

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF JULY 1960 STRIKE AND HOMAGE TO MARTYRS OF DAHOD

All Branches in Dahod area, viz. Workshop, Stores, Electrical & Medical and Station Branches, arranged grand receptions to our great leaders on their arrival at Dahod. Com. Umraomal Purohit, Jagdish Ajmera and J. R. Bhosale, President, Chief Advisor and Acting General Secretary respectively of WREU, Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary/AIRF and Com. U.C. Tyagi, General Secretary/NWREU, were given warm and rousing welcome on their arrival at Dahod on 11th July 2010 with great fanfare, beating of drums, raising union flags, shouting slogans - "WREU ZINDABAD; AIRF ZINDABAD; DAHOD KE SHAHIDO AMAR RAHE".

SPECIAL CEC MEETING

A Central Executive Committee Meeting (CEC) of WREU under the chairmanship of Com. Umraomal Purohit was held in Prasang Hall, Dahod on 11th July 2010. After welcome address by Com. Sanjay Kapoor, Branch Secretary, DHD W/shop Branch, Com. Umraomal Purohit along with all dignitaries garlanded the portrait of late Kum. Maniben Kara, Ex President of WREU and lighted the lamp. Com. Umraomalji moved the condolence resolution to pay homage to Late Com. C. S. Menon, ex General Secretary, who left for heavenly abode on 12th June, 2010. The house observed 2 minutes silence. The Reception Committee welcomed all the HQ office bearers and Secretaries / Chairmen of all the Divisions and Chairpersons and Convenors of Youth and Women Wings by garlanding them. Com. Umraomal Purohit in his presidential address gave a brief account of the working and service conditions of railway employees in pre and post independent era and also highlighted some of the major achievements of AIRF. He stressed upon the need of strengthening WREU/AIRF for saving the railway employees from the clutches of unrecognized unions of political parties. He briefly narrated the background of 1960 Strike, the retrograde recommendations of the 2nd CPC and the government's attitude not to negotiate with recognized Unions, which led to the historic 1960 Strike of Central Government employees. He further informed that despite imposing of ordinance banning strike, imprisonment of cream leaderships of WREU/AIRF and the brutal firing at Dahod, the Strike was successful and the entire railway system had come to a stand still for one week. He further added that it was only because of the 1960 Strike that government had to form Joint Consultative Machinery, through which we succeeded in achieving betterment of service conditions of Central Government employees including Railwaymen without resorting to strike.

In the afternoon session, Com. Govindlal Sharma, Senior leader & AGS, proposed the name of Com. J. R. Bhosale for the vacant post of General Secretary due to sad demise of our beloved leader late Com. C. S. Menon. Com. Santosh Pawar, AGS and Div. Secretary, BRC seconded it. All the cream leaderships sitting on the dais and in the hall unanimously welcomed the proposal and praised the services rendered by Com. Bhosale for strengthening WREU in various capacities for more than 50 years. Com. President announced that as nobody opposed the proposal, Com. J. R. Bhosale is unanimously elected as General Secretary of WREU. All the Delegates and observers present in the house by clapping hands express their happiness. Com. Bhosale in his speech thanked all and especially Com. Umraomalji and Com. Ajmeraji for the confidence bestowed on him and the guidance and advice given by them all these years in day-to-day work and policy matters. He appealed all to be more active and sought their support and assured that he will not leave a single stone unturned for the betterment of Railway Employees. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Com. Sanjay Kapoor, Secretary, Dahod W/shop Branch.

GRAND RALLY TO PAY HOMAGE TO MARTYRS

Railway employees coming from all Divisions and Workshops of Western Railway along with railwaymen from Dahod area observed 12th July 2010 as Martyrs Day in sacred memory of late Com. Ranjit Singh, Kripashanker, Sitaram, Khaderam, Sakharam and others who faced brutal attack and firing by Gujrat Police on 12th July 1960 during the General Strike of Central Government employees including Railwaymen.

At 6.00 A.M. leaders, activists and railwaymen coming from all corners of Western Railway including large number of women and youth activists headed by Com. Umraomal Purohit, President, AIRF/WREU & General Secretary, HMS, Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary/AIRF, Com. U. C. Tyagi, General Secretary/NWREU, Com. Jagdish Ajmera, Chief Advisor, WREU, Com. J.R. Bhosale, newly elected General Secretary of WREU and Com. D. M. Joshi, Chairman, Dahod W/shop Branch, holding red flags, shouting slogans - "DAHOD KE SAHIDO AMAR RAHO : SAN 1960 KE SAHIDO AMAR RAHO" marched towards Sahid Bhavan after covering 3 Km. of area of Railway Colony. Another group of activists led by Com. Sanjay Kapoor, Com. Sunil Harsh and Com. I.J. Ramwani took out a Motor Cycle Rally which passed through Freeland Ganj Railway Colony and joined the main rally at Sahid Bhavan.

The rally after reaching Sahid Bhavan was converted into a meeting, which was addressed by Com. Umraomal Purohit, Com. Jagdish Ajmera, Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, J. R. Bhosale and Com. U.C. Tyagi. In their respective addresses, they narrated the background of 1960 Strike, anti-labour attitude of the then

government and the incidents of police firing, which led to martyrdom of 5 martyrs mentioned above. Com. Umraomal Purohit in his address regretted that he could not reach Dahod after the incident of Police firing as he was imprisoned for nine months with other leaders of WREU/AIRF. However, Com. Maniben Kara, the then President of WREU, Com. Jagdish Ajmera along with socialist leaders, S/Shri late Kamla Shanker Pandya, Ramanlal Sheth, Fakrudin Shaikh, Advocate and activists in Dahod met all the workers who braved bullets / lathi charges and whose railway quarters were vandalized by Police and gave encouragement to them. After observing two minutes silence to pay homage to our Martyrs, all participants in the Rally showered rose petals on Sahid Memorial at Sahid Bhavan.

In the Tree Plantation programme arranged by the Workshop Branch at Shaid Bhavan, Com. Umraomal Purohit, Jagdish Ajmera, Shiva Gopal Mishra, J. R. Bhosale and U.C. Tyagi and others planted trees.

SPECIAL CONVENTION ON 12TH JULY

A special Convention was called to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of 1960 General strike of Central Government Employees including Railwaymen and to observe the 50th Year of Martyrdom of 5 Railwaymen of Dahod who bravely faced the bullets and laid down their lives fighting for the cause of Railwaymen. A play was staged by the Railway Employees of Dahod Workshop showing glimpses of the historic episode of 12th July, 1960 including Police firing and brutal lathi-charge and sang a song based on the martyrdom of Dahod Martyrs.

This special convention was chaired by Com. Umraomal Purohit, president WREU/AIRF and General Secretary, HMS. This function was graced by Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary, AIRF, Com. U. C. Tyagi, General Secretary, NWREU, Dr. (Smt.) Prabhaven Taviyad, Member of Parliament from Dahod, Com. J. R. Bhosale, Newly Elected General Secretary of WREU, Shri Sanjay Agarwal, CWM/DHD, Widow and Son of Late Com. Ranjeetsingh and all Office Bearers of WREU Head Office. Com. Umraomalji alongwith Com. Shiv Gopal Mishraji and Prabhaven Taviyads lighted lamp before the portrait of Late Com. Kum. Maniben Kara. Com. Sanjay Kapoor and his team of dedicated activists welcomed and honored all the dignitaries by Garlanding them and offering Shawl and Memento. The family members of the Martyrs and those who have witnessed the brutal firing were felicitated and the entire house gave standing ovation to them and with loud clapping and raising slogans "DAHOD KE SHAHIDO AMAR RAHO - SUN SATH KE SHAHIDO AMAR RAHO".

Com. Umraomal Purohit in his inspiring and informative speech charged with emotion congratulated all the Branches of Dahod area for honoring the Martyrs since last 50 years by arranging full day program every year. He reminded that the Red Colour of our flag is not of any political party but it represents the color of blood and sacrifices of the working class. He added that we are proud that the

ideology which we follow, i.e. Free, Independent and Democratic Trade Union Movement since our foundation is time tested and has benefited entire trade Union Movement in India. Com. Umraomal Purohit in his address regretted that he could not reach Dahod after the incident of Police firing as he was imprisoned for nine months with other leaders of WREU/AIRF at Mount Abu.

Thereafter, Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra released a Colorful Souvenir published on this memorable occasion. Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra in his address complimented the comrades of Dahod for arranging such a large scale and colorful function and various programs arranged by them. He added that it is a great pleasure to be here to attend this program. He reminded that our people have made sacrifices for Independence and for democratic set up but unfortunately the attitude of our Government for resolving the just and legitimate demands of Central government employees was on the line of British Rule. Instead of sitting round the table for timely resolving the demands, Government imposed Ordinance on striking workers and tried to crush the strike. He further informed that AIRF has decided to observe the entire year and our affiliates have planned to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of 1960 Strike. He mentioned that sacrifices are still much alive and there is no much change in the anti labour attitude of our own government but due to the strength and support of Railway Employees under the banner of AIRF, our experienced leadership had succeeded in getting the better working and service conditions for railway Employees.

Dr. (Smt.) Prabhaven Taviyad, Member of Parliament, assured all possible cooperation for solving the problems of railwaymen and improving the infrastructure in and around the Railway Colonies. Com. U. C. Tyagi, General Secretary/NWREU while saluting the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs of Dahod, appealed to be united for protecting the hard earned rights.

Com. Sanjay Kapoor, on behalf of Smt. Kamlaben Suryavansi, the widow of Ranjeetsingh, narrated the difficulties and hardship faced by her in those days and the help and assistance provided by WREU for educating her child.

Com. J. R. Bhosale, newly elected General Secretary, explained the background of 1960 strike and the retrograde recommendations of the 2nd Pay Commission which led to this historic strike. He add that in any strike families are the sufferer, and we as WREU/AIRF are not in favour of calling strike but are always ready to settle the issues through negotiations. He congratulated Com. Sanjay Kapoor, D. M. Joshi, Sunil Harsh, I. J. Ramwani, Hemant Gupta and their colleagues for making excellent arrangements for successful conduct of all the programmes. He further thanked Com. Govindlal Sharma, AGS for extending co-operation and guidance to Workshop Branch, Dahod, for conducting the programme on such a large scale. The meeting concluded with raising slogans - "WREU ZINDABAD; AIRF ZINDABAD; DAHOD KE SHAHIDO AMAR RAHE; HUM SAB EK HAI"

MEETING OF WOMEN & YOUTH LEADERS

On 13th July 2010, a meeting of Chairpersons and Convenors of Youth and Women Wings of all Divisions and non-divisional Units including workshops was conducted at Sr. Railway Institute, Dahod, to discuss the activities undertaken by these Wings and to plan future course of action for further consolidating WREU. This meeting was attended by 51 Youth and Women leaders. Kum. Alka Agnihotri, Convenor, Women Wing, DHD W/shop Branch welcomed HQ Office bearers by presenting them bouquet.

Com. Jagdish Ajmera, Chief Advisor, WREU & Editor, Railway Sentinel, in his opening address advised the participants to keep and maintain their health and also to look after their families so that they could get much needed support from their families for devoting time for organization. Com. R. P. Gupta, AGS/WREU appealed all to be more active and to take more initiative for organizing more and more youth and women at grass root level.

Com. Geeta Pandoria, Kirtida Buch, Vivek Kamble and Narendra Solanki, Zonal Convenor and Chairpersons of Women and Youth Wings thanked the leadership of WREU for forming Women and Youth Wings at all levels and encouraging and guiding them. They assured that they will work hard for strengthening the Union under the leadership of Com. J. R. Bhosale, newly elected General Secretary of WREU.

Com. Vikas Gupte, AGS/WREU & Educator briefly explained about the aims and objectives of the meeting and also guided the participants about the history of trade union movement on Indian Railways and role played by WREU / AIRF / HMS in consolidating free, independent and democratic trade union movement for betterment of working class.

All the participants took active part in discussion and reported the activities undertaken by them in their respective areas. They also planned about the activities to be undertaken by them under the guidance of respective Divisional / Branch Secretaries. They also pointed out the problems faced by them while executing the programmes.

Com. Vikas Gupte while summing up assured that all points have been noted and will be put up in the next Working Committee of WREU. He further assured to extend all necessary cooperation to Women and Youth Wings of WREU at all levels for achieving their goal of strengthening WREU and to fulfill the dream of our leadership 'ONE UNION IN ONE INDUSTRY'.

Youth and Women activists of Workshop Branch Dahod made all necessary arrangements including accommodation for participants under the able leadership of Com. D. M. Joshi and Com. Sanjay Kapoor, Branch Chairman and Secretary respectively of Dahod Workshop Branch. The meeting was concluded

by shouting slogans – “WREU / AIRF / HMS ZINDABAD; NARI SHAKTI ZINDABAD; YUVA SHAKTI ZINDABAD”.

PUBLIC MEETING

In the evening of 12th July 2010, a mass Public meeting was held at Sat Rasta, which was attended by hundreds of Railwaymen and their family members. The meeting was addressed by Com. Umraomal Purohit, President, AIRF/WREU & General Secretary, HMS and Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary/AIRF. Com. D. M. Joshi, Chairman, DHD W/shop Branch was in Chair. Com. Umraomal Purohit while saluting the supreme scarifies of the martyrs of Dahod stated that their martyrdom has not gone in vain as it was only because of the 1960 Strike that the Government was compelled to form Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) and various other Tribunals to resolve the pending issues of Railwaymen and other Central Government employees. He regretted that though he wishes to attend Sahid Divas at Dahod on every year, he could not attend it due to his busy schedule. He congratulated the entire team of activists from all Branches of Dahod area for making excellent arrangements for all the programmes on 11th and 12th July 2010. Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra in his informative speech narrated the progress of various pending issues arising out of implementation of the 6th CPC and MACP Scheme and the efforts of AIRF to solve these issues amicably. The public meeting was concluded after vote of thanks by Com. D. M. Joshi and raising slogans “DAHOD KE SHAHIDO AMAR RAHO - SAN SATH KE SHAHIDO AMAR RAHO”.