

AIRF Collection

Resolutions, Minutes - Planning & organisation of General Strike & Convention of State Employees Organisations (AIRF 160-B (VIII))

authors: All India Defence Employees Federation, All India Railwaymen's Federation

[Archives of Indian Labour / AILH – VV Giri NLI]

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN THE NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF CENTRAL GOVT. EMPLOYEES ORGANISATIONS
CONVENED BY AIRF AT VITHALBHAI PATEL BHAVAN
(CONSTITUTION CLUB) AT DELHI ON 15.3.1974.

March 15, 1974.

This Convention of Central Government Employees Organisations congratulates the Railwaymen for unifying their ranks and taking the decision to launch an indefinite general strike on the various demands such as parity in wages with public sector undertakings, Bonus, full neutralisation, reduction of working hours, proper job evaluation, etc. in the event of the failure of the Railway Board to reach a negotiated settlement by 10th April, 1974.

As some of the demands on which the Railway workers propose to go into action are of common interest to all Government employees, the Convention feels that the Railwaymen's strike will have great impact and, therefore, other sections of employees cannot remain indifferent.

Under the circumstances, the Convention appeals that the various organisations jointly and separately should attempt to complete their negotiations on the common and sectional demands well in time so that all the sections of the employees are also able to play their rightful role in the struggle of the Central Govt. Employees for settlement of basic, sectional and categorywise demands.

The Convention calls upon all sections of the employees to close their ranks, build up unity and gear up machinery to meet the challenge of the time.

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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE EMPLOYEES
ALL INDIA STRIKE ON 9TH APRIL, 1974.

State Government employees all over the country have been demanding over past one decade need-based minimum wage, full neutralisation of rising prices, vacation of victimisation and improvement of other conditions of service. The various committees and commissions appointed by State Governments as also the 3rd Central Pay Commission have frustrated the efforts of the State Govt. employees to secure these demands.

Their efforts particularly to attract the attention of the Central Govt. towards their pressing problems have gone unheeded. A mass petition signed by several lakhs of State Govt. employees was presented to the Lok Sabha on 18th April, 1973. Several thousand State Govt. employees from every corner of the country had assembled at the Capital to present the Mass Petition.

Meanwhile, the common people in general and fixed income group like Govt. employees in particular are the victims of the grave scarcity of food grains and other essential commodities and soaring prices. The sky-rocketing prices have caused serious erosion of the real income of the employees.

This Convention notes with deep concern that neither the Govt. of India nor the State Govts. have till now come forward to mitigate the burning problems of the State employees. Being unable to put up with this unbearable situation the National Executive of the All India State Govt. Employees Federation in its meeting on 18th and 19th February, 1974, held at Bhopal has called upon the 3 million State Govt. employees to observe one day's token strike throughout the country on 9th April, 1974 on the demands of bringing down sky-rocketing prices and ensuring adequate supply of food articles, need-based minimum wage, full neutralisation of rise in prices, 8.33% bonus, vacation of victimisation and stopping repressive measures, trade union rights, etc.

This Convention extends its whole-hearted support to this united strike struggle of the State Employees throughout the country and urges upon all workers and employees of the Central Government and Railways to mobilise their forces, hold solidarity programmes and firmly stand behind the State employees so that their strike on 9th April may become a challenging success.

This Convention also urges upon the Govt. of India and State Governments to appreciate the mounting discontent of the State Govt. Employees and take immediate steps to settle the problems immediately.

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(12)

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~~This Convention believes that the country-wide token strike of the state employees will cause to evolve an appropriate wage structure and wage policy based on the principle of need-based minimum wage.~~

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This Convention also urges upon the Government of India and State Governments to appreciate the mounting discontent of the state Government employees and take immediate steps to settle the problems immediately.

Mover - S. K. VYAS
Secunder - O. P. Gupta -

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Resolution adopted in the ~~People's National~~
Convention of Central Government Employees
Organisation convened by A.S.P. at Seelha
on 15th March.

March 15, 1974

This convention of Central Government Employees Organisation congratulates the Railwaymen for unifying their ranks and taking the decision to launch an indefinite general strike on the various demands such as parity in wages with public sector undertakings, Bonus, full neutralisation, reduction of working hours, proper job evaluation etc. in the event of the failure of the Railway Board to reach a negotiated settlement by 10th April, 1974.

As some of the demands on which the Railway workers propose to go into action are of common interest to all Government employees, the Convention feels that the Railwaymen's strike will have great impact and therefore other sections of employees cannot remain indifferent.

Under the circumstances the Convention appeals that the various organisations jointly and separately should attempt to complete their negotiations on the common and sectional demands well in time so that all the sections of the employees are also able to play their **rightful** role in the struggle of the C.G.E for settlement of basic, sectional and categorywise demands.

The Convention calls upon all sections of the employees to close their ranks, build up unity and gear up machinery to meet the challenge of the time.

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Convention of Central Govt Employees.

iii S.K. Nya: 11.5 am: A common charter of all the basic demands - specific & conventional. Fix a date - mutually acceptable to all organisations & ask the govt. to settle the demands through negotiations - or ^{face} an indefinite general strike. A Committee - if possible to plan the action.

Shrinani: 12.10: Plyo have already taken a decision to go on strike & formulated their demands. Other sections of C.G. employees have not yet done so. Defence employ's have reiterated their decision to go on strike from the 18th of this month. Plyo have done a wise thing in having the minimum demands. Plyo have started their movement, we have not. Will the Plyo accommodate us? These are questions which Plyomen have to answer. We have not yet had a joint protest day. There is frustration & anger, but there is no mobilisation.

ayan: 12-17: Joint - common or coordinated? Synchronised or joint action? ^{These issues must be thrashed out.} Ply-by-brother - should accommodate.

K. Sample: 12-3: Plyo should accommodate.

P. Bhatia: 12-36: If you negotiate on anomalies etc. How can you opt for a wider strike?

Vayagan: 12.50: No coordinated action, but JCA. Action can take place with Plyo. Some minor adjustment may be necessary.

S. Gokhale: 12.57: Plyo have given an ultimatum of 10th Dec. If there is too much delay after that, it will create problems. Plyo-110 organisations have come together. There should be a joint body to conduct the struggle.

Indra Babbar: 1.05

P. J. M.

1. Muddalakkhara : National Federation of AIR Employees.
2. N. I. Bhupati : Central Coordination Committee
Bhopal
3. V. V. Arde : Chairman, All India Defence
Accounts Association
4. R. D. Swami
5. J. S. Rastogi : Sec. Gen. All India Census Impl. Fed.
6. A. P. Joshi : Gen. Sec. NAHQ Association
7. R. S. Jaiswal : Coordinating Committee of C. A. employees
Bhopal

1. Septa: Contractors have not asked me to demand
it state on basic issues by Ripon alone.
may take democratic
under Ripon answer, it is to have to
join Ripon should proceed, we should not
let them to wait for us. negotiations are
~~being~~ need to be continued. If a section
of the employees go into action, others have
to be ready. Serious negotiations must
be completed before action.

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ALL INDIA DEFENCE EMPLOYEES FEDERATION

70 Market Road, Kirkee POONA-3

Dated: 7 Feb 1974

COPY OF RESOLUTION NO 2 ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE OF THE ALL INDIA DEFENCE EMPLOYEES
FEDERATION AT THE MEETING HELD AT POONA ON 4 FEB 74

The Executive Committee of the All India Defence Employees Federation held at POONA on 4th Feb 1974 views with dissatisfaction the unreasonable stand of the Govt of India in regard to the minimum wage to the Govt employees. The minimum wage granted to the Public Sector Under-takings under the same Govt are much higher than that granted to the Govt employees. The minimum wage of Rs 196/- is totally unacceptable to this Federation as it is in-sufficient to maintain a family even at poverty level.

The question of bonus is also a basic demand that agitates the minds of the Defence Employees. There is no justification to deny bonus to the Govt employees.

The Executive Committee also feels that the Govt is duty bound to give essential commodities at reasonable and fixed rates to every citizen generally and Central Govt employees particularly.

In order to realise the above demands the Executive Committee feels that united action of the Central Govt employees is called for. To build the Struggle the All India Defence Employees Federation appeals to the Federations and Unions of all Central Govt employees to hold a joint convention in the month of March 1974. The All India Defence Employees Federation is prepared to initiate the move for a convention or to join any Organisation / Organisations that come forward to convene the joint meeting.

This meeting decides that in any case a struggle would become necessary in the immediate future in support of the above demands and this meeting alerts the ~~constituent~~ constituent Unions to keep themselves in readiness and prepare seriously for a prolonged struggle.

D. L. G.
fw (KM MATHEW)
GENERAL SECRETARY

ALL INDIA DEFENCE EMPLOYEES FEDERATION

the other, in which capacity the employees are allowed to continue for years to other. On being regularised such employees are thrust to complete a further probationary period of about 2 years, when the concerned individual has already completed considerable of service ranging from 2-3 years successfully. This is quite superfluous and based on which there are precedences when such employees were not required to undergo fresh/further probationary period. In case of a Gazetted Officer, Class-I, viz. Shri H.S.Sawani, Mechanical Engineer, the Ministry waived his probation period in view of his successfully completing more than 2 years adhoc service. It is, therefore, demanded in all cases of adhoc promotion/appt when regularised the further probation period and should be removed and any other benefits of adhoc services should be reckoned.

25. Enhancement of funds & Cycle Advance :

The annual funds allotted for the Regions for payment of Cycle Advance is too meager with the results the employees are required to wait for years together to avail of this facility. From the present source of income it is difficult for the Class-III and IV employees to purchase a Cycle. The possession of a cycle will definitely be in Public interest. This fact cannot be denied. So that the facility of Cycle advance is utilised in the true sense we call upon the authority to explore the possibility of procuring more/sufficient funds as to cover majority of the applicants of particular year.

26. Restoration of D.A. at the rate of Rs.4/50. :

During the past the minimum rate of D.A. was fixed at Rs.4/50 per day. Recently this rate has been restricted to Rs.3/- per day without any justification. Similar restriction were imposed in the past which were turned down by a court of law. The meagerness and difficulties already experienced by field going staff with the prevalent rates of D.A. need not be elaborated as the same is already known to the Deptt. Reduction of the rate to Rs.2/- will heart burning to the field going staff which is likely to hamper Public work. We therefore, urged that the competent authority may be approached to restore the rate of Rs.4/50 until reply is received to continue payment at Rs.4/50 per day or withhold the D.A./p.a. claims till some other arrangements are made.

27. Issue of Appointment orders to / GSI employees Deputation to MEC :

Some of the employees of GSI period to going on deputation to MEC were selected for higher posts in GSI by virtue of their long service and experience in the Deptt. but appt. orders are not being issued to such employees on the plea that they since gone to MEC. This is a very anomalous anomaly and has already been brought the notice of all concerned. Shri V.G. Nigam, Dy. Secretary agreed that this is an anomalous situation and that appt. orders should not be withheld but immediately issued to the employees. To avoid future complications in the service career of such employees and in the interest of justice we demand the appointment letters may be issued immediately to the concerned employees.

28. Setting of Chemical Laboratory at Nagpur :

Consequent upon the transfer of portion of exploration wing of GSI to Mineral Exploration Corporation, the MEC forcibly occupied the GSI Laboratory at Nagpur paralysing the work of chemical analysis of Mineral by GSI. The Dy. GSI while accepting the forcible occupation expressed his inability to do anything in the matter other than to take up the issue with Ministry. The Ministry instead of resolving the dispute has adopted a middle path to side track the issue by stating that there is could be certain degree of interdependence between MEC & GSI and both these organisation would have to function in an atmosphere of good will cooperation.

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30. Allotment of additional stores shed to G.S.I.

As a result of distribution of stores shed consequent upon the formation of Mineral Exploration Corporation the G.S.I. could occupy only 1½ sheds viz. No. 1 & 2 due to the forceful occupation of the remaining sheds by M.E.C. As per decision one third of the total stores were to be transferred to M.E.C. and two thirds was to be retained by G.S.I. in addition to the cent percent unserviceable stores. It is hardly impossible for the G.S.I. to accommodate its stores and personal in 1½ shed. For want of space the unserviceable stores are lying outside without proper security. It will become difficult to pin ~~xxx~~ point responsibility in case of loss of stores of M.E.C. and G.S.I. as one Deptt. will throw the blame on the other. The issue was brought to the notice of the authorities but no result is forthcoming. Presently to tide over the situation if one more shed viz. Shed No.3 is allotted to G.S.I. some security arrangements could be made by G.S.I. The early finalisation of additional sheds to G.S.I. will enable the G.S.I. to have its own stores Depot just sufficient to accommodate its stores and personal by constructing a wall between the MEC stores sheds and the GSI stores sheds. This cannot be possible if shed No.3 is not allotted to GSI as otherwise the construction of a wall between MEC sheds and GSI sheds will block the passage for MEC stores. From requirement point of view and taking into account security of Govt stores the immediate allocation of shed No. 3 to GSI has become inevitable. We therefore, demand that shed No.3 be allotted to GSI immediately so that a wall could be constructed to identify GSI stores and MEC stores so as to avoid mixing up of stores in the interest of security. In this connection it is mentioned here that the Sr. DAG Bombay in one of his audit inspection tour has made serious comments about the improper distribution of W/Shop and Stores.

8th March, 1974.

In today's meeting the following representatives of the Central Govt. Employees Organisations were present. The meeting was presided over by Shri N.J. Iyer of the Confederation of Central Govt. Employees :

1. Shri A.S.Rajan/NFPTE
2. Shri K.N.Nayagam/Confederation
3. Shri N.J. Iyer /Confederation
4. Shri K.G. Bose/NFPTE
5. Shri R.K. Sambhar
in place of Shri M. Ramamurthy/FNPTO
6. Shri Ramapati Chattopadhyay/NFPTE
7. Shri R.K. Rawat /FNPTO
8. Shri P.E. Jaipal./

*Saves an
File in this
in the case.
T.S.G
2/2/74*

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ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONVENTION OF ALL
THE CENTRAL GOVT. EMPLOYEES ORGANISATION
TO BE HELD ON 15TH MARCH, 1974, AT NEW DELHI

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1. Constitution Club Hall at Vithalbhai Patel Bhavan has been booked for the 15.3.74 from 10.00 A.M. to 6.00 P.M., for which Shri Nayagam has paid an advance of Rs.190/- and the balance out of Rs.250/- is to be paid by him, but the AIRF has to pay the entire amount of Rs.250/- to Shri Nayagam.
2. About 300 delegates are expected to participate in the Convention from different organisations.
3. Arrangements for accommodation for the delegates coming from outside to be made from the morning of 14th March, 1974, itself.
4. Two banners are to be arranged for:
 - 1) Entrance Gate of the hall;
 - ii) Inside the Hall.
5. 300 Delegate ~~business~~ badges and 50 Volunteer badges to be printed.
6. Mike and Speaker facilities are already available in the Hall which are included in the charges of Rs.250/-.
7. Delegate fee @ Rs.5/- per Delegate will be collected before entering the Hall, and badges issued.
8. Entry to the Hall will be restricted to the Delegates and Volunteers, only.
9. Press Notification to be made for the Conference.
10. Press Conference to be arranged immediately after the Conference or the next day i.e. 16.3.74.
11. Arrangement for serving Tea (2 times) to be made by the Organiser.
12. Drinking water to be made available by the organiser.
13. It was also decided to prepare a Draft Resolution on the 14th March, 1974, itself by the representatives of the Central Govt. Employees organisations (listed in the Invitation letter) to place it before the Convention on the 15th March, 1974.
14. The meeting on the 14th March, 1974, will be held at 11.00 A.M. in the AIRF's Office.

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AU India Railwaymen's Federation

125/E, BABAR ROAD, NEW DELHI-1.



INVITATION TO MEET ON 8TH MARCH 1974.

1. Confederation .

1. Shri S.K. Vyas,
2. Shri S. Madhusudan,
3. Shri K.N. Nayagam, and
4. Shri N.J. Iyer.

2. A.I.D.E.F.

1. Shri S.M. Bannerjee,
2. Shri K.G. Srivastava,
3. Shri K.M. Mathew.

3. N.F.P.T.E.

1. Shri A.S. Rajan,
2. Shri K.G. Bose.

4. N.F.P.T.E.

1. Shri O.P. Gupta,
2. Shri S. Piramanathan.

5. F.N.P.T.O.

1. Shri Raghbir Singh,
2. Shri K. Ramamurthy.

6. National Co-ordination Committee of Railwaymen.

Dear Com.,

You are invited to attend a meeting proposed to be held at the AIRF premises at 125-E, Babar Road, New Delhi-1 at 11.00 A.M. on 8th March, 1974.

The Object of the meeting is to discuss the problems of Central Government employees and to prepare a Draft Resolution to be placed before the Convention for discussion and adoption.

With greeting,

Yours sincerely,

George Fernandes
George Fernandes
President.

*in: on behalf of The
President / AIRF*

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All India Railwaymen's Federation

125/E, BABAR ROAD, NEW DELHI-1



INVITATION TO MEET ON 8TH MARCH 1974.

1. Confederation

- 1. Shri S.K. Vyas,
- 2. Shri S. Madhusudan,
- 3. Shri K.N. Nayagam, and
- 4. Shri N.J. Iyer.

2. A.I.D.E.F.

- 1. Shri S.M. Bannerjee,
- 2. Shri K.G. Srivastava,
- 3. Shri K.M. Mathew.

3. N.F.P.T.E.

- 1. Shri A.S. Rajan,
- 2. Shri K.G. Bose.

4. N.F.P.T.E.

- 1. Shri O.P. Gupta,
- 2. Shri S. Piramanathan.

5. F.N.P.T.O.

- 1. Shri Raghbir Singh,
- 2. Shri K. Ramamurthy.

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With greeting,

Yours sincerely,

George Fernandes
George Fernandes
President.

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PHONE: 40947

1974

GENERAL RAILWAYMEN



All India Railwaymen's Federation

125/E, BABAR ROAD, NEW DELHI-1.



Camp: Nagpur
7th February 1974.

The General Council of the AIRF heard the representatives of the affiliates on the state of the organisation and on the preparations for the General strike of railwaymen in support of their demands submitted to the Railway Board on November 3, 1973, in pursuance to the decision of the Secunderabad Convention. It considered the report of the Working Committee on the various steps taken by it to implement the strike decision, and it reviewed the overall situation on the Railways and in the country.

The General Council notes that the preparations made so far for the launching of the General Strike are not adequate on several railways. The total strike fund collected and accounted so far amounts less than Rs. 6,00,000, with the Central Railway collecting Rs. 2,00,000, Western Railway Rs. 1,50,000, Northern Railway Rs. 25,000, Eastern Railway Rs. 12,000, North East Frontier Railway Rs. 30,000, Southern Railway Rs. 1,00,000 and South Central Railway Rs. 50,000. This amount is far below the minimum target laid down in the Secunderabad resolution.

The General Council has taken note of the suggestions made by various unions of railwaymen affiliated to different Central Organisations and category-wise unions seeking a change in the date of the strike and for the building of a united forum of railwaymen to launch the action. In deference to the wishes of these organisations and looking at the level of preparations made by the affiliates, the Council resolves to postpone the strike to a date to be fixed in consultation with other organisations of railwaymen.

The General Council is pleased at the outcome of the two meetings of the representatives of the category-wise unions/associations held in Delhi under the auspices of the AIRF on December 26 and 27, 1973 and on January 24 and 25, 1974. It calls upon all its affiliates to ensure the success of the national convention of railwaymen to be convened in Delhi on February 27, 1974 by the AIRF as per the desire of the meeting of representatives of category-wise organisations expressed in the Declaration adopted at the meeting on January 24 and 25, 1974. The General Council hereby invites all organisations of railwaymen, irrespective of their status and affiliation, to participate in this convention and make it the biggest ever demonstration of their unity and solidarity and of their determination to win their demands.

While reiterating our position that Railwaymen will not any more accept their wages, service conditions and status to be mixed up with those of Civil Servants, the General Council, nevertheless, is of the firm opinion that railwaymen cannot keep themselves away from the mainstream of the movement of other working

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people and particularly of the Central Government employees. To consider ways and means of coordinating the ensuing struggle of railwaymen with that of other Govt. employees the General Council hereby resolves to convene a Conference of all Central Government employees organisations in the middle of March in New Delhi. Representatives of State Govt. Employees and of other public employees will also be invited to this Conference.

The General Council has taken note of the various agitations launched by railwaymen all over the country whether through the affiliates of the AIRF or under the auspices of other organisations on the sectional and general demands of railwaymen. All these actions have in their own way steeled the will of railwaymen and reinforced their belief that their problems and demands can be resolved only through determined and united action. While calling upon the railwaymen to ready themselves for such action, the Council authorises the Working Committee to take all steps necessary for the conduct of the struggle.

Specifically, the General Council directs its affiliates to immediately set up:

1. Action Committees of the Union at all levels.
2. Joint Action Committees with all those organisations that are willing to make common cause with our struggle.
3. Women's Committees to bring about total involvement of the women from railwaymen's families in the struggle.
4. Volunteer Corps to meet any situations that may be created by the enemies of the struggle.
5. People's Committees consisting of prominent citizens, representatives of other working class organisations, lawyers, journalists and other public personalities to support the action of railwaymen.

The Council also directs the affiliates:

1. To complete the collection of the struggle fund targeted at Secunderabad by the fifteenth of March, 1974.
2. To appoint a cell at the Zonal Headquarters to keep liaison with the AIRF Headquarters on the progress made in the preparations for the strike.

Railwaymen are today standing at the threshold of the greatest struggle of their lives. The AIRF is aware of the great responsibility that rests on its shoulders in leading this struggle. We are also aware that this struggle will call for the greatest sacrifices from all sections of railwaymen. We pledge today that we shall leave no stone unturned to lead this struggle to a successful end.



All India Railwaymen's Federation

125 E, BABAR ROAD, NEW DELHI-1



ALL INDIA RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION

125-E, Babar Road,
New Delhi.

No. AIREF/160-B

Dated February 7, 1974

To

All the affiliated Unions

Working Committee Members/AIREF.

Sub: National Convention of Railwaymen to
be held in Delhi on the 27th February, 1974.

Dear Com.,

The General Council of the AIREF in its meeting on the 6th and 7th February, 1974 at Nagpur has decided that a National Convention of all the Unions and associations of Railwaymen irrespective of their status and their affiliation should be convened by the AIREF to meet in Delhi on the 27th February, 1974. It is, accordingly, notified that the affiliated Unions of the Federation must participate in this convention in large numbers so that the convention exhibits grand unity of railwaymen for united struggle to achieve the 5 point charter of demand proposed by the AIREF.

It may be mentioned here that all unions and categorywise associations have been invited to attend the convention and the affiliated unions are also authorised to extend invitations to the office bearers of the all unions/associations in order to ensure the total participation of all the unions/associations of the railwaymen.

The AIREF has also extended invitation to all the Central Labour Organisations namely, INTUC, AITUC, HMS, UTUC, CITU, BMS, HMP, UPR and Confederation of Railwaymen's Associations and BRMS to persuade unions affiliated to them to participate in the convention. A delegate fee Re.1/- per delegate will be charged. This will be one day conference to decide for united struggle and strike by railwaymen to achieve the five point charter of demand. Specimen of the poster which is to be issued by the each of the affiliated unions of the Federation and its branches, for adequate publicity is herewith enclosed. A specimen of the poster was also handed over to the General Secretaries of the affiliated unions at Nagpur for immediate action. Copies of posters, when printed should be sent to AIREF also.

The AIREF expects that the decision of the General Council will be faithfully implemented by the affiliated unions and adequate number of delegates from the each of the affiliated unions will attend the convention.

Yours fraternally,

[Signature]
for General Secretary.

Encl: one.

(89)

R A I L W A Y M E N P R E P A R E

f o r

S T R U G G L E

A L L I N D I A R A I L W A Y M E N ' S F E D E R A T I O N

I N V I T E S

A L L U N I O N S & A S S O C I A T I O N S

O F R A I L W A Y M E N

I R R E S P E C T I V E O F S T A T U S & A F F I L I A T I O N S

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P A R T I C I P A T E

I N U N I T E D S T R U G G L E F O R A C H I E V I N G

1. (a) Reclassification of railwaymen following a job evaluation carried out through the point-rating system, and regradation of all employees consequent upon such reclassification.
- (b) Pending reclassification and regradation, all railwaymen including casual workmen be paid an interim increase in wages to bring their emoluments at least on par with those in such public sector undertakings like Hindustan Steel/Hindustan Antibiotics/Hindustan Machine Tools or with those of the workmen in the cement industry.
- (c) Point to point adjustment be made while fixing the employees in the new pay-scales and in the interim pay structure.
2. 100% neutralisation shall be given in Dearness Allowance to all workmen on every increase of 4 points in the 6-monthly average of the index.
3. Bonus at 8.33 per cent of the gross annual earnings for the year 1971-72 and 1972-73 be paid to all railwaymen including casual employees.
4. Immediate decasualisation of all casual employees on the Railways.
5. Setting up of subsidised grainshops, and a daily supply of 500 grams of foodgrains to the ration card holders through these shops.

A N A T I O N A L C O N V E N T I O N T O B E H E L D

A T

D E L H I

O n

27TH F E B R U A R Y, 1974

R A I L W A Y M E N ' S U N I O N

T H E C A L L O F T H E D A Y

To be issued by:

Secret of General Union.



All India Railwaymen's Federation

125/E, BABAR ROAD, NEW DELHI-1



No AIRF/39

Dated February 7

To

All the affiliated unions
&
Working Committee Members/AIRF

Dear Com.,

Minutes of the Working Committee meeting held at Nagpur on 6th to 9th February, 1974, the following were present:-

Shri George Fernandes, Shri G. Rameshchandran, Shri K.K. Murthy, Shri U.M. Purohit, Shri B.P. Roy Choudhary, Shri A.V.K. Chaitanya, Shri J.P. Chaubey, Shri V.B. Moha. eshwar, Shri T.M. Bajpai, Shri K.M. Bhabhacharya, Shri T.R. Sharma, Shri M.P. Dutta, Shri H.C. Pandey, Shri H.R. Kashyap, Shri George John, Shri G.M. Pathan, Shri P.R. Menon, Shri C.S. Menon, Shri C.S. Menon, Shri M.G. Mazunder, Shri B.R. Srivastava, Shri Jagdish Ajmera, Shri Govind Lal Sharma, Shri K.C. Jain, Shri T. Sivaraman, Shri K. Devarajan, Shri K.S.M. Moorthy, Shri K.P. Srinivasan, Shri H.N. Singh, Shri V.J. Sardesai, Shri Biru Chatterjee, Shri K.P. Srivastava, Shri S.S. Narula, Shri K.D. Mansley, Shri V.V. Sheoporkhal, Shri V.R. Malgi, Shri A.M. Sheikh, HTP,

Con. George Fernandes was in the Chair.

In absence of Con. Priya Gupta, the General Secretary, of the AIRF, who was indisposed and admitted in the Central Hospital, Northern Railway, New Delhi, Con. George Fernandes explained the steps that were taken by the Federation to implement the Secunderabad Resolution for indefinite strike from 27th February, 1974. He explained the back ground also the decision that were taken by the two meetings of the category wise unions/associations held in Delhi in December-73 and January-74. He also stated that in these meetings the demand charter prepared by the AIRF were endorsed and the leaders of the associations who attended these meetings expressed their willingness to forge a united front for struggle to achieve the demands. Thereupon he called upon the office bearers of the affiliated unions to report about the preparations made by the respective unions for implementation of the strike resolution.

Con. U.M. Purohit, stated that steps were taken by his union to make necessary preparations for general strike, and Rs.1,60,000 thousands were collected for the strike fund on the Western Railway. He, however, explained that much was still to be done to ensure a complete strike on the Western Railway.

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Con. V.R. Malgi, (C.Rly). He stated that Rs.2,00,000/- has been collected for the strike fund on the Central Railway and Rs.80,000/- have already been received by the Central Office. He said that on certain divisions the preparations for strike have already been made, but in some Divisions full preparation were not there. He pleaded for some more time to complete the preparation for successful strike.

Con. Manasivayan (Southern Railway). He stated that Rs.1,00,000/- has already been collected for strike fund and Rs.45,000/- has already been received by the Central Office of the Union. According to the decision of his union 2/3rd of the collected of strike fund will be deposited with the Central office of the union and the remaining 1/3rd will be remained with the branches. He stated that there were full preparations for the general strike on the Southern Railway and his union was in a position to go on general strike from 27th February, 1974.

Con. A.V.K. Chaitanya (S.C.Rly). He said that Rs.50,000/- had already been collected/deposited with the Central Office of the union for the strike fund. The collection of the strike fund is in full swing and the target of collection will be reached soon. He said that except few places on the South Central Railway, the preparation of strike is full. He also stated that at Vijaywada joint action committee has already been formed.

Con. K.K. Moorthy (S.E.Railway): He stated that the collections of strike fund were started late on the S.E. Railway and he was not in a position to state the exact figure of the amount already collected. He, however, said that the collection was in progress and his union will fulfill the target. He also explained the steps already taken by his union to prepare the railwaymen for general strike from the 27th February, 1974.

M.F. Railway, Con. Biru Chatterjee. He said that response for general strike from the 27th February, 1974 was good on the M.F. Railway and the M.F. Railway Mazdoor Union was in a position to embark upon a general strike from 27th February, 1974. He, however, said that there were some difficulties in the Bengal portion of the M.F. railway. In regard to the strike fund he stated that Rs.30,000/- had already been collected and the rest will be collected soon.

Northern Railway, Con. J.P. Chaudhary. He said that only Rs.10,000/- could be collected for the strike fund on the Northern Railway for the Central Office and about Rs.25,000/- for the branches of the union. He explained that the working committee of his union which met in Delhi on the 3rd and 4th February, 1974 has taken necessary steps. He ensure speedy collection of strike fund and also to fulfill the target. According to his union, he added, some time more was necessary for preparations of the strike and therefore, his union has recommended for the postponement of the date of strike.

M.E. Railway, the members of the working committee from the M.E. Railway could not attend the meeting on the 6th because of late arrival of the train.

Con. Foorfe Fernandes, summing up the discussions stated that neither the targetted amount has been collected by the affiliated unions for the strike nor adequate preparations had been done by the affiliated unions on many of the zonal railways, and this mandate given by the Secunderabad Convention as prerequisite to launching of a general strike from 27th February-74 had not been fulfilled. In addition the categorywise associations in their meeting have also requested the AIRF to postpone the date of strike in order to have united struggle and similarly the AITUC and its affiliated unions and also B.R.M.S., has also requested for postponing the date of strike so that they could also join the united struggle. Con. Anand Hanbhar of the Southern Railway Labour Union was also on record for the postponing the date of strike.

Con. Fernandes further explained that since it was the sincere desire of the AIRF to have a united struggle it was also necessary to give due consideration to the views expressed by other organisations of the railwaymen.

After detailed deliberations in which Con. H.C. Pandey, V.R. Malgi, J.P. Chaubey, Jagdish Ajmera, B.R. Srivastava, T.M. Bajpai, B.P. Roy Choudhary, P.R. Menon, and A.Q. Anwar participated, a resolution was proposed for consideration and adoption by the General Council. A copy of the resolution is annexed to this minutes.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.

Yours comradely,

For General Secretary.

DA/copy of resolution.



All India Railwaymen's Federation

125 E, BABAR ROAD, NEW DELHI 1



Camp: Nagpur
7th February 1974.

The General Council of the AIREF heard the representatives of the affiliates on the state of the organisation and on the preparations for the General strike of railwaymen in support of their demands submitted to the Railway Board on November 8, 1973, in pursuance to the decision of the Secunderabad Convention. It considered the report of the Working Committee on the various steps taken by it to implement the strike decision, and it reviewed the overall situation on the Railways and in the country.

The General Council notes that the preparation made so far for the launching of the General Strike is not adequate on several railways. The total strike fund collected and accounted so far amounts less than Rs. 6,00,000, with the Central Railway collecting Rs. 2,00,000, Western Railway Rs. 1,60,000, Northern Railway Rs. 25,000, Eastern Railway Rs. 12,000, North East Frontier Railway Rs. 30,000, Southern Railway Rs. 1,00,000 and South Central Railway Rs. 50,000. This amount is far below the minimum target laid down in the Secunderabad resolution.

The General Council has taken note of the suggestions made by various unions of railwaymen affiliated to different Central Organisations and category-wise unions seeking a change in the date of the strike and for the building of a united forum of railwaymen to lead the action. In deference to the wishes of these organisations and looking at the level of preparations made by the affiliates, the Council resolves to postpone the strike to a date to be fixed in consultation with other organisations of railwaymen.

The General Council is pleased at the outcome of the two meetings of the representatives of the category-wise unions/associations held in Delhi under the auspices of the AIREF on December 26 and 27, 1973 and on January 24 and 25, 1974. It calls upon all its affiliates to ensure the success of the national convention of railwaymen to be convened in Delhi on February 27, 1974 by the AIREF as per the desire of the meeting of representatives of category-wise organisations expressed in the Declaration adopted at the meeting on January 24 and 25, 1974. The General Council hereby invites all organisations of railwaymen, irrespective of their status and affiliation, to participate in this convention and make it the biggest ever demonstration of their unity and solidarity and of their determination to win their demands.

While reiterating our position that Railwaymen will not any more accept their wages, service conditions and status to be mixed up with those of Civil Servants, the General Council, nevertheless, is of the firm opinion that railwaymen cannot keep themselves away from the mainstream of the movement of other working

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people and particularly of the Central Government employees. To consider ways and means of coordinating the ensuing struggle of railwaymen with that of other Govt. employees the General Council hereby resolves to convene a Conference of all Central Government employees organisations in the middle of March in New Delhi. Representatives of State Govt. Employees and of other public employees will also be invited to this Conference.

The General Council has taken note of the various agitations launched by railwaymen all over the country whether through the affiliates of the AIRF or under the auspices of other organisations on the sectional and general demands of railwaymen. All these actions have in their own way steeled the will of railwaymen and reinforced their belief that their problems and demands can be resolved only through determined and united action. While calling upon the railwaymen to ready themselves for such action, the Council authorises the working Committee to take all steps necessary for the conduct of the struggle.

Specifically, the General Council directs its affiliates to immediately set up:

1. Action Committees of the Union at all levels.
2. Joint Action Committees with all those organisations that are willing to make common cause with our struggle.
3. Women's Committees to bring about total involvement of the women from railwaymen's families in the struggle.
4. Volunteer Corps to meet any situations that may be created by the enemies of the struggle.
5. People's Committees consisting of prominent citizens, representatives of other working class organisations, lawyers, journalists and other public personalities to support the action of Railwaymen.

The Council also directs the affiliates:

1. To complete the collection of the struggle fund targeted at Secunderabad by the fifteenth of March, 1974.
2. To appoint a cell at the Zonal Headquarters to keep liaison with the AIRF Headquarters on the progress made in the preparations for the strike.

Railwaymen are today standing at the threshold of the greatest struggle of their lives. The AIRF is aware of the great responsibility that rests on its shoulders in leading this struggle. We are also aware that this struggle will call for the greatest sacrifices from all sections of railwaymen. We pledge today that we shall leave no stone unturned to lead this struggle to a successful end.