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**All India Railwaymen's Federation**

(Estd, 1924)

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NEW DELHI-110055  
INDIA

**PROCEEDINGS OF AIRF WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18-19 MARCH, 2010 IN T.N. BAJPAI MEMORIAL HALL, 12, CHELMSFORD ROAD, NEW DELHI-110055**

Working Committee of All India Railwaymen's Federation met on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 in T.N. Bajpai Memorial Hall, 12 Chelmsford Road, New Delhi with Com. Umraomal Purohit, President, AIRF, in the Chair.

According to Attendance Register 103 members, who had signed, were present in the meeting.

The meeting started at 11.00 a.m. on 18<sup>th</sup> March, as scheduled.

Names of the Office Bearers and Working Committee Members of AIRF, who were present in the meeting, are given in the attached annexure.

At the outset, President welcomed the Members of the Working Committee.

Before two-minute silence was observed to pay homage to the dignitaries who have passed away during the intervening period, he specifically mentioned the name of Com. Jyoti Basu, who was not only a labour leader but also a freedom fighter and had been closely associated with AIRF as Vice President, and his sad demise has caused irreparable loss to the working class and the downtrodden people of the country. Shri Purohit also mentioned the name of Shri J.N. Bhatnagar who was Ex. AGS, WREU and remained AIRF WCM for quite long time.

**Condolence Resolution**

Before the agenda of the meeting was taken-up, Condolence Resolution was adopted. Names of the eminent personalities in different spheres of public life, who died during the interregnum period, are given hereunder:-

- |            |                                       |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 26.11.2009 | Sunder Lal Jangid, Ex. AIRF Staff     |
| 29.11.2009 | Jagat Narayan Bhatnagar, Ex. AGS/WREU |
| 17.01.2010 | Jyoti Basu, veteran Marxist leader    |

22.01.2010	Janeshwar Mishra, former M.R.
29.01.2010	Ram Niwas Mirdha, senior Congress leader
05.02.2010	Sujit Kumar, veteran film actor of Bollywood
18.02.2010	Nirmal Pandey, Film Actor
21.02.2010	W.R. Varadarajan, senior CPI(M) leader and its Central Committee Member

Victims of 13.02.2010 German Bakery, Pune bomb blasts.

Victims of the stampede that took place in an Ashram in Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh on 03.03.2010 and victims of terrorists/militants attacks, natural calamities and others.

The members observed two minutes' silence and prayed that their soul may rest in eternal peace.

### **President**

The President while welcoming Office Bearers and Working Committee Members of AIRF stated that there are various issues which have been discussed and are under discussion with the Ministry of Railways, the General Secretary will explain in detail about the progress and the achievements during the period.

He further added that there are number of developments taking place in the Railways and every moment there is a change which may cause turmoil in case AIRF does not keep vigilant watch on them.

Shri Purohit underlined that the report of the VI CPC was altogether different from the reports of earlier Pay Commissions inasmuch as this Pay Commission has devised 4 Pay Bands and 30 Grade Pay for the entire Central Government Employees ranging from Group 'D' to Group 'A'. He reminded the House that it was the unique achievement of AIRF that when the Pay Commission was just to finalise its report three important modifications in the recommendations were affected by sustained persuasion of AIRF, viz. PLB to Railway employee, specific recommendation in respect of Running Staff and Running Allowance and Educational Assistance to the wards of Group 'D' employees. These achievements being historic need to be propagated properly in the rank and file to enlighten the grassroot workers.

The President further mentioned that owing to the recommendations of the VI CPC, to uplift all Group 'D' category to Group 'C', our opponent started a baseless propaganda that all Group 'D' posts in the Railways would be surrendered as a result of this recommendation, this would result in massive downsizing of the workforce. He, therefore, emphatically asked the House to keep a vigil on false and frivolous propaganda of the opponents to misguide the

Railwaymen and to keep them enlightened with the real facts so that our cadre does not get confused and remains well informed all the times.

The President also mentioned in brief about the formation of High Powered Expert Committee headed by Dr. Amit Mitra, General Secretary, FICCI to suggest various measures under PPP for various ambitious projects of the Indian Railways in the absence of budgetary support from the Central Government exchequer.

He further informed the House that private agencies are being consulted for entering into an MoU to establish Hospitals, Medical/Nursing Colleges, Schools, etc. etc. The land would be of the Railways.

He informed the House that Staff Benefit Fund has been enhanced from Rs.350 to Rs.500 per capita. None of the Ministries of the Government of India is providing such a huge amount for the welfare of the staff. AIRF has requested the Railway Board to take the Federation into confidence about how this amount would be utilized. He also informed the House that some of the Railways have not utilized this fund properly. On many places, the amount of Women Empowerment Activities has not been spent. He also informed the House that the ILO in its report has mentioned about the money contributed by the workers for their welfare.

He also informed the House that in the GMs' Conference held on 17.2.2010, General Secretary AIRF had raised certain important issues, such as filling-up of vacancies, safety, outsourcing, etc. etc.

He stated, "daily new developments are taking place. These cannot be stopped. We have to create consciousness amongst the grassroots workers. We should prepare and update ourselves towards new developments and modernization of the technology."

He also stated that there are around 10-12 court cases in various courts in connection with recognition of the union through secret ballot. In many of the industries, Government of India has imposed secret ballot. There are some unions who have nothing to do with secret ballot but they are pursuing the matter in various courts.

Thereafter Minutes of the last Working Committee meeting were confirmed as circulated and the President invited the General Secretary to make his report.

### **General Secretary's Report**

On being called upon by the President, the General Secretary made a detailed report.

The General Secretary while welcoming the President, Working President, AIRF Office Bearers and Working Committee Members stated that this is the first Working Committee Meeting after AIRF's 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention.

He informed the House that, earlier this meeting was scheduled to be held in Haridwar . But due to 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Departmental Anomaly Committee fixed for 19<sup>th</sup> March, we had to change the venue.

He stated that we have tried our best to make proper arrangements for your stay, however, there may be still some lacks, despite that, we hope you will enjoy this meeting.

Making brief note on the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of AIRF held at New Jalpaiguri from 15-17 November, 2009, he reiterated that the same was extremely successful and congratulated Com. Rakhal Das Gupta and his team for organizing the same, making it a grand success.

The General Secretary then reminded that after the UPA Government assuming the power for second term, Ms Mamata Banerjee had taken over as M.R. and she managed to publish Vision 2020 document for the Indian Railways. On perusal of these documents, we found that Rs.14 lakh crore are required to complete the projects. He also focused on the ambitious plan - **Vision 2020** of the Ministry of Railways whereby the Railways have planned to lay 2000 km. railway track every year against the last year's progress of 192 kms. railway track only. For this purpose, huge amount of money would be required. This issue was therefore also came in the meetings of the Expert Committee held on 22.12.2009 and 9.02.2010.

AIRF had made it amply clear during the meetings that though we are not against the development of infrastructure in the country, nevertheless would oppose any move of disinvestment of any portion of the Indian Railways with all the might at our command.

Explaining about the PPP projects, the General Secretary added that no major plans have come up till now except for multi-functional complexes having been given to IRCON. "**World Class Stations**" and "**Adarsh Stations**" are still in the wait list.

He further stated that some Auto Hubs are being negotiated with the auto manufacturers.

The General Secretary further mentioned that the progress of the discussions held in the meetings of the Expert Committee and Sub-Committees are being communicated to all the General Secretaries of AIRF's affiliates on regular basis for their perusal, guidance and reaction.

He explained to the House that the present M.R. also asked the Federation for pre-Budget suggestions to include various measures which could be incorporated in the next Rail Budget for the welfare of Railway employees and their families.

One of the outcomes of these pre-Budget discussions is enhancement in Staff Benefit Fund, which has been increased from Rs.350 per capita to Rs.500 in the Rail Budget, i.e. a net increase of Rs.150.

He said that he had discussed the issue of utilization of SBF with Shri Purohit Ji and some other General Secretaries and based on these feedback, the issue was discussed with the Railway Board who have given us a proposal which has been given to all the General Secretaries for their perusal and guidance.

The General Secretary stated that he have suggested the Railway Board that an amount of Rs.1200 p.m. may be allocated to girl child for their higher professional education and the same may be allocated for the male child in the absence of any girl child of the Railway employees of G.P. Rs.1800, which is under active consideration of the Railway Board.

The General Secretary further explained that during the pre-Budget consultation he had made request to the Hon'ble M.R. for opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas, Engineering Colleges, Polytechnics, Hostels and Crèches for the children of serving lady employees and is thankful to the M.R. that she has included all these items in the Rail Budget for the socio-economic upliftment of the Railway employees.

Mobile Health Check-up Units have also been planned, the General Secretary added, for regular health check-up of the employees who are posted in remote areas and the Railway Hospitals/Health Services are not in easy access to them.

Liberalized Safety Related Voluntary Retirement Scheme has also been launched in the present Rail Budget, accepting our long pending demand and suggestions made during pre-Budget consultation by the General Secretary, which will enable all the employees working in G.P. Rs.1800 of safety categories to avail this opportunity in the first phase and AIRF is thankful to Hon'ble M.R. for incorporating it in the Rail Budget, this will prove to another step forward in the direction of securing employment to the wards of Railway employees in the Railways.

He further informed the House in detail about Accommodation to Railway employees about various deliberations made by him in the General Managers' Conference held on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 in Rail Bhawan, particularly regarding increased workload etc., as around 52 new trains have been planned to be introduced in the present Rail Budget only, which are ought to increase the workload to all the staff engaged in maintenance and operation of rolling stock, track and signalling. Not only this, trips of a number of trains have also been increased and destinations of some of the trains have also been enhanced. He also explained that he has raised the issue of early filling-up of more than 2 lakh vacancies, creation of new posts against new assets and operation of new trains.

The General Secretary said that he has also drawn the attention of the Hon'ble M.R. towards arbitrary and illogical surrender of posts. He has again drawn the attention of Hon'ble M.R. for recruitment of the employees in GP Rs.1800 and requested to revert back to old in-house system of recruitment, giving priority to the wards of Railway employees.

He stated, **“we have succeeded to achieve the benefit of Cadre Restructuring for Asstt. Loco Pilot by getting 80% posts in GP Rs.2400, the Railway Board have approved the same and instructions would be communicated very soon.”** He further assured that AIRF will try to improve upon the Career Progression of other categories of employees too in the forthcoming meetings of the Cadre Restructure Committee.

He expressed his worry on the problems of Motorman, which resulted in various untoward situations in the Central and Western Railways. After which, a Fast Track Committee

has been constituted by the Railway Board to review various issues related to the Running Staff. He reminded the House that all the important issues have already been taken-up by AIRF with the Railway Board pertaining to the Running Staff and are being discussed at the highest level. He said that he is not very much hopeful about the outcome of this committee but the Federation shall have to continue its efforts to solve the various important issues related to this important category of the staff.

He also explained the House about a number of achievements made in case of eligibility of Night Duty Allowance, National Holiday Allowance, Overtime Allowance to the Running Staff, MACP Scheme in the recent past. The General Secretary reiterated that it was only because of AIRF's forceful opposition that the proposed reduction in 30% and 55% Running Allowance benefit, being enjoyed by the serving and retired Running Staff, could not get through and is therefore still continuing.

Informing about the position in respect of provision of Grade Pay Rs.4800 in place of Rs.4600, he informed the House that the same has been referred to Ministry of Finance(Department of Expenditure) by the Ministry of Railways. He further said that the anomaly in the MACP Scheme in respect of providing grade pay other than that available in the AVC of different categories has also been taken-up and we hope that this will also be done away in near future and the same grade pay shall be given, which is available in case of promotion to a particular category. Other issues like Benchmarking for financial upgradation under MACP Scheme have been got corrected at par with that for normal promotion, which will be definitely beneficial for a number of Railway employees who could otherwise have been deprived of this benefit, he said this is only because of sustained persuasion of AIRF.

While speaking on maintenance of Railway quarters, he stated that some amount should be fixed and given to the owner of the house for carrying out necessary repair and other maintenance works.

### **Package for Trackmen**

He informed the House that a Joint Committee will be formed at the Railway Board level in connection with package for Trackman, Keyman and Gateman.

While speaking on women empowerment, he stated that involvement of the women in the union is a must and has proved to be beneficial in case of recognition to the unions, as they had played a pivotal role in the secret ballot elections held in November, 2007. He further emphasized that the money allocated for women empowerment in SBF shall be utilized to educate women for their upliftment.

### **Anomalies**

The General Secretary informed the House that a number of anomalies referred by the AIRF affiliates have been taken-up in the Departmental as well as Anomalies Committees agenda. It should, however, be clearly understood that it would not be possible to get all the grade pay changed as has already been explained by Purohit Ji in his speech. The first meeting of

the Departmental Anomaly Committee, he said is going to be held in the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> March in the Railway Board's office to discuss the modalities. The second meeting of the National Anomalies Committee is scheduled to be held on 27.3.2010 and internal meeting for which shall be held, he added, in the office of the JCM on 26.3.2010.

### **Entitlement of Privilege Passes**

While speaking on the issue of entitlement of Privilege Pass, he stated that "a number of times we have discussed the issue with the Railway Board and the entire committee has accepted our proposal and the same is under consideration in the Finance Directorate of the Ministry of Railways. He expressed his hope that the issue would be resolved shortly as he has already discussed the matter with the Chairman, Member Staff and Adviser(IR), Railway Board to resolve it on priority. He also spoke on the issue of entitlement of Privilege Passes in "**Duronto Trains**" and informed that the matter has already been taken in the regular agenda of AIRF's ensuing PNM Meeting with the Railway Board.

### **Tours and Visits**

While briefing the House about his visits of various Zonal Railways/Production Units during the intervening period in connection with their AGMs/BGMs, Safety Seminars/Rallies, Youth Conferences and the conferences organized by various categories of staff. He stated that some of our affiliates, i.e. NRMU(CR) and ECRKU, had organized massive rallies.

He stated, "I had also attended Safety Seminars organized by SECRMU at Bilaspur and WCREU at Kota."

He also briefed the House about his visits of Lumding in connection with 8<sup>th</sup> BGM of NFRMU on 8-10.2.2010, Bhubaneswar on 25-26 February, 2010 in connection with the B.G.M. of East Coast Railway Shramik Union, Ratlam in connection with the AGM of Western Railway Employees Union and Guntakal and Secunderabad for attending mass rallies organized by South Central Railway Mazdoor Union.

While referring court cases of MTPRMU in Kolkata High Court and RCFMU in Delhi High Court, he informed the House that favourable decisions have been arrived for conducting secret ballot in the Production Units, for which he congratulated the RCFMU and MTPRMU for their zeal and persuasion. He stated that we would raise the matter with the Railway Board.

He congratulated NRMU(CR) on its glorious victory in the KRCL elections and also to WREU, WCREU and NWREU for winning in the elections of the Directors of the Jackson Cooperative Bank Ltd.

He briefed the House about massive rallies/demonstrations and "**Jail Bharo Satyagraha**" observed by AIRF's affiliates and other Central Trade Unions jointly on 16.12.2009 and 5.3.2010 against (i) Price-rise, (ii) Violation of Labour Laws, (iii) Sale of profit making PSUs, (iv) Effect of recession, generating unemployment and social security to unorganized workforce, (v) Outsourcing, etc. etc.

He reminded the unions that in connection with the second round of “**All India Technical Staff Conference**” we have only 9 nominations. He requested the unions to nominate their representatives early; and completed the job even after sitting up to late hours after the Working Committee Meeting on 19.3.2010.

While speaking on non-payment of Transport Allowance to Rayanapadu Workshop Staff, he advised the unions, if in any of the workshops where Workmen Trains are being operated and the employees are not being provided with the Transport Allowance, the matter should be brought to the notice of AIRF. We will raise it before the Railway Board.

He stated that since long no meeting of the Committee to Prioritize the issues related to the recommendations of the VI CPC could be held.

The issue of deferment of annual increment of the employees who used to get increment between February to June is being regularly pursued and we hope that the same would be resolved during to time to come.

While expressing regret he informed the House that despite our best efforts, we have not been able to resolve the dispute of SERMU. This in-fight of the union is very dangerous not only for the union but also for the Federation. Even then, we are trying our best to resolve the issue. .

He also briefed the House about the false propaganda made by the INTUC that NFIR was granted recognition for stopping dominating monopoly of a single Federation, i.e. AIRF.

He stated that we should focus on women empowerment, more and more participation of the youth and concluded his speech by requesting the House to make valuable suggestions while deliberating the agenda in a constructive manner so that AIRF is able to secure even more confidence of the Railwaymen in future.

### **President**

The President thanked the General Secretary for presenting a detailed report in the House and advised the Speakers to speak in brief and to the point.

### **Discussion**

**Coms. S/Shri R.D. Yadav, V.P.R. Pillai, S.D. Meena, Mukesh Mathur, A.M. D’Cruz, Pijush Chakraborty, Rajinder Singh, Sisir Chandra Mazumder, N. Prem Kumar, M.N. Bajpayee, P.R. Menon, Champa Verma, Ch. Gandhi, Subhendu Mukherjee, Harbhajan Singh Sidhu, Basant Chaturvedi, Vijay Pratap Singh, L.N. Pathak, L.R. Patel, S.K. Brahma, S.N.C. Ramakrishnama Charyulu and Mrs. P. Hymavathi** were the speakers who raised certain issues such as Entitlement of Privilege Passes in Duroto Trains, early settlement of the issue of entitlement of Privilege Passes, non-filling-up of vacancies, surrender of posts, Running Allowance Committee, rate of Running Allowance/Kilometrage Allowance, problems of the Running Staff, Staff Benefit Fund, Anomalies of the VI CPC, MACP Scheme,

Outsourcing, PCO Allowance and Hourly Rate of Incentive Bonus to Workshop Staff, Constitution of the High Powered Committee to review duty hours of the Running Staff and other safety categories staff, creation of additional posts for additional assets, Date of Increment, Children Educational Allowance, Hostel Subsidy – Clarification, New Pension Scheme, safety and security of the Railwaymen, absorption of Commission Vendors in the Railways, pensionery benefits, Women Empowerment, non-payment of Transport Allowance, Pay Fixation, organizational matters, etc. etc.

The speakers also briefed the House, the various activities conducted by their respective unions during the period as also observance of the “**International Women Day**”.

### **Accounts**

The Statement of Income and Expenditure, circulated by Shri J.R. Bhosale, Treasurer, AIRF for the period from 01.01.2009 to 31.12.2009, was adopted unanimously. Shri Bhosale thanked the unions who are timely paying affiliation fee to the Federation. He reminded the affiliated unions, who had not paid affiliation fee, to pay affiliation fee at the earliest.

### **President**

The President clarified the House about the maintenance of the accounts by the Registrar of Trade Unions and the unions and advised the affiliated unions to be particular about annual subscription of affiliation fee and submission of balance sheet etc. to the respective Registrar of the Trade Unions.

### **General Secretary**

While replying to the debate, the General Secretary expressed his heartiest thanks to the members for their appreciation and said that anything that could be done was only because of their sincere support.

He briefed the House, how he was given rousing welcome by the affiliated unions on his visits to various Railway Zones/Production Units.

He informed the House about AIRF’s website – [www.airfindia.com](http://www.airfindia.com) and requested the AIRF Office Bearers to send their photographs along with their brief profile. He also requested the Working Committee Members to educate the cadre down the line to regularly visit AIRF’s website for effective communications as also to send their valuable suggestions for affecting improvement therein.

Speaking on deduction of Income Tax on the arrears of VI CPC, he advised the Working Committee Members to launch a campaign for submission of Form 10-E to get tax rebate benefit of exemption from Income Tax thereon.

He further informed that we have already organized one seminar on New Pension Scheme and if needed we can have another too. He requested that we must have some knowledgeable officials who could guide properly to the beneficiaries of New Pension Scheme.

The General Secretary also informed that the issue of Hourly Rate of Incentive Scheme is under review as a whole by the Railway Board and the progress if any shall be communicated in due course.

He further stated that we are as well trying to resolve the issue of payment of Educational Allowance to the wards of the Railway employees, despite the fact that the DoP&T has again retaliated its eligibility for two eldest wards.

He stated that the recruitment of the wards of the Railwaymen is very close to our heart and we are demanding for the recruitment of the Substitutes giving priority to the wards of the Railwaymen as was being done in the past, but to achieve it in totality, would require sustained struggle. We are, however, trying to achieve our goal, he said, through Safety Related Voluntary Retirement Scheme and regularization of course completed Act Apprentices in Grade Pay Rs.1800.

He stated that the recruitment of Group 'D' staff is a sensitive issue and is being discussed at the highest level, any outcome of which shall be communicated to you in due course.

While speaking on the issue of filling-up of vacancies, he stated that concrete efforts are being made by us and that is the reason, mega employment notices for the recruitment of ALPs, ASMs, Technicians and Supervisors are issued and it has also been decided that examination for one category shall be conducted on one day by all the RRBs throughout the country so that panels of recruitment are finalized in the shortest duration of time.

He stated that we would have to prepare ourselves and launch a programme to fight against outsourcing, non-filling up vacancies, creation of new posts for new assets and operation of new trains, arbitrary surrender of posts, etc. etc. The General Secretary suggested that massive rallies should be organized on each of the DRMs Offices during the last week of May on a single day.

Concluding his speech, he emphasized the need to observe **1<sup>st</sup> May** as “**International Labour Day**” in a befitting manner to educate the rank and file about the sacrifices of the ancestors in the trade union movement.

### **President**

The President informed the House about the “**ITF Workers Action Day**” – **13.4.2010** and requested the unions to celebrate it in a befitting manner.

## **Decision**

The Working Committee of AIRF decided to organize “**Massive All India Protest Day**”, in the month of May, against non-filling up of vacancies, non-creation of additional posts for additional assets, outsourcing and surrender of posts. The date will be fixed by the General Secretary in consultation with the General Secretaries of the zonal unions on phone.

It was also decided to organize “**All India Running Staff Conference**” tentatively on **25.4.2010 in Mumbai.**

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

No.AIRF/89

Dated: March 29, 2010

Forwarded to General Secretaries, all affiliated unions and Members of AIRF Working Committee.

Yours fraternally,

**(Shiva Gopal Mishra)**  
**General Secretary**