

## **90<sup>TH</sup> WREU AGM AT RAJKOT**

The 90<sup>th</sup> AGM of WREU (Open Session) was held at the gaily decorated spacious Bhatiya Hall opposite Rajkot Station on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010 under the presidency of Com. Umraomal Purohit. More than 2000 railway employees attended the Open Session.

### **PROCESSION**

A huge procession of railway employees including large number of woman from all over Western Railway was taken out from Rajkot Railway Station at 2.00 P.M. on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010 wearing Red T-shirt and Red Caps, carrying red flags, banners, beating drums blowing trumpets. firing crackers and shouting slogans - "WREU Zindabad/ AIRF Zindabad/ HMS Zindabad/ Mazdoor Ekta Zindabad". The procession was led by Com. Umraomal Purohit, Com. Shiv Gopal Mishra, J. R. Bhosale, Govindlal Sharma and U. C. Tyagi seated in an open Jeep. The procession after passing through the main bazaar, Railway Colony and DRM Office reached a well-decorated campus of Bhatia Hall.

### **OPEN SESSION**

The Open Session of the 90th AGM was chaired by Com. Umraomal Purohit, President/WREU/AIRF. After welcome address by Com. M. K. Chhaya, Divisional Chairman, WREU-RJT, he welcomed leaders Com. Umraomal Purohit, Shiv Gopal Mishra, S/Shri R. N. Verma, General Manager, Kashyap Shukla, Chairman, Standing Committee, Rajkot Municipal Corporation, Ved Pal, DRM-Rajkot, Dayanand Gandhi, ADRM-RJT, Com. Jagdish Ajmera, Chief Advisor, J.R. Bhosale, General Secretary, Umesh Tyagi, General Secretary/NWREU, R. P. Gupta, AGS, Vikas Gupte, AGS, Bhavanaben Raval, R C Sharma, G. L. Sharma, L. R. Patel, H. R. Dholakia, Santosh Pawar, P. B. Bhargav, on the dais. All the distinguished guests were garlanded and offered a memento.

The programme started after prayer song by Smt. Kalpanaben Joshi, AA, Accounts office and Smt. Gurumukh Kaur Wasan, Head Clerk, DRM Office. Shri Kashyap Shukla, Chairman, Reception Committee, in his speech while welcoming the leaders, delegates and visitors, gave a brief history of Rajkot City and future scenario of the city.

Com. Umraomal Purohit in his brief introductory speech stated that WREU has proudly completed glorious 90 years and is one of the oldest and largest trade unions in India. While describing about the ideology of the WREU/AIRF/HMS, i.e. free, independent, democratic trade union movement, he stated that red colour of our flag is symbol of sacrifices and represent the blood sheds of our activists. He further added that Organization through Education is our motto. He appreciated women activists for their effective participation not only in this AGM but in all activities conducted by the Union. While mentioning the supreme sacrifices of the leaders and rank and file of WREU, he appealed all to be prepared to face the challenges posed by the anti-labour policies of the government.

### **INAUGURATION OF 90<sup>TH</sup> AGM**

Com. Shiv Gopal Mishra, General Secretary, AIRF in his inaugural speech illuminated WREU as one of the strong pillars of AIRF as it has endowed with best leadership to the AIRF from the day of its foundation. He extended best wishes from AIRF to women and

youth who are participating in large scale in all the activities and programmes of WREU and AIRF. He stated that WREU is becoming younger and younger day by day. AIRF salutes the past and present senior and veteran leaders of WREU, viz. late Kum. MANIBEN KARA, Com. Jagdish Ajmera, Umraomal Purohit. He remembered Com. C.S. Menon, former General Secretary of WREU, who passed away this year. He appreciated the work done by Com. J.R. Bhosale and stated that under his able leadership, WREU is doing very well. AIRF is proud to announce that most of the promises, such as appointment of Cadre Restructuring Committee, MACP Committee, Liberalized Safety Related Retirement Scheme, etc. had been achieved. Railway Board has trying hard to change the hard earned Bonus formula since long, but AIRF did not allow to change it till date. With the efforts of AIRF, all Course Completed Act Apprentices have been absorbed in Indian Railways and now this benefit has been extended to Diploma/Degree Holders Act Apprentices also. AIRF is trying to further liberalise the engagement of Substitutes in Group 'D' under GM's powers. While concluding, he stated that it is a great challenge to run the Indian Railways with more than two lakhs vacancies and immense stress on Railwaymen in day-to-day working and AIRF is demanding to fill up all vacancies.

A beautiful Souvenir published on this occasion by WREU-RJT was thereafter released by Com. Umraomal Purohit, Com. Shiv Gopal Mishra and Shri R. N. Verma, General Manager.

Shri R.N. Verma, General Manager, in his speech congratulated WREU for participation of women employees in good numbers. He also appreciated the leadership of WREU and AIRF for peaceful harmonious industrial relations maintained on Western Railway. He recalled some good memories while working in various capacities on Western Railway. He further stated that Indian Railways is one of the best Railway Network in the world and he felt proud to be a railwaymen. DRM Shri Ved Pal in his speech stated that Union and administration are both wheels of Railway industry and should have peaceful coordination for betterment of the industry. Com. U.C. Tyagi and Com. L.R. Patel also addressed the gathering on this occasion. Com. J.R. Bhosale delivered vote of thanks and specially thanked the General Manager for attending the 90<sup>th</sup> AGM of WREU by sparing his valuable time.

## DELEGATE SESSION

The Delegate session began in the Bhatia Hall with the Condolence Resolution moved by the Chair to pay tribute to the veterans, who were closely associated with the Union, passed away after the 89<sup>th</sup> AGM of WREU held at Ratlam remembering their services. On this occasion, Com. Umraomal Purohit made special mention of our beloved leaders such as Com. C.S. Menon, former General Secretary, Com. Jyoti Basu, Ex Vice President of AIRF and Ex C.M. of West Bengal and Com. Surendra Mohan, Ex M.P. and veteran socialist leader. Two minutes silence was observed in their honour.

Com. Umraomal Purohit, President, WREU congratulated all the participants for successful conduct of open session and best arrangements made by the activists of WREU-RJT. He gave an idea how the proceedings of delegate session would go on and exhorted the delegates to speak with adequate responsibility in the delegate session.

## GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Com. J.R. Bhosale while placing the General Secretary's Report and Audited Statements of Accounts before the house, congratulated the Divisions and Units for proper and informative reporting of the activities round the year and stated that there is still scope to further improvement. Com. Bhosale thanked all the comrades for electing him unanimously as General Secretary and giving him warm and affectionate welcome on his visit across all Divisions and Branches. General Secretary appreciated comrades of DHD for successful conduct of the programmes in observance of Golden Jubilee of 1960 Strike and in honour of Martyrs of Dahod. He invited the delegates for free and frank discussion on the GS Report.

Reception Committee welcomed and garlanded Shri P.C. Sehgal, MD/MRVC. Com. L.R. Patel was also felicitated by offering a shawl and coconut for his sincere and dedicated service to Railwaymen as AGS and Divisional Secretary, WREU/BVP.

Shri P. C. Sehgal in his speech while appreciating the yeomen's job done by the leadership of WREU and AIRF and specially by Com. Purohit, recalled some good memories while working in various capacities on Western Railway and specially on Rajkot division. He while discussing on the present situation of Railway Industry stress upon the need of modernization to cater the increased traffic. He further added that friction will be there, but negotiating forums are doing the job of lubricant for smooth running of Industry.

Thereafter, the following Resolution was moved by Com. R. C. Sharma, Vice President/WREU & Div. Secretary, WREU/ADI and seconded by Com. Santosh Pawar, Asstt. General Secretary & Div. Secretary, WREU/BRC.

### **Resolution:**

"The 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of WREU held at Rajkot from 16-18 December, 2010 notes with concern that over 10,000 posts are lying vacant on western Railway. The process for filling up of vacancies is most tardy. There is a virtual ban in filling up of posts. The Western Railway is getting very good response for freight traffic. Additional trains and additional workload are being imposed on the depleted strength of staff and no additional posts in commensurate with the increased workload has been sanctioned. Over and above there is a continuous pressure for surrendering the posts on some plea or other like benchmarking and rightsizing. Perennial nature of jobs are being outsourced to private parties in violation of the provisions of Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) 1970.

It is our motto to reach the traveling public safely to their destinations. Excess workload is being thrust upon the existing staff. Due to acute shortage of staff leave is being refused; staff duty hour "Continuous" is being classified as "Essentially Intermittent", without conducting any job analysis. Staff is being compelled to work for extra hours, even "10 hours" rule from "Signing On" to "Signing Off" for running staff are being violated day in and day out and their periodical rest is abrogated due to acute shortage of loco pilots. There is undue delay in appointing 'High Powered Committee' to go into the matters of duty hours of running and other safety categories of staff. There is a dearth of spare parts. It is necessary to provide required staff, standard material, up gradation of the training institute etc. to ensure safety in running of trains. In case of Railway Employees appointed after 1-1-2004,

a new Pension Scheme is introduced most arbitrarily. This virtually has resulted in recovery of 10% of basic Pay and DA of the staff appointed after 1-1-2004. The benefit of Provident Fund, certainty of the Quantum of Pension and Family Pension is not available to them.

The Sixth CPC has improved the Pay Structure of Railwaymen and Pension of retired railway employees, but at the same time lot of anomalies have cropped up on respect of Grade Pay, Fixation of Pay on Promotion, Annual Increment, Payment of Additional Allowances, Modified Assured Career Progression (MACP), Pension / Family Pension, imposition of number of conditions for Reimbursement of School Fees and Leave Encashment while in service. No doubt, All India Railwaymen's Federation with the efforts made by Com. Umraomal Purohit, have convinced the Government for withdrawing conditions imposed for availing Child Care Leave, but still they are facing hardship for getting Child Care Leave due to acute shortage of staff. On the demand of AIRF and JCM, Anomalies Committee has been formed both at Railway and National Level. The meetings of Anomalies Committee at Departmental and National Level, Restructuring Committee are being conducted. Cadre Restructuring Committee and restructuring of Cadre of ALP has been done. It has been made clear to the Railway Board that matching surrender for implementing Cadre restructuring is not possible mainly in Safety categories in the railways as additional workload has been thrust upon without sanction of additional post commensurate with the workload.

There is delay in deciding the entitlement of Class of Privilege Passes. AIRF has demanded eligibility of Privilege Passes for Ist Class and II AC on Rs. 4200 GP and for III AC on GP 2800.

The issue of payment of arrear of Running Allowance for Loco & Traffic Running Staff from 1.1.2006, extending the benefit of Additional Pay for all categories of Running Staff from 01.01.2006, revision of the rates of Mileage Allowance are yet to be resolved. Undue delay is causing serious resentment amongst the Loco & Traffic Running Staff. The unresolved problems of Operating Staff, Supervisory Staff, Artisan Staff, Trackmen, Gatemen, Trolleyman and other categories of staff have been causing serious dissatisfaction amongst all sections of Railwaymen.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission has recommended for Introducing Performance Related Insurance Scheme (PRIS) in lieu of PLB and other incentives. It has been made clear by AIRF that PLB is linked with productivity and there is a special agreement between recognized Federations and Railway Board and any tinkering with the provisions of PLB will cause serious industrial unrest in Railways and railwaymen will never accept such situation lying low down.

Although rates of all other allowances had been revised, the rates of Patient Care Allowance and Risk Allowance have not yet been revised on the plea of Risk Insurance Scheme as recommended by the 6<sup>th</sup> CPC. AIRF demanded that the rates of Patient Care Allowance and Risk Allowance need to be revised and Insurance Scheme if, any, can be introduced in addition to Patient Care Allowance and Risk Allowance.

The Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India has decided for skill development manifold. In view of the same the AIRF has demanded to introduce the scheme of Trade Apprentice in all Open Line Establishments as well.

The Safety Related Retirement Scheme has since been extended and remoduled and renamed as LARSGESS. The AIRF demanded that the scheme be further extended to different categories of staff so that young blood may get good opportunity for advancement.

The condition of Railway quarters, roads, drainage, etc. has been deteriorating day by day. The Corporate Welfare Plan has been drawn up for the period from 2006-2015. The Corporate Welfare Plans are not being executed in its true spirit. Because of escalation of prices the planned expenditure need to be relooked and proper machinery be set up for execution of the works so that condition of Railway Qrs., roads, drains etc. are improved. Beside the problems of cleaning of Railway Colonies, Water supply and electricity need to be augmented.

The medical facilities in Railway are most inadequate. The Railwaymen posted in Road Side Stations, Gang huts and far flung areas are virtually denied medical facilities. The health and education are the two items need to be augmented.

There are problems of Transport Allowance, Washing Allowance, fixation benefit on promotion, payment of O.T. inter Divisional / inter railway transfer, sparing of Trackmen selected for Workshops & Traffic Department.

The Railway Board's arbitrary order on the payment of Pension / Family Pension to the staff of Construction Organization has caused serious dissatisfaction amongst the staff working in Construction Organization.

The unanimous recommendations of Departmental Anomaly Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2010 for improvement in Grade Pay of Artisan Grade - II, Sr. TT, Station Masters Assistant Station Masters, All supervisors in Apex Grade, Upgradation of 15% posts in Apex Scale to Group B are pending in Finance Ministry.

This Convention directs the President and General Secretary to take necessary action for implementing the decisions taken and agitation programs planned in forthcoming AIRF Annual Convention to be held at Nagpur from 28-30<sup>th</sup> December, 2010, for achieving Railwaymens pending demands."

The following delegates participated in deliberation:

S/Shri P.G. Ashokan, Guard/ST, V. Shivram, Secretary, Carshed/BCT, Vivek Kambli, Zonal Convener/ Youth Wing Kum. Geeta Pandoriya, Zonal Convener/Women Wing, N.S. Hivale, Chief Matron/JRH-BCT, Alex Jacob, Br. Secy./UDN, S.D. Meena, Div. Chairman/BRC, A. K. Sharma, Manoj Pande, Smt. Mamta Bhatt (BRC), M.R. Zaveri, Div. Secretary/BVP, D. Nagendra Prakash, Div. Treasurer/BVP, S. K. Shrivastava, Div. Jt. Secretary/BVP, D.K. Rana, Br. Secretary/BVC, S.B. Shrivastav, Div. Secretary/RTM, S.S. Sharma, Jt. Div. Secretary/RTM, Dinesh Panchal, Jt. Div. Secretary/ADI, Smt. Pragnya Parmar, Br. Secretary/DRM-ADI, H. S. Pal, Jt. Div. Secretary/ADI, Amit Chatterjee,

Secretary, Dsl.Shed/VTa, Keertida Buch, Zonal Chairperson/Women Wing, R.V. Mehta, Jt. Secretary/DRM Branch-RJT, K.M. Vaghasiya, SS-RJT, Sanjay Kapoor (DHD Workshop), Sunil Harsh, Smt. Perin Sophia (DHD E&M), Bhupendra Pandey and D.T. Chakve (LPL Workshop) expressed their views. All of them appreciated the informative Report of General Secretary and the efforts made by the leadership of WREU and AIRF for various achievements in favour of railwaymen. All of them supported the Resolution in its entirety.

Com. J.R. Bhosale in his reply thanked all the participants for their positive approach in appreciating General Secretary's Report. Com. Bhosale thanked Com. Jagdish Ajmera and Com. Umraomal Purohit for advice and guidance. He satisfactorily clarified the queries raised by some of the delegates. He thanked R. P. Gupta, Vikas Gupte and the entire office staff for the work that they are putting for the efficient functioning of WREU Office. He also thanked Com. Dinesh Panchal, Ravindra Kumar of WREU-ADI for getting the report translated in Hindi and got it printed both in English and Hindi in time.

While concluding his speech, he appealed all to be in touch with rank and file of railwaymen through vide publicity of our achievements by patrika/poster/personal contacts, by holding branch meetings, etc. and advised to involve active workers particularly youngsters and women as union office bearers/working committee members.

Since nobody has spoken against the report of General Secretary or about Statement of Accounts or moved any amendments to Resolutions, President declared that General Secretary's Report has been unanimously adopted. Similarly, Audited Statement of Accounts of year ending 2009 and continuation of M/s. A. H. Dalal & Co., Chartered Accountants as Auditor for the year 2010 and the resolution when put to vote by the President were unanimously passed with raising of slogans WREU Zindabad.

## ELECTION

General Secretary Com. J. R. Bhosale informed that in the working committee meeting a unanimous proposal was prepared to fill up the existing vacancies and also to shift the portfolios of existing office bearers of Headquarter Office bearers and for the 13 posts 13 nominations have been received. Accordingly he read out the names of following persons for the posts of Headquarter Office bearers –

Jagdish Ajmera	-	Principal Advisor
Umraomal Purohit	-	President
J. R. Bhosale	-	General Secretary
Vikas Gupte	-	Treasurer
R. C. Sharma	-	Vice President
V. K. Sharma	-	Vice President
H. R. Dholkia	-	Vice President
Sadhna Trivedi	-	Vice President
Govindlal Sharma	-	Asstt. Gen. Secy.
R. P. Gupta	-	Asstt. Gen. Secy.
Santosh Pawar	-	Asstt. Gen. Secy.
P. B. Bhargava	-	Asstt. Gen. Secy.
Prashant Kanade	-	Asstt. Gen. Secy.

Com. Umraomalji placed the above names before the delegates for their approval. All of them supported this proposal by raising hands and shouting slogans WREU / AIRF / HMS Zindabad. As nobody voted against this proposal, Com President declared elected them unanimously as Headquarter Office Bearers of WREU.

Com. Umraomalji while concluding the delegate session appealed all to further strengthen the organization by building up committed cadre to face the challenges before the Railway Industry and Trade Union Movement not only on Railway but the country as a whole. He stress upon the need of unification of trade union movement. He mentioned about the merger of HMKP in HMS and stated that this is the first step towards the unification of Movement and lot has to be done. He appealed all to be united under the banner of WREU – AIRF and to be vocal to make the propaganda machinery strong to impress upon the cadre about the supreme sacrifices of our leadership and hard earn benefits achieved through struggle.

In conclusion, Com Bhosale highly appreciated the hard labour put in by S/Shri Nikhil Joshi, Divisional Secretary, Mahesh Chhaya, Divisional Chairman, H. R. Dholakiya, Narendra Sinh Jadeja, P R Vyas, Satish Oza, R N Lunagariya, Sudhakar L, Umesh Shukla, Bhavesh Mehta, Manish Upadhyay, Parshuram K., Mansingh, Nandubha and Smt. Kirtida Buch and all workers of Rajkot Division who gave their valuable time and hard work, during the 90<sup>th</sup> AGM at RJT.

Com. Mahesh Chayya on behalf of reception committee thanked President, General Secretary and all leaders of WREU for making 90<sup>th</sup> AGM a grand success. He also thanked the Delegates and Visitors for their enthusiastic presence in entire proceedings and co-operation. After expressing vote of thanks towards the management of Hall and catering arrangements he declared the 90<sup>th</sup> AGM and adjourned the House sine die.

### **CULTURAL PROGRAMME**

On behalf of the reception committee, Shri. Vimal Oza, AA, Accounts Office of the cultural wing of WREU-RJT organised a cultural programme late in the evening on 17.12.10 in Bhatia Hall. Artists from amongst serving railway employees and guest artists entertained the delegates, visitors and invited guests till 12'O clock at night by their excellent performance through songs, dances and orchestra. The entire function was ably conducted by Shri. Vimal Oza of Accounts Office.

In appreciation of the performance of theater artists amongst serving railway employees Com. Umraomal on behalf of WREU donated Rs.5,000/- to the Cultural Wing of WREU-RJT. He also presented a beautiful momento to each one of the artists and congratulated them for their excellent performance which kept the entire house spell bound till late night.