conduct of the meeting.

WREU, Sabarmati Workshop Branch organized a gate meeting on 13.10.2015 in front of Engineering Workshop. Com. Dinesh Panchal and Com. Ajit Gajjar addressed the gathering.

Com. Panchal in his address criticized the policies of the NDA Government to allow 100% FDI in railways, particularly in workshops, anti-labour recommendations of the Bibek Debroy Committee, encouraging more and more PPP projects on Railway, etc. Com. Rajeev Menon, N. K. Dutta and Com. Rajendra Sharma made efforts for successful conduct of the meeting.

Rajkot Division: A massive dharna was organised by WREU-RJT on 13.10.2015 in front of DRM Office, Rajkot. Com. Nikhil Joshi, Divl. Secretary, Com. Naresh Khatwani, Divl. Jt. Secretary and other leaders addressed the gathering. They highlighted the issues such as Debroy Committee Report, privatization, delay in submission of 7th CPC Report, etc. and exhorted all staff members and Trade Unions to come together and express their resentment against the anti-staff policy of the Government. Com. Satish Oza, Bharat Ajmera, Smt. Kirtida Buch and others made arrangements for the event. Dharna was also held in front of Railway Station **Morbi** on 13.10.2015 under the Chairmanship of Com. Bhavesh Mehta, Chairman and Com. L. M. Joshi, Secretary of the Branch.

Ratlam Division: A demonstration was held at DRM Office/RTM and the gathering was addressed by Com. Govindlal Sharma, Manohar Pachori, Shyambabu Shrivastava and Rakesh Mishra.

Bhavnagar Division: Various programmes were organized throughout the Division to observe Protest Day. Gate meeting was held at DRM Office/BVP during lunch hours and the gathering was addressed by Com. M.R. Zaveri. At JND, JLR and BTM, rallies were arranged and at GG, GDL and MHV, WREU activists resorted to slogan shouting against anti-labour policies of the Government and retrograde recommendations of the Debroy Committee.

Dahod Workshop Branch organized a Gate meeting in front of Dahod Workshop Gate in the evening on 13th October, 2015. Com Vikas Gupte and Sanjay Kapoor addressed the meeting. Com. Sanjay Kapoor in his speech mentioned about local issues such as absorption of Course Completed Act Apprentices, provide adequate manpower to cope up with increased workload, etc. Com Vikas Gupte strongly condemned the anti-labour attitude of the Government and the engineered delay in submitting 7th CPC report. He

informed about the various meetings taken place at NC-JCM and at Board's level. He exhorted the participants to unite under the banner of AIRF/WREU and intensify the struggle for achieving all the pending demands. Smt. Perin Sophia Harsh and activists of Dahod (E&M), Stores, and Station branches attended the meeting. Com. Amarnath Yadav delivered vote of thanks.

DHARNA & GATE MEETING BY WREU-BCT

WREU-BCT held whole day dharna and mass Gate Meeting at DRM-BCT Office on 27.10.2015 against non-implementation of PNM decisions and lethargic attitude of the Divisional administration in solving heart burning staff grievances. WREU-BCT had submitted a memorandum containing 10 demands, viz. (1) Payment of enhanced Running Allowance & Addl. Allowance to Guards working on higher type trains; (2) Opening of a new Running Depot at BVI; (3) Poor condition of Tool Rooms; (4) Pathetic working condition of Booking & PRS Offices; (5) Stop recovery of 100% cost of lost linen from Coach Attendants; (6) Restore 5 posts of Loco Pilot (M/E) under CTCC-BL and filling up vacant posts in running categories; (7) Poor functioning of Colony Inspection Groups; (8) Poor ventilation in RRs; (9) Induction of Trackmen against 10% & 40% intake quota in W/shops, etc. to DRM-BCT on 12.10.2015. The administration vide letter No.E/1160/8/15/414 dated 23.10.2015 informed progress in some of the demands mentioned above but in many of the important issues except assurances nothing concrete has been done. As such, the Union was compelled to resort to dharna followed by a mass gate meeting, which was addressed by Com. J.R. Bhosale, Prashant Kanade, Prakash Savalkar, D.Y. Mahale, Rajan P. The leaders warned the administration to intensify the agitation if immediate action is not taken by the administration on the demands of the union.

DIABETIC PREVENTION CAMP AT GRANT ROAD

WREU-GTR Branch organized a Diabetic Prevention Camp in association with Western Railway Medical Department & DENMARC (Diabetes Endocrine Nutrition Management and Research Centre) at Jagdish Ajmera Sabhagruh at Grant Road on 8th October 2015. Shri Samant Roy, CMS-BCT, inaugurated the Camp in presence of Dr. (Smt.) Meena Kumari, ACMS-PL, Com. R.P. Gupta, Prashant Kanade, Vikas Gupte, Rajan P.,

Geeta Pandoria and office bearers of Grant Road Branch. More than 100 employees (majority of them were Ticket Checking Staff) checked up their Fasting and Post Glucose Blood Sugar, around 40% were diagnosed at border level and they will be put on prevention plan for 3 years by DENMARC free of cost. Dr. Meena Kumari delivered lecture on 'Prevention of Diabetes' with the help of Power Point Presentation. Com. B.P.N. Nair, Nelson Moses, O.C. Thomas, Snehal D, Hemant V. and their colleagues with the help of WREU leaders from HQ & Division organized the Camp successfully.

HEALTH CHECK-UP CAMP AT CARSHED-BCT

Carshed Branch of WREU-BCT with the support of Railway Medical Department organized Health Check-up Camp at Mumbai Central Carshed on 28-29 October, 2015. Sr.DEE(RS) inaugurated the Camp in presence of CMS-BCT, Prasant Kanade, D.Y. Mahale, Milind Raut and other WREU officials. Employees working in Carshed and OHE/Open Line availed the benefit and check-up their Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure, Tetanus, etc. Com. Milind Thakur, Secretary, Carshed Branch and his colleagues made arrangements for the Camp.

MAN-TO-MAN CONTACT BY BRCP BRANCHES

Com. Santosh Pawar and H.P. Pandya accompanied by office bearers of BRCP-I & BRCP-II Branches visited all the Units at BRCP, viz BRI, PWI, CHI, IOW, BRCP, C&W, Train Lightning, Signal, PRS, Booking, Parcel office, CTI office, Guard & Drivers lobby, ASM office etc., and contacted each and every employee present there. They collected grievances and represented them to concerned officers for their early solution. Com. Pawar threw light on the decision to postpone indefinite strike and stated that soon after submission of 7th CPC report, a decision will be taken by National JCA.

WREU-PL SUBMITS MEMORANDUM TO GM

WREU delegation led by Com. P. B. Bhargava, AGS & Branch Secretary, PL & MX Workshop Branch, submitted a memorandum to the General Manager on his visit at Carriage Repair Workshop, Lower Parel on 30.09.2015 on following staff grievances and for upgradation of the Workshop, viz. (i) Creation of additional cadre to cater the increased outturn of LHB Coaches/Bogies; (ii) Augmentation of infrastructure for increased

workload; (iii) Develop infrastructure for repairing Bio-Toilet; (iv) Development of infrastructure for PU Paints; (v) Enhance allocation of fund for Engineering work for proper upkeep of 125 year old Workshop; (vi) Filling up of various posts lying vacant in Mechanical, Electrical & Establishment Dept.; (vii) Allocation of new Quarters in Workshop Pool from newly built Railway quarters at Bandra and Dadar; and (viii) Early completion of Dy. CMM's Store Building, which is lingering for last more than 4 years. GM assured to look into the matter and do the needful.

WREU-BVP SUBMITS MEMORANDUM TO CRB

A delegation of WREU-BVP led by Com. M. R. Zaveri, met Shri A. K. Mittal, Chairman, Railway Board, at Veraval on his visit on 27.09.2015 and submitted a memorandum on various staff grievances, viz. (i) Introduce north bound train from Bhavnagar; (ii) Restore previous MG train services in BG converted sections and introduce more long distance trains from Bhavnagar & Palitana; (iii) Sanction Bhavnagar - Tarapur Railway line project; (iv) Fill-up large number of vacancies in ministerial cadre; (v) Absorb staff working in quasi-administrative offices in Railways; (vi) Provide additional fund for construction of New quarters and maintenance of existing quarters and colonies.

WREU-OKHA SUBMITS MEMORANDUM TO CRB

WREU delegation led by S/Shri Nandhubha, Arjanbhai and Kamalsinh of Okha Branch of RJT Division met Shri A.K. Mittal, Chairman, Railway Board, during his visit at Dwarka on 26.09.2015 and submitted a memorandum on following issues: (i) Non-repairing of staff quarters and allocation of sufficient fund for construction of new quarters; (ii) Fill-up vacancies and lift ban on recruitment in Ministerial category; (iii) Acute shortage of Group 'D' and 'C' staff; (iv) Simplify allotment of Holiday Homes and start online booking like PRS system; etc.

WREU-RJT SUBMITS MEMORANDUM TO GM

A delegation of WREU-RJT led by Com. Mahesh Chhaya, Naresh Khatwani, Narendrasingh Jadeja, Satish Oza and others met Shri G.C. Agrawal, General Manager, Western Railway, during his visit at Rajkot on 25.09.2015 and submitted a memorandum on following staff problems: (i) Implementation of IPAS; (ii) No safety measures

adopted in Mech. Dept.; (iii) Delay in appointment under LARSGESS; (iv) Unhygienic condition in Railway colonies; (v) Delay in allotment of Branch Offices to Union; (vi) Misutilisation of Line/Safety category staff in office; (vii) Hardships faced by the Running Staff of RJT Division at BRC RR; (viii) Tie-up with Multi-specialty Hospitals for treatment, etc. GM assured to look into the matter and do the needful.

VISIT OF GENERAL SECRETARY AT RATLAM

Com. J. R. Bhosale visited Ratlam Division on 10.10.2015 and held a meeting with Divisional Office Bearers and Secretaries of the local branches and discussed about the ongoing preparations of forthcoming 95th AGM of WREU to be held from 16-18th November, 2015 at Ratlam. General Secretary accompanied by local leaders visited the venue of the Convention to apprise about the progress of the preparations.

While returning from Ratlam, he alighted at Dahod Railway Station. Despite short notice of his arrival, large number of WREU activists welcomed him on his arrival and took out a procession shouting slogans '*WREU - AIRF Zindabad*,' '*Com. Bhosaleji Aage Badho Hum Tumhare Sath Hai*' from Railway Station to WREU Dahod Station Branch Office. Com. Bhosale addressed the activists and threw light on present situation of the pending demands, ongoing negotiations in various fora and also clarified some issues raised by the activists/railwaymen present in the meeting.

PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY VISIT RAJKOT

President, General Secretary and AGS visited Rajkot on 12.10.2015 and had a detailed discussion with activists, Divisional Office bearers in WREU office and removed misunderstanding created amongst the activists. During this visit, Com. R.C. Sharma, J.R. Bhosale and Santosh Pawar gave latest position in regard to the demands of Railwaymen and future planning for achieving all demands including enhanced PLB.

SEMINAR ON SECURITY OF RAILWAY PASSENGERS

All India RPF Association organized a Seminar on security of about 3 Crore Passengers travelling daily on Indian Railway System. Mr. S. R. Reddy, President/AIRPFA presided the Seminar. The Seminar was inaugurated by Shri U.S. Jha, Secretary General, AIRPFA.

Com. J.R. Bhosale, Venu Nair and Nitin Pradhan from AIRF attended the Seminar. Shri Kasad, DIG/RPF/C.Rly., Mr. U.S. Jha, Shri V. Balachandran, J.R. Bhosale, Suresh Tripathi, Editor, Railway Samachar and others spoke on the subject. Shri V. Balachandran, Ex IPS Officer & Member of "2 Man High Level Committee" constituted by Government of Maharashtra on the Terror Attack of 26th November, 2008 was the eminent speaker. During the Seminar most of the speakers talked about inadequate RPF personnel on Indian Railways, non-availability of proper arms and ammunitions for RPF, functioning of more than one agency for security, etc. All the speakers demanded for a single authority with full powers for security of Railway passengers. There were detailed deliberations on security of travelling public in the Seminar.

ITF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEET AT CHENNAI

International Transport workers Federation (ITF)'s Executive Board, Managing Committee and Women Committee meetings were held at Chennai from 21-23 October 2015. AIRF and HMS (Tamil Nadu State) organized a felicitation programme for honouring the delegates in Anna Durai Sabhagruh, Chennai, in which Bro. Paddy Cremlin, President/ITF Bro. Stew Cotton, General Secretary/ITF, Bro. Mahendra Sharma, Regional Secretary (Asia Pacific)/ITF, Bro. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary/AIRF, Bro. N. Kannaih, Wkg. President/AIRF, Bro. J.R. Bhosale, Treasurer/AIRF, Bro. Raja Shridhar, Vice President/ITF and all members of Managing Committee, Executive Board, Section Secretaries, Youth and Women leaders were given a warm felicitation in a public meeting on 21.10.2015. A special felicitation was arranged to honour Bro. Mahendra Sharma, who is retiring from ITF on 31.10.2015.

A meeting of National Coordination Committee of ITF affiliates in India was held on 23.10.2015. The issue of restructuring of ITF and implementation of decisions taken in Sophia Conference were discussed. It has been unanimously decided to have more coordination amongst the ITF affiliates in India for implementing the decisions of organizing more and more transport workers in Transport industry in general and contract workers working in Transport system in particular. National Coordination Committee also gave a warm farewell to Bro. Mahendra Sharma.

ITF (Asia Pacific Regional Office), New Delhi, also organized a grand farewell party in honour of Bro. Mahendra Sharma in Hotel Fortune at New Delhi on 31st October 2015. Com. J.R. Bhosale attended the function and felicitated Bro. Mahendra Sharma on behalf of WREU and presented a beautiful memento.

M.P. STATE HMS MEETING AT UJJAIN

Working Committee meeting of M.P. State HMS was held at Ujjain on 24.09.2015, which was chaired by Com. Hariom Suryavanshi. Com. J.R. Bhosale, Treasurer/HMS also attended the meeting. Com. Govind Lal Sharma, General Secretary, State HMS, submitted his report on the activities carried out during the period under review. He congratulated the office bearers and activists of State HMS for their contribution in observing Bharat Bandh on 2nd September 2015 successfully. Senior leaders discussed about the challenges posed before the trade unions and working class on account of the government's move to dilute various labour laws. Com. Bhosale appealed all to be more aggressive in their fight against anti-labour policies of the government. Comrades S.B. Shrivastava, Manohar Pachori, Rakesh Mishra, Ram Khilawan and others participated in the deliberations.

MKI WORKSHOP ON CONTRACT/ OUTSOURCED WORKERS IN INDIA

Maniben Kara Institute (MKI) organized a Workshop on "Contract/Outsourced workers in India - Challenges and Opportunities before Trade Unions" at NUSI Resort at Lonavala on 17th & 18th October, 2015 with an objective to impart training to organizers of Contract labours. 28 organizers of Contract Labour Unions affiliated to HMS from 7 states, viz. Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, etc. participated in the Workshop. Com. J.R. Bhosale inaugurated the Workshop. Com. R. Mahalingam and Vishal H, organizers of W.Rly. Contractors' Employees' Union (WRCEU), attended the Workshop.

There were deliberations on problems and challenges before contract workers in the changing labour market scenario and the hazardous nature of jobs done by contract labour. The participants discussed their experiences in organizing contract workers and explored ways and means to improve their socio-economic situation and to bring them to the mainstream under the fold of strong union. S/Shri Rajendra Giri, R.N. Desai, Vidhyadhar Rane

and Dr. Pravin Sinha explained the present legal position on contract labour and the provisions in Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and formulated strategies to organize the contract workers. Shri Rajendra Giri, Acting Director, MKI organized the whole programme.

RELIEVING OF STAFF ON INTER RAILWAY TRANSFER

General Manager (E), Western Railway, issued instructions to all concerned vide letter No.EP 1140/0 Vol. IV dated 30/9/2015, to be in readiness to relieve Group 'D' staff on own request transfer to other Railways, whose approval has already been received and waiting for release in terms of policy laid down in PS No.117/2014 wherein it was decided to relieve 15-20% staff on own request transfer whenever new employees join from any panel of RRB/RRC, CGA etc.

REQUEST TO DECENTRALIZE POWERS FOR RECOGNITION OF REFERRAL HOSPITALS TO GENERAL MANAGERS

In order to avoid unnecessary harassment in getting treatment to Railway medical beneficiaries, AIRF has been repeatedly requesting the Railway Board for delegating powers for recognition of Referral Railway Hospitals to the General Managers of the Indian Railways. Patients are facing hardships on account of delay in processing the proposal for recognition of Referral Railway Hospitals from Zonal Railways and many a time, inspite of getting proposals from Zonal Railways, they are being returned on flimsy ground. It has also been observed that even the cases for renewal of contract are being delayed. In such situation, AIRF demanded that powers should be delegated to General Managers for recognition of Referral Railway Hospitals. (AIRF's letter No.AIRF/101 dated 04.10.2015)

REDEPLOYMENT OF SURPLUS CASH & PAY STAFF OVER INDIAN RAILWAYS

During the discussion held with Adviser (Accounts) on 30.07.2015 on the subject matter, which was taken up by AIRF in Railway Board's PNM vide Item No.9/2015, the official side agreed that the surplus Cash & Pay Staff who are Appendix-2/IREM qualified will be adjusted in Accounts Department in GP Rs.4200 as Stock Verifier as per their choice to the extent possible. While re-deploying the surplus staff, the pay of all such staff will be protected. It was also agreed to assess the number of other surplus Cashiers/

Shroffs and consider their redeployment in Statistical/Time office and other categories where passing of Appendix-2/IREM examination is not necessary. On the request of the Federation that Appendix-2/IREM qualified staff be adjusted in Accounts department in GP Rs.4200 either as Accounts Stock Verifiers (ASV) or Accounts Assistants (AA) as per their choice to the extent possible, the official side agreed to consider it in consultation with Establishment Directorate as it involves change in AVC.

PAYMENT OF PRODUCTIVITY LINKED BONUS FOR 2014-2015

All eligible Railway employees including Group 'B' Non-Gazetted staff (excluding all RPF/RPFS personnel) were paid PLB equivalent to 78 (Seventy Eight) days wages amounting to Rs.8,975/- for the year 2014-2015 before Dussehra holidays on 23.10.2015 as per Railway Board's letter No. E(P&A)II-2015/PLB-4 dated 07.10.2015 (RBE No.121/2015)

Of late, Cabinet has approved amendment for Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 raising the ceiling limit of Rs.3500 to Rs.7000 per month for PLB payment and eligibility limit from Rs.10000 to Rs.21000. This amendment will be enacted after Parliament's approval and will be effective from 01.04.2015. As regard its applicability to PLB, AIRF is pursuing this issue with Ministry of Railways and its efforts will be continued for its applicability to PLB according to raised limit as per amended Bonus Act.

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING TIMELY ISSUE OF CHARGESHEET

Apex Court in its judgment in case of Ajay Kumar Choudhary v/s. Union of India (Appeal No.1912 of 2015 dated 16.02.2015) has directed that, the currency of Suspension Order should not extend beyond three months if within this period the Memorandum of Charges/Chargesheet is not served on the delinquent officer/employee, thereby superseding the direction of the Central Vigilance Commission that pending a criminal investigation, departmental proceedings are to be held in abeyance.

Thus, DoPT vide its O.M. No.11012/17/2013-Estt.(A) dt.3.07.2015 directed all Ministries/Departments that the guidelines laid down in its O.M. No.35014/1/81-Estt.A dt.9.11.1982 for timely issue of charge-sheet to Charged Officer especially where a Government servant

is placed under suspension on the ground of "Contemplated disciplinary proceedings and every effort would be made to fianlise the charges within three months of the date of suspension, so that the Government servant who is placed under suspension will become aware of the reasons for his suspension without much loss of time. The reasons for suspension should be communicated to the Government servant concerned at the earliest, so that he may be in a position to effectively exercise the right of appeal available to him under Rule 23(i) of the CCS(CCA) Rules, 1965 corresponds to Rule 18(i) of RS(D&A) Rules, 1978, if he so desires. The time-limit of forty-five days for submission of appeal should be counted from the date on which the reasons for suspension are communicated. (Rly.Bd's letter No. E(D&A)2014 RG6-35 dt.21.10.2015 RBE No.130/2015)

SECRETARY, NC-JCM (STAFF SIDE), PROTEST AGAINST NPS SUBSCRIPTION FEE/CHARGE

Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, Secretary, NC-JCM (Staff Side) vide his letter No.NC/JCM/2015 dated 31st October, 2015 addressed to Shri Sanjay Kothari, Secretary, DoPT, Government of India, strongly protested against the proposal for recovery of NPS subscription fee/charge @ 0.01% of the AUM on daily accrual basis from NPS Subscribers including Government employees governed under NPS by referring Dy. General Manager, NPS Trust, New Delhi's notice dated 19.10.2015. He recalled the assurances made in the past that no Administrative Charge/Fee would be imposed on any of the Government employees and requested to withdraw orders to this effect, if issued.

VETERAN RETIRED

Com. S.K. Singh, Station Manager/Palanpur & Divisional Chairman, WREU-ADI, retired from Railway service after putting 32 years of service. He was appointed as ASM in the year 1982 in Ajmer division of erstwhile Western Railway. He was elected as Chairman of PNU Branch in 1985 and thereafter as Branch Secretary. After formation of ADI division, Com. Singh became Divisional Chairman and continued in the post till his retirement. He luckily survived in a major road accident when he along with a team of WREU activists from PNU Branch was going to Bhabar

station to provide relief material to Gangman working in major breaches in which three comrades had lost their life. He was honoured by DRM-ADI and other officers by presenting him shawl and garlanding him during the last PNM.

A grand farewell function was organised in his honour by PNU branch on 7.10.2015 at PNU station, Com. R.C. Sharma, Com. J.R. Bhosale and divisional office bearers honoured him. Com. Bhosale highly appreciated the services rendered by Com. Singh to railwaymen through WREU. In another function organized on 7.10.2015 evening, in which his family members and comrades from Ajmer division were also present, Com. S. K. Singh and his wife Smt. Kamala Singh were honoured by President and General Secretary of the Union, WREU officials by presenting shawl and bouquet.

APPEAL FOR RENEWAL OF RAILWAY SENTINEL

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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
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
June 2015	261	3053	254.41	119.78
July 2015	263	3064	255.33	120.57
Aug. 2015	264	3075	256.25	121.36
Sept. 2015	266	3088	257.33	122.30

* Average Price Index for January 2001