

ALL INDIA PROTEST DAY

In pursuance to the call of All India Railwaymen's Federation, Railway employees throughout Western Railway under the banner of Western Railway Employees' Union observed Protest Day on 18th May 2011 by holding morcha, demonstration, dharna and arranging protest / gate meetings at their respective Units with great fervour and gusto to protest against the casual approach of the Railway Board in acceding the following genuine demands:

- 1) Payment of Overtime Allowance, arrears w.e.f. 1.1.2006 instead of 31.8.2008.
- 2) Payment of settlement due to the staff working in Construction Organization on their last pay drawn.
- 3) Immediate finalization of report of the Committee on Trackmen.
- 4) Payment of arrears of Running Allowance w.e.f. 1.1.2006 and also increase Kilometrage Allowance.
- 5) Filling-up of large number of vacancies on Railways.
- 6) Immediate implementation of recommendations of Anomalies Committees.
- 7) Immediate restructuring of cadre of all the categories.

Brief report of various activities held at important places are given below:

Mumbai Division: A mass demonstration was organized in front of DRM Office during lunch hours on 18.5.2011. All the branches along with banners, flags, beating drums and shouting slogans gathered in large number.

The gathering was addressed by Com J. R. Bhosale GS/WREU who gave latest information about pending demands of railwaymen at various levels. He criticized the anti labor attitude of Railway Board and appealed all to be ready for further struggle as and when called by WREU / AIRF. Com D. Y. Mahale, Div. Chairman & Com. Prakash Savalkar, Div. Secretary also addressed the gathering. Com P. Rajan, Jt. Div. Secretary delivered vote of thanks. Com. R. P. Gupta, Com. P. B. Bhargava and Com Prashant Kanade, Assistant General Secretaries of WREU were also present on the dais. After the meeting, a delegation led by Com. Prakash Savalkar handed over a memorandum addressed to CRB to DRM.

Churchgate: Com. Vikas Gupte, Treasurer addressed a large gathering at Western Railway HQ, Churchgate and explained the background behind observance of All India Protest Day. He briefly narrated various pending issues at Railway Board level and appealed all to be ready for intensifying the agitation as and when directed by the leadership of AIRF. After the meeting, WREU delegation led by Com. Vikas Gupte, H.H. Limbuwala, Branch Chairman and other office bearers of CCG GLO and Accounts Branches met AGM and handed over him a memorandum addressed to CRB.

Ahmedabad Division: Gate meeting was held in front of DRM office ADI on 18.5.2011 from 12.30 to 14 hrs. in which large number of railway employees from different corners of the division assembled and shouted slogans, viz. WREU ZINDABAD, AIRF ZINDABAD, HAMARI MANGE LE KERAHENG, RAILWAY BOARD HOSH ME AAOMAJDURO SE MAT TAKRAO etc. Com. R. C. Sharma Divisional Secretary addressed the gathering. He spoke on the demands and the Board approach of not taking serious view to solve the same. He stated that in the DC-JCM held on 4/5th May 2011, leaders of AIRF had to boycott the meeting since orders are not forthcoming even on the agreed upon issues. Com. S. K. Singh, Divisional Chairman gave vote of thanks.

Rajkot Division: A rally was organized in DRM Office circle in which large number of employees including ladies participated shouting Slogans. Tenanted premises, a mass demonstration was organised in front of DRM'office, Kothi Compound, Rajkot on 18-05-2011 during lunch hours from 13.15 to 14.00 hrs., which was converted into a gate meeting. The participants were addressed by Com. Mahesh K. Chhaya, Div. Chairman, Naresh. P. Khatwani, Div. Joint Secretary, Parshuram K., SUNR Branch Secretary. Com. H. R. Dholakiya, Vice President/WREU was also present on the dais.

Bhavnagar division: Dharana, Demonstration, Slogan shouting and Open meeting was held in front of DRM office BVP on 18-05-2011 from 10.30 hrs to 13.30 hrs. Largely attended gathering was addressed by Com. V K Sharma, Divl. Chairman, Com. M R Zaveri, Div. Secretary, Smt. Bhavnaben Raval, Jt. Divl. Secretary, Comrades S K Srivastav, A. H. Zinia, Sunil Chauhan, R. M. Bhatt, Arjun Patel, D. K. Rana, D. R. Mankar and others on the background of organizing Protest Day and also about the pending demands. Com. D Nagendra Prakash, Divl. Treasurer & the Comrades of DRM Office branch and Workshop branch made the programme very successful. Thereafter, a memorandum was handed over to DRM for onward submission to CRB.

Ratlam Division: A mass demonstration and gate meeting was organized in front of DRM Office on 18.5.2011 during lunch hours. The participants were addressed by Com. Govindlal Sharma, AGS/WREU, Com. Shyambabu Shrivastava, Div. Secretary and Com. Manohar Pachori, Div. Chairman. All the speakers criticized anti-labor attitude of Railway Board and appealed them to be united for intensifying the struggle further. A delegation led by Com. Govindlal Sharma handed over a memorandum to DRM for onward submission to CRB.

Dahod Workshop: On 18.5.2011 at 5.00 P.M. Com. Sanjay Kapoor addressed a gathering of around 500 employees at the main gate of DHD Carriage & Wagon Workshop. In an hour long meeting, he explained about the various pending demand and unhelpful attitude of the Board in resolving various legitimate demands. He also demanded for absorbing Act Apprentices in Substitute n Group 'D' at the earliest as most of them are wards of railway employees. He emphasized on the pending demand for one additional increment to all the employees whose increment fell in between February to June. Com. Narendra Singh talked on local issues.