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All India Railwaymen's Federation
(Estd, 1924)

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SPEECH DELIVERED BY GENERAL SECRETARY AIRF DURING PNM MEETING WITH THE RAILWAY BOARD ON 21-22.12.2010

Shiva Gopal Mishra

Shri Mishra thanked the Member Staff and Adviser(IR) for holding PNM meeting of AIRF, but after a gap of one year. He stated that the reasons for delay may be various but these meetings should be held timely.

Shri Mishra expressed concern on non-reply of AIRF's references by the Railway Board. Date of Benchmarking should be opened forever.

He demanded relaxation in 3/5 year service condition as 2/3 years for inter-railway transfer.

Though our industrial relations are cordial, off and on these have been deteriorated. On Eastern Railway, Chief Security Commissioner RPF is trying to wreck peaceful industrial relations and politicizing the same. He did not allow the officials of our affiliate ERMU, even to submit memorandum to the Railway officials. The DRM of Bangalore division of South Western Railway is working in whimsical way, as a result of which, industrial relations are going to be deteriorated.

While expressing concern on unauthorized encroachment of Railway land, he requested the official side to control it.

Instances of running Goods Trains without the Goods Guards have been noticed, which should not have been done.

In the PRS Centres, Booking Clerks are being deputed by some of the Railways.

Since long we are demanding recruitment of the wards of the Railway employees in the Railways, it may be Substitutes or any other way.

He demanded rent and electricity free accommodation to the union offices.

He demanded early payment of arrears of Overtime w.e.f. 1.1.2006. Payment of Breakdown Allowance to the Supervisors and in-charge has been stopped. It should be paid along with the Overtime.

While demanding early clarification from the Railway Board on punishment under D&AR, he stated that the orders regarding Stiff Major Penalty and Stiff Minor Penalty have been withdrawn, but still these need clarification.

Recruitments against Sports, Scouts & Guide and Cultural Quota have been stopped due to problems of qualification.

Necessary clarification should also be issued in the matter of educational qualification for compassionate ground appointment.

Anomalies have been referred to the MoF by the Ministry of Railways and since long they are pending with the MoF. Pressure should be made by the Railway Ministry on the MoF to expedite the same early.

He demanded early payment of arrears of Running Allowance w.e.f. 1.1.2006 to the Running Staff and also improved rates of KMA.

Train Controllers should be classified as “**Intensive**” and they should be provided with calendar rest.

He further demanded clarification on MACP Scheme and abolition of non-functional grade pay, i.e. Rs.2000.

Shri Mishra further stated that though about three lakh Railwaymen are covered under New Pension Scheme instead of clear instructions from the Railway Board, New Pension Scheme Cells are not functioning at various levels, as has been stipulated in the scheme, with the result, employees covered under New Pension Scheme feel much frustrated.

While speaking on poor maintenance of the Railway colonies, roads, poor supply of water and electricity, damaged and non-functioning sewerage system have made lives of the Railway employees and their families living in the Railway colonies worse than hell.

He stated that lots of things have been said in the name of Corporate Welfare Plan but nothing is visible though some money has been spent on it this year in the name of resources crunch. Even budget allotted for colony maintenance has been stopped, with the result contractors have left the work in the middle and the users are facing enormous problems.

He stated that he had a meeting with the earlier M.E., who had agreed with the proposal of AIRF that for petty repairs, white wash and painting a definite amount should be paid to the employees living in the Railway quarters but that has also not been fulfilled and now the Board want to deviate from that agreement which we will never tolerate.

While talking on the issue of safety, he stated that up to and until we will not be able to fill lakhs of vacancies, we will not be able to maintain safety.

He further stated that number of trains are increasing, workload has enhanced manifold, new assets are coming day-by-day but the staff is being reduced. He stated that up to and until we will get proper manpower, materials and training, we should not blame the Railwaymen for any accident.

He further stated that outsourcing is also one of the important reasons for safety failure.

Condition of the Running Rooms in spite of all efforts could not be improved and these are in a very bad shape. TTEs Running Rooms are the worst.

Shri Mishra further emphasized on the recruitment of the wards of the Railwaymen in the Railways and demanded that in the recruitment of the Substitutes, wards of the Railwaymen should be given top priority.

Shri Mishra further stated that there are large scale violation of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and Contract Labour(Regulation & Abolition), Act 1970. Railwaye being a principal employer should ensure minimum wage for more than 5 lakh contractual workers working in the Indian Railways.

He further stated that our demand for 30% trainers' allowance in the zonal and other training institutes is still a distant dream.

He further demanded free messing facilities for the trainees.

He further stated that the Railways must analyse, why so many Railwaymen are dying on duty and demanded immediate steps to control the loss of human lives.

He stated that though Railway Board have issued orders for the survey to recruit Act Apprentices in open line, but it has been observed that the Zonal Railways are not taking proper interest.

He further demanded that since all group 'D' staff have been declared as group 'C', their entitlement for the allotment of Railway quarters should also be changed and all the staff working in GP Rs.1800 should be made entitled for Type II quarters.

Shri Mishra mentioned that lots of frustration are developing in the Railwaymen because of the anomalies of the VI CPC. He stated that allotment of GP Rs.4800 to Sr. Supervisors working in GP Rs.4600, merger of GP Rs.2400 in GP Rs.2800(Technician Gr. I & II), Additional Allowance for Running Staff working on Goods Trains, arrears of Running Allowance w.e.f. 1.1.2006, improvement in Mileage rate, allotment of GP Rs.2400 to ASM/ Guard, with some other items, were unanimously agreed by the Railway Board and were sent to the MoF. But so far nothing has been done in the matter and also the matter is not being persuaded properly at the appropriate level by the Railway Ministry. This has created lots of frustration among the Railwaymen.

He further mentioned that more than a decade has been passed, but the agreement arrived between the Federatins and Railway Board for upgradation of 15% apex level group 'C' supervisory posts(promotion from group 'C' to group 'B' posts), has not yet been implemented. This is also creating lots of frustration among the Sr. Supervisors.

Shri Mishra further stated that though there are lakhs of vacancies, but the Federation's demand of regularization of the quasi-administrative is still pending with the Railway Board and nothing fruitful is being done.

While tracing difficulties of the Trackmen, he demanded that the recommendations of the Committee on Trackmen, which are likely to be submitted to the Railway Board, should be implemented at an earliest and besides giving them structure of the Technician, they should be treated as Trackmen, their uniform needs to be improved. They should be provided with Washing Allowance. Gatemen should be given an allowance of Rs.1000 p.m. Mate and Keymen should be placed in GP Rs.2800. Living conditions of the Trackmen need to be improved and their working conditions are also need to be re-looked.

Shri Mishra further mentioned that the staff working in the IRCTC should be allowed re-option as well as there must be a cadre of Catering Organization.
