

RTMU – AGM – An impressive gathering

The 7th Annual General Meeting of the Railway Theka Mazdoor Union of Central Railway was held on 13th Feb. 2011 in the Railway Institute ground at Kalyan in a highly impressive manner. Workers came from almost all the centres of C.Rly. in sizeable numbers with flags and banners. There were lot of women workers in each group. Each of the unit came in procession shouting slogans from Kalyan station to the venue of the meeting. The entire Kalyan area, the route to the meeting hall and the meeting hall were decorated with red flags, banners and paper buntings in a very attractive manner. After breakfast for all the workers which was arranged by the Union, the session started at 10-45 a.m. when there were about 2000 workers in the hall which was fully packed. Many leaders and office bearers of NRMU and RTMU were on the dias. Com. A.R.K. Reddy, President of the Union presided. He offered welcome speech. Com. P. R. Menon Genl. Secretary of NRMU inaugurated it. In his speech he elaborately narrated the pitiable condition of the Railway contract workers and urged upon the participants to be ready to launch decisive action programmes which would be decided by the Working Committee of the RTMU shortly. Com. Menon also drew the attention of the workers about the move of CRMS to float a new Contract Labour Union. Com. Menon recalled that the CRMS was very critical when NRMU had formed the RTMU saying that it would hamper the employment opportunity of Railway employees' wards and also it would encourage contract system. It had made many such charges. That same Union is starting a union of contract workers. This is an out-right conspiracy and an attempt to divide the workers and help the profit thirsty contractors. Com. Menon cautioned the workers and advised them to be on guard against such splitters. Com. Shantaram Gangurde, General Secretary of the union presented his annual report which contained all the details of the achievements, struggles and progress of the Union during the year. It was a well compiled report. Then the leaders on the dias namely Comrades Suryakant Bagal, Secretary, HMS, Maharashtra, Vasant Pawar, Secretary, CITU, Maharashtra and Y.G. Joshi, President, NRMU addressed the gathering. Their speeches were impressive and interesting. They spoke in detail on the problems of the

workers and how they are being exploited by the contractors and Railway authorities. After their speeches, four resolutions relating to recognition of the Union (RTMU), grievances of the workers of Goods Sheds and Parcel Sheds and Vendors & Hawkers were moved by the leaders namely Coms. Mahendru, Tribhuvan Singh, S.K. Bose and G.M. Sharma respectively and they were seconded by Coms. Ashok Dhavan, Jangam, Munnabhai and Rakesh Singh Badhoria. The presentations of the resolutions were very impressive . Several participants of the meeting took part in the discussions on both the report and resolutions. They were adopted unanimously amidst loud slogan shouting. The workers were very enthusiastic and forward looking. They dispersed from the meeting with hopes and aspirations.