

Memorandum submitted to the General Manager/Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan through a Mass Demonstration by the workers and employees of CLW on 8th April '74 i.e. on the last date of the Demand Week observed at the call of the National Co-ordination Committee of Railwaymen's struggle.

This Memorandum, proposed by the workers and employees of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and duly endorsed by the signatories here-under and the C.L.W. Railwaymen's Co-ordination Committee, brings the notice of the Railway Ministry through General Manager, C.L.W. Chittaranjan to the demands of the Railwaymen. This Memorandum urges upon the General Manager C.L.W. to intimate the feelings of the workers & Employees of C.L.W. expressed through this Demonstration and forward this Memorandum to the competent authority.

MEMORANDUM.

The workers and employees of C.L.W. are concerned at the failure of the Railway Ministry to bring about settlement of the various general and sectional demands of Railwaymen, more particularly, demands relating to wages, dearness allowance, Bonus, decasualisation of casual labour, provision of adequate and subsidised foodgrains and other essential commodities to Railwaymen. While the Railwaymen quite justifiably expect the Railway Ministry to concede their demand for need-based minimum wage, the least the Rly. Ministry should have done was to concede the workers' demand for parity in wages with the public sector undertakings of the Govt. of India.

The workers and employees of C.L.W. reject the argument advanced in certain quarters that the Railway cannot afford to meet the workers' demands as that would entail additional financial burden of the Railways. While there is tremendous scope to avoid wastage and introduce economics in the Railways and in the process find financial resources to meet the workers' legitimate demands, it is the height of absurdity to suggest that paying to the Rly. men wages equal to those available to workers in other public sector enterprises would mean an increase in Railway fares and freight rates.

It is to point out that the last time the Railwaymen's wages were revised was following the recommendation of the II Pay Commission in 1959 and in the intervening fifteen years, Railway fares and freights have been revised upwards at least seventeen times without providing for any revision in the wage structure of Railwaymen. If Dearness Allowance has been revised it was only to compensate for the rising prices due to the failure of the Govt. to hold the price line, and even there, the inadequate neutralisation has resulted in actual reduction of the real wages of Railway Employees. The fact is that Railwaymen are to-day poorer than what they were 14 years ago.

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