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All India Railwaymen's Federation

(Estd, 1924)

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INDIA

No.AIRF/60

Dated: February 8, 2010

The General Secretaries,
All Affiliated Unions,

Dear Comrades,

Sub: Pre-Rail Budget consultation meeting of the Hon'ble Minister for Railways

Hon'ble Minister for Railways organized a pre-consultation meeting with the heads of the Industries and their Associations throughout India on 6th February, 2010 in Railway ECO Park, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, wherein Presidents and General Secretaries of all the recognized federations and associations were also invited.

Basically this meeting was to woo the industrialists to invest in the Railways PPP Model, i.e., in the field of laying new railway tracks, port connectivity, construction of world class stations and advertising etc.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry(FICCI), present in the said meet, while raising their concern promised to contribute to some extent provided the Railways come out of red tapism.

On being invited by the Hon'ble Minister for Railways, the General Secretary AIRF, very emphatically clarified that the Federation is against PPP because the experience says that till date they have failed to keep their promises and have rather exploited not only the system but also the rail users and workers as well. The Federation is, therefore, of the firm view that for the development of infrastructure for all round development of Railway Network, pressure should be built on the Government of India to sanction adequate fund from the General Exchequer because the Indian Railways are basically carrying out social service of the nation. It was further added that Vision 2020 is quite ambitious plan which cannot be completed without the help from outside. However, it should be kept in view that operation, maintenance, service sector are not handed over to any private agency in the name of PPP. The General Secretary also explained in detail that the dedicated role of the Railwaymen in the progress of the country and also of AIRF

to safeguard their interest and reminded that had been three General Strikes to AIRF's credit and all of them were for the workers cause only.

The M.R. in her concluding speech openly said that no private players would be brought in the present system and that would be exclusively for new projects only because the government is not sanctioning adequate money for the new projects. She quoted that China is spending \$3 billion every year for the development of the Railways. She also stated that there will be no privatization of the Railways and the interest of the Railwaymen, their family and wards would also be watched.

This is for your information.

Yours fraternally,



(Shiva Gopal Mishra)
General Secretary