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'NCCRS File Containing Post 1974 Railway Strike Resolutions, Memoranda, Declarations'

Authors: NCCRS, Paharpur Works Employees Union, Telegraph Engineering Employees Union Class III, Northern Railway Workers' Union, United Council of Trade Unions, Carriage and Wagon Staff Council - Eastern Railway, AIRF, South Eastern Railwaymen's Union, et. al.

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

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN STRUGGLE SIRSA

Honourable Prime-Minister,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

MEMORANDUM

In view of the assurance of non-victimisation by the Honourable President and the Government of India, the Railway employees called off the strike though they can not forget the terror unleashed on them and their families. The Government may claim to break the strike but we may emphasize that no power on earth can shatter our faith and decision to get justice for our suffering brothers.

Through out India ~~xx~~ Anti-victimisation week from 22nd July to 28th July 1974 under the banner of National Co-ordination Committee For Railwaymen Struggle has been observed. To day 'DHARNA' is closing scene. We hope our voice will reach to your honour and definitely we hope to hear some thing for the following items. These are no demands but the commitments of Government. Therefore it is right time for the Government to be reciprocal and stop all victimisation leaving aside the vindictive attitude towards the hard working Railway employees otherwise these agitated feelings of the staff are bound to demonstrate in one or the other way.

The N.C.C.R.S. Sirsa in accordance with other units demand that :-

- 1- All arrested Railway employees may be released and cases against them may be withdrawn.
- 2- All dismissed, removed and terminated employees may be put back to duty.
- 3- Break in service may be condoned.
- 4- The negotiation with the N.C.C.R.S. may be started .
- 5- All sort of victimisation may be stopped.
- 6- D.A. payment ordinance may be withdrawn.
- 7- Full wages for the strike period may be paid to the employees.

..*..

Dated- 28th July 1974.

O.P. Vishnoi
(O.P. VISHNOI)
Conviner.

Copy to the ~~Pr~~ Honourable President of India.
Copy to the Railway Minister, Govt. Of India, New Delhi.
Copy to the Honable. Home Minister, Govt. Of India, New Delhi.
Copy to the Conviner N.C.C.R.S. New Delhi.
Copy to the Conviner N.C.C.R.S., Bikaner.
Copy to The General Manager N.Rly. New Delhi.
Copy to the Divisional Superintendent, N.Rly. Bikaner.

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NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
FOR
RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125/E, Babar Road, New Delhi.

NCCRS/1/74

August 31, 1974.

The Action Committee of the NCCRS met in New Delhi on August 29 and 30, 1974. The members present were:

1. Shri Samar Mukherjee
2. Shri Narasimhan Chakraborty
3. Shri S.K. Dhar
4. Shri M.M. Pathak
5. Shri G.S. Gokhale
6. Shri N.S. Bhangu
7. Shri Priya Gupta
8. Shri George Fernandes

The following decisions were taken:

1. The postponed National Convention of the Railwaymen shall be held in Delhi on October 4, 1974. The Convention will start at 10.00 A.M. and end at 5.00 P.M.
2. Wherever the Conventions at Zonal and local levels have not taken place so far, they should be held immediately and Committees set up in all places where they have not yet been set up.
3. Collection of relief to victimised workmen be organised jointly through the NCCRS Coupons.
4. The NCCRS reiterated the earlier decision that the Advisory Councils formed under the auspices of the Unions shall not be considered as independent organisations for participation in the NCCRS Committees.
5. The Action Committee endorsed the decisions taken by the National Convention of the working people held at New Delhi on August 28, 1974.
6. It was decided that the Action Committee will meet at 4.00 P.M. on October 3, 1974 to finalise the draft resolutions for the Convention.
7. It was decided that the meeting of the Zonal Conveners be held in Delhi on September 17, 1974, to consider various matters pertaining to the smooth functioning of the Zonal NCCRS Committees. The Action Committee will also meet on the same day.

Contd.

8. The Action Committee declared the commitment of the NCCRS to keep up the struggle to achieve the demands of the railwaymen and to fight to end victimisation in the railways.

The Convener, NCCRS, reported to the Committee the decision of the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) to send a Fact-Finding Mission to India some time in the month of October, 1974. It was decided that all participating organisations should prepare memoranda for submission to the Fact-Finding Mission.

George Fernandes
George Fernandes
Convener.

New Delhi,
the 31st August, 1974.

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

Resolution adopted at the NCCRS
meeting held on June 26, 1974.

The NCCRS salutes the railwaymen for successfully fighting the biggest ever struggle in the history of the working class movement in India. The unity, determination and courage displayed by railwaymen and their families in the course of their struggle and against the police brutalities and the coercive weapons used by the Government will stand out as a shining example to workers all over the world in their movement against injustice. The NCCRS greets all those who stood by the Railwaymen during their heroic struggle even when the railway strike meant so much inconvenience to them, and pledges that the railwaymen will repay their debt of gratitude by forever staying in the vanguard of people's struggles for justice.

Never in the history of the working class struggles in India have workmen faced repression like what was unleashed by the Government against railwaymen.

More than 50000 workers were illegally arrested and detained without trial; nearly 30000 thrown out of their houses with bag and baggage and with their helpless wives and innocent children; women raped by the minions of law and order; a Goebbelian propaganda war against railwaymen carried through the State-owned radio, and television network; newspaper advertisements inserted with money from the public exchequer to defame and deride the railwaymen and their leadership; a campaign of lies, slander and perfidy of an unprecedentedly low level; use of the Army, Border Security Force, Territorial Army, Special Reserve Police, Central Reserve Police and other organs of State power buttressed with the most indiscriminate use of the draconian laws like Maintenance of Internal Security Act and the war-time Defence of India Rules; marching the workers to their work places at bayonet point; non-payment of their earned wages in order to literally starve the workers into submission - these were the methods used by the Govt. to meet the just and legitimate demands of the railwaymen. The resoluteness with which the railwaymen and their wives and children faced this terror and fought for their rights is a saga that must have few parallels in the annals of the working class and democratic movements anywhere in the world.

During the strike and immediately after it was called off, the President, the Prime Minister, the Railway Minister and the Home Minister had emphatically declared on more than one occasion, that there would be no victimisation of workmen for participating in the strike and that negotiations would be resumed with the representatives of the railwaymen in order to arrive at a settlement on their demands.

Though it is now more than four weeks since the Action Committee of the NCCRS unilaterally called off the strike, it is a pity that the Railway Administration should have chosen to pursue a course that is designed to keep alive the State of confrontation with railwaymen.

In the last four weeks, the railway administration has resorted to victimisation and provocation which is not only in clear breach of its earlier utterances but appears to be in keeping with its behaviour during the strike.

It has given a break-in-service to about 10 lakhs of railwaymen, and all these employees are now being recruited.

Nearly 30000 permanent workmen have been either removed or dismissed from service for participating in the strike.

About 50000 casual and substitute workmen have not been taken back on work, though most of these men have been working for periods ranging from five years to twenty years.

Over 20000 workmen are being prosecuted under the Defence of India Rules for participating in the strike, and railway and State Government authorities are seeking summary trials and criminal conviction of these workmen.

Railwaymen are being transferred from one unit to another and from one division to another, and in the process not only are they being separated from their families, but they are being compelled to run two establishments on the pittance that is their salary. There have been innumerable reversions and forced premature superannuation of railwaymen. Unilateral changes in working conditions have been introduced to harass and brow-beat the workmen.

The so-called loyal workers who are otherwise known as black-legs and scabs have been rewarded with special increments, irregular promotions, preferential treatment in matters of promotions, appointment of their children, allotment of quarters etc. creating in the process a state of permanent tension between workmen and workmen.

The consequences of the suicidal course followed by the railway administration are there for all to see. Almost a month after the strike was called off, there is still no normalcy in the running of rail services, what to speak of normalcy in management-employee relationships. The Economic Times of June 25 was to report that "even nearly one month after the withdrawal of the railwaymen's strike, passenger and goods services on the Northern, Eastern and North Eastern Railways have not come to normal: More than 200 passenger trains - mostly serving the muffsil areas - remain cancelled on these three railways and wagon loading, in general, has been running 20 to 25 percent lower than what obtained before April 27, when first cancellation of trains were ordered". What is true of the Northern Eastern and North Eastern railways is true in a larger degree of all other zonal railways in the country.

NCCRS warns the railway administration that there will be no return to normalcy on the railways unless the administration changes its ways and restores normalcy in its relations with the railwaymen. It would do well to realise that the unilateral withdrawal of the strike by the NCCRS Action Committee does not mean that the railwaymen have either given up their demands or have accepted defeat. The localised actions that have taken place during the last four weeks in Bombay, Ajmer, Madras ICF, Narkatiaganj, Samastipur, Tughlakhabad and other centres as also the decision of the Southern Railway NCCRS calling for another strike on any day after July 12 are indicative of the mood and temper of the workers which the railway administration can ignore at its own peril. The meeting hereby demands that the government and the railway administration take immediate steps to release all those arrested in connection with the strike, withdraw all pending warrants and all cases in connection with the strike, and all acts of victimisation and resume negotiations with the NCCRS on the demands of the railwaymen. Only then will it be possible to restore normalcy and build

a new relationship so that the biggest and the most important sector of our national economy functions at optimum efficiency in the larger interests of the nation.

The NCCRS calls upon the railwaymen to preserve and strengthen the unity they have achieved during the days of the great struggle. Railwaymen should particularly guard against the efforts made by their enemies to divide and split their ranks. Most demands of the railwaymen are yet to be won and the problems of victimisation have to be tackled. In such a situation any move from any quarter to sow dissensions in the ranks of railwaymen and undermine their unity will only mean strengthening the hands of the railway administration in its mad desire to suppress the workmen. The NCCRS hereby calls upon all railwaymen to (1) activate the NCCRS at all levels and to constitute its committees where they may not yet have been set up and rid those committees of strike breakers; (2) to hold conventions of railwaymen at all levels under the auspices of the NCCRS; (3) to observe a Protest week from July 22 to 28 against repression by holding rallies, demonstrations, organising dharnas, wearing badges etc. and to demand a negotiated settlement on the charter of demands; and (4) to take all steps at every level to provide relief to workmen who have become victims of the railway administration's repressive, anti-trade union moves.

The meeting resolves to call a National Convention of Railwaymen on August 26 in New Delhi to decide on the future course of action. In the meanwhile, it calls upon the railwaymen to do all in their power at every level to fight against victimisation in all its forms.

The meeting appeals to the organised trade union movement in India to render financial and other help to the NCCRS to provide much needed relief to the victimised workmen and their families. The NCCRS thanks the International Trade Union organisations for their fraternal support and solidarity during the struggle, and seeks their continued moral and material support in dealing with the new situation.

In the opinion of the NCCRS the Government's ruthlessness in dealing with the railwaymen's dispute, on wages, bonus etc. and its breach of faith in the days following the withdrawal of the strike are a challenge to the entire working class movement in India, and it is, therefore, imperative that there is a united response by all organised sections of the working people against this challenge. To plan this united response of the working people against the government's offensive, the meeting resolves to unite all Central organisations and national federations of labour to a conference in New Delhi on July 20 and 21.

With the railwaymen's strike, a new era has opened up before the working class movement in India. The nation-wide strike action on May 15 by the trade unions in support of the railwaymen was a demonstration of the new unity of purpose and action that is emerging. It is necessary to consolidate this unity and to move forward, learning from the mistakes of the past and determined to avoid the pitfalls in the future. The NCCRS pledges to do everything within its power to spearhead the movement, to forge the fighting unity of the working classes and the toiling masses in the country, transcending all divisions based on any consideration.

**SOUTH EASTERN
RAILWAYMEN'S UNION**

Affiliated to AIRERA I.T.U.C.
RECOGNISED BY S. E. RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION.
REGD. NO. 3580

दक्षिण पूर्व रेलवेमेन्स यूनियन

CENTRAL OFFICE :
UNION BUILDING
KHARIDA, KHARAGPUR (W.B.)
PHONE : P. & T. 345
RLY. 2/87

N.C. Roy Choudhuri,
GENERAL SECRETARY.

No. SER/RCRS /115
Dated: 20 July, 1974.

4036
25/7/74

To
Com George Fernandes,
Convenor,
N.C.C.R.S.
New Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

Re: Resolution adopted by the NCCRS.

A copy of the resolution adopted by the NCCRS at its meeting held at Delhi on 26.6.74 may be sent as the same has not been received in this office.

An early compliance is requested.

Yours fraternally,

N.C. Roy
GENERAL SECRETARY.

Acc. No. 1/74

125F, Babar Road
New Delhi
July 22, 1974

For Favour of Publication

Mr. George Fernandes, Convener, Preparatory Committee of National Convention of Working People released the following Declaration to the press:-

Declaration adopted at the meeting of Central Trade Union organisations and national Federations of Labour held in New Delhi on July 21, 1974

The Government of India has struck the worst blow yet on the working people of India by promulgating the Ordinance providing for the compulsory deposit of all additional wages and half of the increase in dearness allowance by all wage and salary earning persons in the industrial and service sectors. The move is nothing short of a wage freeze which the government has been threatening for the last three years.

The Government has sought to justify this ordinance by stating that it is intended to bring down the prices and check inflation by immobilising a part of the money supply. It is significant that the affluent class of people who have money for wasteful expenditure and luxury consumption should not be affected by this attempt to immobilise money supply. The other two ordinances, viz. on compulsory deposit and on restriction of dividends are but symbolic gestures which do not touch even the fringe of the problem of inflation and price rise. While the truth is that the working classes are in no way responsible for the economic crisis, the Government, by the wage freeze ordinance, is trying to lay the blame for its policy failures at the doors of the working people.

The wages and dearness allowance of an overwhelming number of persons affected by the Ordinance are actually spent on food. In fact, more than fifty per cent of the affected wage and salary earners and their families actually live below the poverty line. It speaks volumes for the anti-working class and anti-people character of the Government that it should have thought of attacking the poorer sections of society in its much-trumpeted drive to hold the price line.

The phenomena of rising prices and the economic crises facing the people are the inevitable outcome of the wrong policies of the Government pursued over a long period of time including deficit financing, ever-increasing money supply, excessive indirect taxation, unproductive governmental expenditure, under-utilisation of the installed capacity both in public and private sectors, repayment burden of foreign debts, government-imposed price rise of several essential and basic commodities and tax evasion on a gigantic scale.

The growth of a parallel black money economy which is now overshadowing the government-managed economy and is responsible in no small measure for the present economic

6. It will be a great and tragic mistake to think that other sections of the working people will not be subjected to similar treatment by the Congress government in the coming days in the event of their launching any serious struggle to secure justice. If anything, the intensity and ruthlessness of the Government's attacks on the working people will continue to increase. The ordinance which practically freezes the wages and dearness allowance of over 1.81 crores of salaried working people in the country's industrial and service sectors is further indication of the Government's anti-working class drive.

7. There is no gainsaying that only the united strength of the entire working class movement can fight back and defeat the anti-working class policies and actions of the Government. In the case of the railwaymen, it has become imperative for the trade union movement to formulate a common strategy not merely to support the railwaymen's struggle for justice, but to compel the government to reverse its policies vis-a-vis the trade union rights of the public employees in the country.

8. The meeting notes that even now the Government and the ruling Congress Party keep harping that the railwaymen's struggle was a politically motivated action. It will not suffice to say that this is a politically motivated statement of the Government and of the ruling Congress Party designed to hide the hideousness of the repression let loose on the railwaymen and their families through the BSF, CRPF, SRP, Territorial Army and other para-military and police organisations and anti-social elements enjoying government patronage. Everyone knows that the railway strike was a government imposed strike preceded by treachery and Goebbelian propaganda through the state-owned radio and through a malicious advertising campaign against the railwaymen by gross misuse of public funds. On this context, it may be noted that large sections of NFIR members including many of their leaders participated in the strike thereby endorsing the demands submitted by the NCCRS, even while the dominant leadership of the NFIR was aiding the Government in strike breaking activities. Some of the NFIR black legs went to the extent of accompanying policemen to the residences of the strikers and instigated the police to beat up the womenfolk of the strikers.

9. The meeting demands that the Government immediately

- a) start negotiations with the NCCRS on the railwaymen's demands;
- b) condone the break in service of all railwaymen and other employees of the Central and State Governments;
- c) take back in service all those workmen who have been removed, dismissed or discharged from service;
- d) withdraw all pending warrants, release all arrested persons and withdraw all cases from all courts pending against the railwaymen and others;
- e) stop transfers and other forms of harassment and victimisation; and
- f) withdraw the show cause notices served on

July 21, 1974

Press Release

Resolution adopted at the twoday meeting of Central Trade Union Organisations and National Federations of Labour at New Delhi on July 20 and 21, 1974.

1. The representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations and National Federations of Labour meeting at the invitation of the National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle reviewed the post-strike situation on the railways.

2. The meeting noted that contrary to the public assurances and commitments by the leaders of the Government including the President of India, the Prime Minister, the Railway Minister and the Home Minister in Parliament and outside, repression against railwaymen continues unabated.

3. Over 1.1 million railwaymen have been given a break in service, about 30,000 permanent and 50,000 casual workmen have been dismissed or removed from service, thousands of trade union activists transferred from their work places to distant spots and thus separated from their families, several hundred railwaymen are still in police custody more than seven weeks after the strike was called off, cases are pending in several courts of law against nearly 25,000 railwaymen and others for participating in the strike, and a systematic campaign to harass and brow-beat the railwaymen is on.

4. About 70,000 other Central Government employees who went on strike on May 10 in support of their demands or embarked upon solidarity action in support of the railwaymen, and more than one lakh State Government employees in Maharashtra and in West Bengal who joined the one day general strike in support of railwaymen on May 15 have also been given a break in service. Victimisation including dismissal, suspension and prosecution is also on against these employees and their leadership. Show-cause notices have been given to several unions of Central Government employees for withdrawal of recognition for extending solidarity support to the railwaymen's struggle. Employees in banks and several establishments in the private and public sectors are facing various forms of disciplinary action and court action for going on strike on May 15.

5. The meeting is of the firm view that the attack on the railwaymen is not an accidental deviation but part of a planned attack against the country's working class movement launched by the Congress Government and the employees. It will not be out of place to mention here that the earlier attacks against employees of Indian Airlines where, incidentally, the management still brags about continuing the official lock-out even if the workmen are at work, and against the employees of the Life Insurance Corporation, were but a prelude to the unprecedentedly massive and brutal attack on the railwaymen. Similarly, the earlier action against striking doctors and nurses in Delhi, Engineers and Electricity employees in many parts of the country, teachers in Bihar and elsewhere was nothing but a rehearsal in repression.

PAHARPUR WORKS EMPLOYEES' UNION

Regd. No. 2902

31, PAHARPUR ROAD, CALCUTTA-24.

Ref. No.



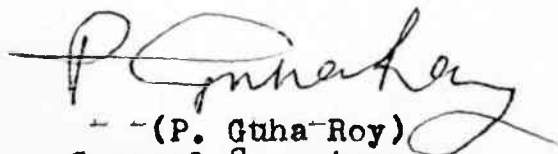
Date 18th June 1974

**RESOLUTION TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF P.W.E.U. IN SUPPORT OF STRUGGLE OF RAILWAY
WORKMEN AND PROTEST NOTE AGAINST THE ANTI LABOUR
ACTIVITIES OF RAILWAY BOARD/RAILWAY MINISTRY.**

Two thousand employees of Paharpur Works (G.E.C) through the executive committee expressing their congratulation for the heroic struggle that they have launched against the Railway Authorities for their just demand.

Employees of Paharpur Works (G.E.C) Calcutta-24 are very deeply concerned about the antilabour activities of Railway Board supported by the Govt. of India. We note with great surprise that even after the unilateral withdrawal, of strike, Govt. of India and Rly. Board are taking serious oppressive major against the Rly. workmen all over India by charge sheeting, suspending, discontinuing of services, even dismissing large number of workmen. We strongly feel that Government should refrain from taking all such oppressive major which we consider as Anti Labour Activities. We also strongly feel Govt. of India has conducted all these oppressive major, those can only be compared with Fascist Nature, which we strongly condemn.

Now we demand that all these oppressive major should be stopped, suspended workmen should be taken into job immediately without break service, all workmen should be released from jail and taken into job with continuation of service. And we request both Ministry of Rly. and Railway Board to start negotiation with N.C.C.R.S. for solution of pending 6 points demand without any further delay. Otherwise workmen in class of India as a whole will once again unitedly stand by the side of Rly. men and launch united struggle against the Antilabour Activities of Govt. of India till they achieve their demands.


-- (P. Guha Roy)
General Secretary
P.W.E.U.

Telegraph Engg. Employees Union Class III

(Federated to N E P T E Union)

AUTO MANNUAL BRANCH, LUDHIANA.

Ref. No...ARTON/3077/174/201

Dated.....13-6-74

RESOLUTION

The All India Telegraphs Engineering Employees Union Class III Auto Branch Ludhiana in their general body meeting held on 10-6-74 under the presidentship of Com. Hans Raj unanimously demands from the Govt. of India immediate removal of victimisation done due to participation in strike and further demands from the Govt. of India to concede to the genuine demands of ~~and~~ Central Govt. (Railway) employees through negotiation.

Chaudhary
(G.P. Kadyap.)
Secy.
3609 Model Gram
Ludhiana

Copy to :- Minister Railway
Chairman Ply. Board.
Prime Minister
The Secy. N.C.C.R.S.

नॉर्दन रेल्वे वर्कर्स यूनियन (रजिस्टर्ड)

NORTHERN RAILWAY WORKERS' UNION (REGD)

AFFILIATED TO ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS (AITUC)

Central office : 65/68, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-5

~~President~~ ~~Secretary~~ ~~General Secretary~~

General Secretary : Shrikrishna

जनरल सेक्रेटरी : श्रीकृष्ण

जनरल सेक्रेटरी : श्रीकृष्ण

Dated: the 20th August, 1974.

To

*all organisations of Railway workers
in Northern Railway zone*

Dear Comrade,

I am reproducing below the resolution passed by the Central Council of the Union on the 12th instant. It will be appreciated if your views regarding activation of NCCRS at all levels on the Northern Railway are communicated to the undersigned at your earliest.

Yours fraternally,

Shrikrishna
(Shrikrishna)
General Secretary.

RESOLUTION.

"The Central Council of the Northern Railway Workers' Union, meeting for the first time after the railway strike of May last, reviewed the strike situation and has come to the painful conclusion that the contribution of the Northern Railway to the historic strike of the railway workers of India, was much below expectation. Though there was unprecedented response to the strike this in Delhi Area this time but it could not continue beyond a week. The strike on the Divisions and in the workshops was not effective except at some selected centres like Bikaner and Jodhpur.

The Central Council firmly believes that the unprecedented response to the strike on an all India level was the result of the unity achieved by the railway workers under the banner of NCCRS. But unfortunately, the NCCRS has not functioned properly on the Northern Railway as a whole. Though NCCRS units were formed at many centres and also on some Divisions but in absence of its proper formation and functioning on the railway as a whole, the impact of united movement is not the desirable extent and in absence of coordination at the zonal level, the enthusiasm for united movement at lower levels is also dwindling. This has resulted in non-implementation of the decisions of the NCCRS meeting held on 26th June, 1974 at Delhi and it has been observed that:-

.....2

(i) there is not activation of NCCRS at all levels.

(ii) the protest week from July 22nd to 28th was not observed under the auspices of NCCRS at many places, including Delhi Area and several participants of NCCRS have been found hesitating to observe the protest week under the fear that this may cause hinderance in the process of reinstatement of those who have been removed from service.

(iii) No convention of NCCRS has been held at any level as per directive of NCCRS and;

(iv) Relief work for the victimised railway workers is also not being undertaken in coordinated manner at various places.

The Central Council feels ~~x~~ strongly that continuation of this kind of apathy towards the NCCRS on the Northern Railway will be very harmful to the cause of railway workers and, therefore, it appeals to all the organisations of railway workers on the Northern Railway to move seriously for effective functioning of the NCCRS at all ~~xxxx~~ levels on the Northern Railway so that the hard won unity of railway workers be strengthened on this railway for the benefit of railway workers and their movement."

4357
21/9/74

President / Convener =
Kamesh
21/9/74
(9)

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

Union Building, Kharida, Kharagpur.

Phone: P&T: 345
Rly: 2787

16 September 1974.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ZONAL CONVENTION OF THE NCCRS HELD AT KHARAGPUR ON SEPTEMBER 16, 1974.

This Convention after detailed review of post strike situation in which found that during the last 3 1/2 months there has been no substantial progress in reinstatement of dismissed, removed, terminated or suspended railwaymen. Despite all assurances given by the Prime Minister, Railway Minister or Home Minister, the Railway administrations have not taken the railwaymen back to duty. The most striking tragedy is that even the advice given by Shri V.V.Giri, the then President of India to reinstate the victimised railwaymen without any break in service turned into cries in the wilderness. On the other hand the victimised railwaymen and the striking railwaymen are being subjected to inhuman humiliation and persecution. The latest position of victimisation in S.E.Railway as on September 12, 1974 is as under :-

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Reinstated</u> | <u>Balance to be reinstated.</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Dismissal/Removal: | 1,563 | 503 | 1,060 |
| Termination: * | 6,213 | 3,056 | 3,157 |
| Suspension: | 1,935 | 1,356 | 579 |

* Termination of employees include those enjoying regular CFC scales of pay after years of service as casual labour and substitutes.

From this account it is evident that reinstatement of permanent staff removed or dismissed in S.E.Railway is only 33%. 80% of the terminated staff are garmen who are only given daily rates of casual labour on reemployment. Thus those who were re-employed not only lost their hard-earned temporary status, but on re-employment they have each suffered an average loss of Rs.140/- per month.

The rest who are yet to be re-instated are facing a bleak uncertainty. The railway administration from top to bottom is using these thousands of dismissed railwaymen to crush the morale of 17.34 lakhs workers of the railway industry, who rose to fight for a just cause in May, 1974.

It is clear from the recent judgment pronounced by the High Court of Calcutta that the Railway administration had applied illegal methods in resorting to large-scale dismissals at a strike of pen. But instead of reconciling to the constitutional propriety, the Railway administration is following a go-slow tactics to cripple the cadres in the midst of starvation for months together. In fact the railwaymen here have traversed a tortuous path during the last 3 1/2 months in which an unprecedented reign of terror has been enforced in all the establishments of this Railway. Non content with such colossal dismissals and break-in-service, the administration is now resorting to large-scale transfers in this Railway particularly in Adra and Bilaspur Divisions. In some cases the dismissed railwaymen are pressurised to quit their railway quarters. On the other hand attempts are being made to set up a hostile camp of "loyal workers" not only through grant of special increments, out of course employment of children and wards and out of course promotions, but a permanent system is being evolved in day-to-day working to set up these non-strikers against the vast majority of railwaymen. One of the striking illustrations of such methods is the booking of the non-striker Running staff cadres in special trips which fetches lucrative running allowances. Reversions of the striking railwaymen have

contd.....

become the order of the day and even the railwaymen empanelled for promotion are being excluded from promotions. On the other hand notices premature retirement on attaining 55 years of age or on completion of 30 years of service, whichever is earlier, are being served on many strikers.

The NCCRS is of the confirmed opinion that the Government of India is pursuing a perilous course in the railway industry by perpetuating this policy of victimisation and harassment of the striking railwaymen. It would be a height of absurdity to conceive of an enduring industrial peace in this life-line of the country on a gaze at the present peace of the burial ground set up by brutal force. This dangerous element will inevitably jeopardise this artery of the production and distribution system of the nation.

This Zonal Convention of the NCCRS therefore requests the Government to take the following steps without further delay :-

1. Re-instatement of all railwaymen dismissed, removed, terminated or suspended from service and those who have been retired before attaining 58 years of age.
2. Cancellation of all transfers and orders of reversions.
3. Withdrawal of Court cases and waiver of sentences.
4. Cancellation of break-in-service.

The NCCRS holds firm conviction that these steps only can generate a new industrial climate in the railways in which the horrible crisis engulfing the biggest transport system can be surmounted only with the cooperation of the railwaymen at large. At the same time the Convention feels that when after agonising waiting for three and half months there is no sign of improvement, hence the NCCRS decides that there is no other alternative than to resort to agitation without further delay. The NCCRS therefore decides to stage HUNGER STRIKE FOR 48 HOURS as the first phase of the movement either by the end of September or the beginning of October, 1974. The actual date will be decided after consultation with the Convenor NCCRS (Delhi). The Zonal Convenor will finally announce the date for the programme latest by Sept. 21, 1974.

This Convention pledges to preserve the unity symbolised by the NCCRS and to repel all attempts to disrupt the NCCRS.

RESOLUTION ON WAGE FREEZE :

Since the railway strike the Govt. has mounted a total attack against the working class to defend the super-profits of the monopoly capital and the entire capitalist order which is now in a deep crisis throughout the capitalist world. The Govt. has come out openly to intensify exploitation of labour and to inflict further hardships on the working class in a situation where sky-rocketing prices are causing terrible devastation in the lives of the millions of toiling masses.

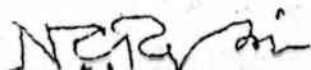
Law enacted in the Parliament to reeze the entire wage rise and 50% rise in Dearness Allowance is designed to enforce a permanent wage freeze in all the sectors and to boost up the capitalists to have a free hand in minting super-profits.

This Convention of the NCCRS voices its strong protest against the wage freeze legalised for the first time in India and calls upon the railwaymen to join the other sections of the working class in a united platform to resist these measures.

No. NCCRS/2

Copy forwarded to all constituents of NCCRS.

Dated 16 Sept. 1974.


(N.C. Roy Choudhuri)
Zonal Convenor, SER.

National Co-Ordination Committee

for
RAILWAY MEN'S STRUGGLE
DEHRI—ON—SONE

Ref. No.

Date... ..

Resolution adopted in the meeting of the railway
employees at Dehri-on-Sone held on 31.8.74.

An emergent meeting of the Railway Men at Dehri-on-Sone was held under the president ship of the convenor of NCCRS-DOS on 31.8.74 at 17 hrs. The sad incidence of 30.8.74 in regard to serious assault on Sri Sheo Prasad AGC-Dalmanagar figured and discussed at length.

The meeting of the Railway men extremely felt aggrieved to note that one of our colleagues has been brutally and ruthlessly beaten by Sri Sita Ram Singh Actg. Head Signaller, his sons and their friends while coming from office to give his statement before GRP-Dehri-on-Sone on 30.8.74 at 17 hrs. Every body in the meeting felt the bare facts that it was a clear act of goondaism and was designed to put to death to Sri Sheo Prasad AGC and create reign of terror for all railway employees at Dehri-on-Sone.

This meeting of the railwaymen, therefore, demands that Sri Sita Ram Singh, Actg. Head Signaller Dehri-on-Sone should be transferred immediately from Dehri-on-Sone to other place.

It was also resolved that since GRP-Dehri-on-Sone has miserably failed to discharge its duties as Sri Sheo Prasad was beaten in the broad day light on the open platform in presence of two GRP constables, their integrity is doubtful and can not be without question.

This meeting, therefore - emphatically urge upon the Civil and Police authorities to transfer the entire existing staff including S.I. etc of GRP-Dehri-on-Sone from here to other place and issue orders for an impartial enquiry of higher police and Civil authorities.

The meeting realised that the reign of terror has been let loose at DOS and the sense of insecurity prevails among the railway employees of this place. Thus, this meeting demands a guarantee of security to all the employees and their family members from Railway Civil and Police authorities.

p.s.r.

In case all these demands are not fulfilled and if there happens anything otherwise, its entire responsibilities will rest with the Railway authorities as well as other authority concerned.

Convener

V. C. Singh
H.C.C.P.S / Mohri-on-Done.

(6)
NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMENS STRUGGLE.

(Eastern Railway):

(E.R.M.U's Cent. Office)

No. PS/NCCRS/74.

23/24, Strand Road-Calcutta.

Dated 22 - 8 - 1974.



To

Dear Comrades,

Re:- Decisions of Zonal Convention
of N.C.C.R.S.

The decisions of the Zonal Convention of the N.C.C.R.S. held at University Institute-Calcutta on 21- 8- 74 from 10/- hrs. to 19/- hrs. are given below for your information and guidance.

Yours Comradely,

(Bimal Dey)

CONVENER/NCCRS.

As/-

The Zonal Convention of the NCCRS (E.Ry) held on 21-8-74 in the University Institute Hall - Calcutta at 10/- hrs. where 394 Delegates attended representing the different constituent organisations of the NCCRS. It was a well-represented Convention where Delegates from Mughalsarai to Ranaghat attended and participated in the deliberation.

Sri Bimal Dey, Convener of the NCCRS (E.Ry) was voted to the Chair.

The meeting observed 2 minutes silence in respect of the departed great souls who lost their lives during the strike viz. Com. V.R.Malgi, Com. Ramaswamy and Com. Dewedi and also the 3 Comrades who committed suicide after the strike in the Eastern Railway in Howrah & Scaldah Division.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously.

Resolution No.1.

This Convention feels that working in the Railways cannot be normalised unless all the strikers, whether permanent, temporary or Casual workers are re-instated and put back to service and normalcy in the Labour relation is restored by opening negotiation with the NCCRS on the Charter of Demand.

Despite assurances of the President of India, Prime Minister and the Railway Minister, the process of reinstatement of Railway workers is very slow and the Railway Administration is pursuing a retaliative policy of vindictiveness at the behest of the Govt. of India by transferring the strikers, compelling them to retire premature, not releasing men from the Jail Custody, suspending them from service and not withdrawing the Court cases filed against the Strikers and also demoting them from the former assignment.

This Convention takes a very serious note of the anarchic attitude of the different Administrative Officials which is far from removing dissatisfaction and sullenness from the minds of the workers and thereby causing deterioration in the Labour management relation to the jeopardy of National Interest.

This meeting feels that unless the NCCRS and the constituent organisations are revitalised through consolidated organisational measures, it will not be possible to get all the measures of victimisation repealed.

Keeping the above circumstances in view this Zonal Convention decides that following phased programme be observed by all the constituent organisations and units of N.C.C.R.S.:-

- (1). Postering for one week starting from 26.8.74 both in the name of constituent organisation & NCCRS vindicating atrocities of the Administration and demanding withdrawal of all penal measures forthwith.
- (2). Distributing Leaflets explaining before Railwaymen and common people for one week starting from 2.9.74 the stand of the NCCRS and the attitude of the Administration.
- (3). Holding Group meetings explaining the stand of NCCRS and the attitude of the Administration for one week from 9.9.74.
- (4). Mass squatting in all major railway stations for 3 days with Posters on 16th, 17th & 18th Sept'74 during day time.
- (5). Observe Solid Dibas and Anti-Victimisation Day on 19-9-74 by organising demonstration before the G.M's Office at 16/- Hr.

Resolution No.2:-

This Convention of Eastern Ry. NCCRS met at University Institute Hall on 21-8-74 expressed its grave concern over the declaration made by the Rly. Minister to increase the fare and freight further excepting the low-rated traffic which will adversely affect the common people in these hard economical crisis. The plea advanced by the Railway Minister that one of the cause of deficit is the after effect of the Rly. Strike is nothing but a misdirection to public. The NCCRS had been always advising the Government to stop the wasteful expenditures and Theft and Concessions allowed to big Capitalists to the tune of two hundred crores in a year which can alone stable the Railway finance. This Convention emphatically declare that the Railwaymen under the leadership of NCCRS will stand for the people if any movement launched against arbitrary increase in Railway fare and freight.

Resolution No.3:-

This Convention of Eastern Rly.- NCCRS painfully deserved that Railway Minister while making statement in the Parliament on re-instatement of victimised Railway employees, failed to regard the advice made by the President- Mr.V.V.Giri who advocated to take all the victimised Railway employees in their job without any break-in-service. The Convention considered that such disregard to the President who is supreme head of the State, is a threat against democracy. This Convention therefore condemns the Government for their vindictive anti-labour attitude. This Convention further demands that the Govt. should come forward and withdraw all penal measures as advised by the President to bring back the normalcy which is essential for the interest of the Country.

Resolution No.4:-

Resolution on Govt.Ordinance of Compulsory
deposit of D. A. & Wage increase.

This Convention of N.C.C.R.S. Eastern Rly. held at University Institute Hall- Calcutta on 21- 8- 74 strongly condemns the recent Govt.Ordinance which requires compulsory deposit of 50%- of all future D.A. & Wage increase. This is nothing but a step forward towards "wage freeze" which policy miserably failed even in an advanced country like U.K.

The real earning of the country's working people has already decreased from 103 to 102 during the period of 1962- 1971. At the present level when the value of a rupee is only 28 paise, even according to the Government, the real earning has further been decreased.

Under the circumstances, the above-mentioned Ordinance can have only one meaning and that is a clear policy of "wage freeze".

This Convention therefore resolves to unite with other sections of working class in order to fight this policy of "wage-freeze" and build up a united movement of all sections of workers in India.

Resolution No.5:-

This Convention held under the auspices of National Co-ordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle(Eastern Railway) at University Institute-Calcutta on 21-8-74 strongly supports the demands of the struggling Pilots of Air India and N.G. O's of Bihar and urges on the concerned authorities to negotiate with the struggling Workers for early settlement of the demands.

.....

Extract of the resolution adopted
by the Workmen's meeting of Barkakana, District
Bazaribagh (Bihar).

This meeting also observed that thirteen removed employees of Barkakana and thirteen removed employees of Patratu, 33 temporary staff (earned temporary status) of Barkakana of C&W Department, three temporary staff of Patratu under CTKR/Patratu, 25 temporary staff (temporary status not earned) of Patratu Diesel-shed, three removed employees of Gomoh, two removed ASMs of Chandrapur and 29 removed employees of Dhanbad have not yet been reinstated till 18.6.74.

This meeting urges upon the Govt. of India Rly. authority concerned to withdraw all cases immediately, pending against Rly. employees relating to the strike on application of DIR, MISA, 107 Cr.PC, violation of 144 Cr.P.C. and the removal and suspension orders, break-in-service and vindictive transfers and to release unconditionally all arrested Rly. employees.

...

RESOLUTION



This meeting of Railwaymen under the banner of N.C.C.R.S., Barkakana held at Tanti na Barkakana on 18.6.74 while observing the 'Anti- Reprression Day', under the presidentship of Sri P.C. Maitra, Convenor, N.C.C.R.S./BARKAKANA observed with deep concern that despite announcements before the public, "There will be no bitterness", "The Railway workers will be treated as members of one family", "There is ~~the~~ no question of the government adopting a vindictive attitude towards Railwaymen who had participated in strike" and there would be no bitterness against those who might have absented themselves from duty --- as made by ~~Smt.~~ Indira ~~Primo~~ Gandhi, Prime Minister, Sri L.H. Mishra, Railway Minister, Sri ~~Gov.~~ Charan Dicit, Home Minister and Sri V.P. Sax Sawney, General Manager, E.Rly. respectively, as a matter of policy, the same has not given effect in its true spirit as announced. On the contrary, it is evident, from the fact of not releasing of thousands of arrested Rly. employees, not allowing the removed rly. employees to resume their duties, suspension order not being withdrawn, non-withdrawal of cases under S.I., N.I.P.A. etc. that vindictive victimisation of rly. men is still continuing as eviction orders are ~~again~~ given afresh to evict their removed employees viz. S/Sri P.C. Maitra and A.K. Saha, Guards under Bardhaman/Barkakana and Jamirai, G.W.P.O./Gomoh from the respective rly. quarters on 9.6.74 and 12.6.74; and a case against S/Sri P.C. Maitra and A.K. Saha, Guards of Barkakana along with other six G.W. workers of Barkakana has been instituted U/S 107 Cr.P.C. on 6.6.74 though sincere efforts are being taken to bring normalcy from the end of organised labour and in the screening, attempts are made with vengeance to "teach the railwaymen a lesson" and harassments are still going strong even after the meeting of all G.Ws. at Delhi, with minister concerned on 13.6.74 and 14.6.74 which caused great resentment among the workers who are still full of fighting spirit and are boiling with indignation.

|| This meeting also observed that thirteen removed employees of Barkakana and thirteen removed employees of Patratu, 33 temporary staff (earned temporary status) of Barkakana of G.W. Department, three temporary staff of Patratu under G.W./Patratu, 25 temporary staff (temporary status not earned) of Patratu Diesel-Shop, three removed employees of Gomoh, two removed ASIs of Chandrapure and 29 removed employees of Dhanbad have not yet been reinstated till 18.6.74.

This meeting urges upon the Govt. of India Rly. authority and Rly. authority concerned to withdraw all cases immediately, pending against rly. employees relating to the strike on application of N.I.P.A., 107 Cr.P.C., violation of 144 Cr.P.C. and the removal and suspension orders, break-in-service and vindictive transfers and to release unconditionally all arrested rly. employees. ||

This meeting further observed that several hundreds central govt. employees belonging to P.T., Accounts, Income Tax, Audit, Defence etc. are being victimised by the Govt. of India through serving of dismissal orders and terminating the services of the temporary staff after withdrawal of the rly. strike due participation in the all India strike from 19.5.74 in support of ~~the~~ the rly. employees' struggle.

This meeting of rly. men under the auspices of NCCRS of Barkakana condemns the orders of dismissals and termination of services thrust upon them.

contd. from.....

This meeting demands that the Govt. should immediately start start negotiation with the Action Committee of NCCRS as assured, to settle the disputed issues out of six-point demands and restore all democratic functionings and TU rights, instead of its attitudes of taking the course onslaught on the Central Govt. Staff Employees in general and the rlymen in particular fighting for their legitimate ~~and~~ economic demands, so that peace may exist in the Public Sector Enterprises including the Rail.-ways in the interest of achieving the aim of the best desired production.

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

No. PS/74.

::::: Barkakana, Dated 10th June '74

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
2. The Convenor, United Council of Trade Unions, Bihar, Patna.
3. ~~The~~ Com. George Fernandes, Convenor, NCCRS(Centre) & President, All India Railwaymen's Federation, 125-E, Babar Road, New Delhi-1.
4. The Editor, _____
for favour publication please.

Yours sincerely,

George Fernandes
(G. C. Roitra)
CONVENOR,

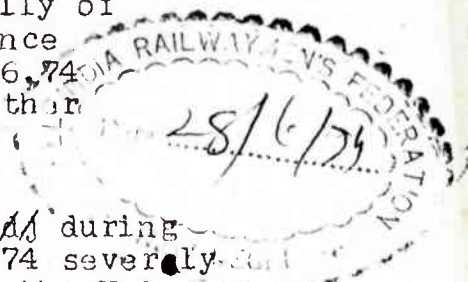
ROCKS/BARKAKANA.(E. Railway).

&

Branch Secretary,
Eastern Railwaymen's Union,
Barkakana (P.O.)
Hazaribagh (Dist.)
Bihar.

UNITED COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS
GENERAL SECRETARIAT
PATNA-4.

Copy of resolution adopted in the Mass Rally of Employees' and workers held during observance of "Anti-Repression Day" at Patna, on 18.6.74 against the victimisation of Railway and other Central Employees:



This Mass Rally of the Employees and workers held during observance of "Anti-Repression Day" at Patna, on 18.6.74 severely condemns the unparalleled victimisation resorted to by the Union Government on the Railway workers who made history in conducting the glorious strike struggle. Press reports show that summary dismissal and suspension orders have been served on nearly a lac of workers, the break-in-service of more than 2 lacs of employees/workers have been ordered and over 50,000 have been arrested. The Home Ministry's circular issued to States directs the Divisional Managers to screen the arrested employees before their release.

In addition, more than a thousand employees in the P & T, Audit, Income Tax and other Central Services have been either dismissed, suspended or served with notices for going on strike for their own demands, and for solidarity action.

2. The rally, while expressing its great indignation over the aforesaid savage victimisation which is continuing inspite of public declarations of the President V.V.Giri to down Railway minister Mr. L.N. Mishra during withdrawal of the strike to the effect that "the railway employees would be treated as members of one family and the Government would treat them as parents treat their misguided children etc., "the withdrawal of the strike would greatly help to creat a better climate and better understanding" as per President Giri version, and "there should be no bitterness or ill-will at the aftermath of the strike" in the words of Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, declares that it is nothing but completely exposes the hypocrisy of the Government leaders.

The rally warns the Government that bitterness created by this massive victimisation on top of the Government's unheard of brutalities on the striking workers and their families during the strike will not lead to a smooth working of the railways and the Government alone will be responsible for it.

3. The rally further notes that the Government having brought the economy of the country to an ever-deepening crisis on account of its continued pro-monopolist and pro-landlord policy in the country to safeguard the interests of both foreign and Indian monopolists, landlords, whole-salers and speculators, it faces an embittered and indignant people. And when this indignation burst out in mass actions, the Government deals with them also with heavy hands as in the case of organised working class in the hope that it would be able to stem the rising tide of mass struggles of the suffering people against its anti-people policies.

4. Under the circumstances, the rally declares that the fight against this victimisation of the railway and Central Government employees is, therefore, the common struggle of the entire working class and of the entire people. The rally appeals to all trade unions and democratic mass organisations forces to carry on sustained campaign against victimisation.

UCIU/74

Dated at Patna, 19.6.1974.

Copy for favour of information and record to:-

P.T.O.

- 1) Sri V.V.Giri, President of India, New Delhi-1
- 2) Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, New Delhi-1
- 3) Shri Lelit Narain Mishra, Union Minister for Railways, New Delhi-1.
- ✓ 4) Com. George Fernandes, Convenor, NCCRS, 125, E, Babar Road, New Delhi-1.

Hari Krishna
(HARI KRISHNA)
CONVENOR

Copy to:

- 1) All constituent units of Bihar State Committee of UCTU.
- 2) All Central/State Govt. Employees Unions, and Sister Unions, in Bihar, for information. They are requested to take an appropriate steps at respective levels to help arrange sustained campaign against the victimisation.

Hari Krishna
(HARI KRISHNA)
CONVENOR

Gram: RAILWAYMEN

Phone : 40947

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
FOR
RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125/E, Babar Road, New Delhi.

To
All participants/organisations
of the NCCRS.

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed are the resolutions adopted by the full meeting of the NCCRS held in New Delhi on June 26.

I would particularly draw your attention to the various steps that have been suggested to further the struggle of the railwaymen. I hope you are doing everything necessary to implement the various recommendations contained in the Resolutions.

The meeting of the Central Organisations and National Federations of Labour has been convened on July 20 and 21. We are proposing that there should be a total non-cooperation by all sections of organised labour against the Government. I am sure that the Central Organisations will not hesitate to take this decision.

Parliament opens on July 22 for a six-week session. Naturally, the railwaymen's problems will figure prominently in the ensuing session. Enclosed is the text of the resolution adopted by the Socialist Party's National Committee in Delhi at its meeting from June 27 to 30, 1974. The Socialist Party is in touch with all other political parties to organise an effective non-cooperation movement with the Govt. in Parliament and outside. The Socialist Party is also considering a proposal to organise a nationwide "Satyagrah" on the issue of railwaymen's victimisation.

The Action Committee will soon be meeting to discuss the immediate steps to be taken on the issue of victimisation, etc. The meeting will also consider plans for holding the National Convention of Railwaymen on August 26, 1974.

I hope you are doing everything possible to strengthen the unity of railwaymen. I am aware of the misunderstandings and frictions which keep developing at various levels when we are engaged in the kind of a joint action that the NCCRS is adopting. But we must do everything within our power to overcome these little problems and to maintain the unity we have built at such a great sacrifice.

With greetings,

Encl: as above.

Yours fraternally,

George Fernandes
George Fernandes
Convener.

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
FOR
RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125/E, Laxar Road, New Delhi.

NCCRS/1/74

July 1, 1974.

To
All the participants/organisations
of the NCCRS

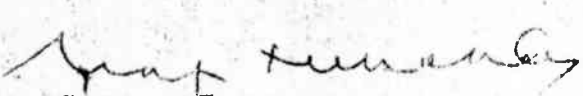
Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter by Shri
Madhu Limaye, M.P., to the Railway Minister, addressed
on June 15, 1974. This is sent to keep you informed
of some of the developments.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Encl: as above.


George Fernandes
Convener

Gram: RAILWAYMEN

Phone : 40947

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
FOR
RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

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With greetings,

Encl: as above.

Yours fraternally,


George Fernandes
Convener.

Phone : 40947

Grams : RAILWAYMEN.

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125-B, Babar Road,
New Delhi-110001

Ref. No. NCCRS/77-

July 1, 1977

R E S O L U T I O N

The NCCRS salutes the memory of the martyrs of the railwaymen's struggle, Coms. V.R. Malgi, Sripal Dwivedi and Ramaswamy.

Their supreme sacrifice in the cause of the railwaymen will forever inspire the struggling workers and other masses in their quest for justice.

The NCCRS sends its sincere condolences to the families of these brave comrades.

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

Resolution adopted at the NCCRS
meeting held on June 26, 1974.

The NCCRS salutes the railwaymen for successfully fighting the biggest ever struggle in the history of the working class movement in India. The unity, determination and courage displayed by railwaymen and their families in the course of their struggle and against the police brutalities and the coercive weapons used by the Government will stand out as a shining example to workers all over the world in their movement against injustice. The NCCRS greets all those who stood by the Railwaymen during their heroic struggle even when the railway strike meant so much inconvenience to them. and pledges that the railwaymen will repay their debt of gratitude by forever staying in the vanguard of peoples struggles for justice.

Never in the history of the working class struggles in India have workmen faced repression like what was unleashed by the Government against railwaymen.

More than 50000 workers were illegally arrested and detained without trial; nearly 30000 thrown out of their houses with bag and baggage and with their helpless wives and innocent children; women raped by the minions of law and order; a Goebbellian propaganda war against railwaymen carried through the State-owned radio, and television network; newspaper advertisements inserted with money from the public exchequer to defame and deride the railwaymen and their leadership; a campaign of lies, slander and perfidy of an unprecedentedly low level; use of the Army, Border Security Force, Territorial Army, Special Reserve Police, Central Reserve Police and other organs of State power buttressed with the most indiscriminate use of the draconian laws like Maintenance of Internal Security Act and the war-time Defence of India Rules; marching the workers to their work places at bayonet point; non-payment of their earned wages in order to literally starve the workers into submission - these were the methods used by the Govt. to meet the just and legitimate demands of the railwaymen. The resoluteness with which the railwaymen and their wives and children faced this terror and fought for their rights is a saga that must have few parallels in the annals of the working class and democratic movements anywhere in the world.

During the strike and immediately after it was called off, the President, the Prime Minister, the Railway Minister and the Home Minister had emphatically declared on more than one occasion, that there would be no victimisation of workmen for participating in the strike and that negotiations would be resumed with the representatives of the railwaymen in order to arrive at a settlement on their demands.

Though it is now more than four weeks since the Action Committee of the NCCRS unilaterally called off the strike, it is a pity that the Railway Administration should have chosen to pursue a course that is designed to keep alive the State of confrontation with railwaymen.

In the last four weeks, the railway administration has resorted to victimisation and provocation which is not only in clear breach of its earlier utterances but appears to be in keeping with its behaviour during the strike.

It has given a break-in-service to about 10 lakhs of permanent railwaymen, and all these employees are now being

Nearly 30000 permanent workmen have been either removed or dismissed from service for participating in the strike.

About 50000 casual and substitute workmen have not been taken back on work, though most of these men have been working for periods ranging from five years to twenty years.

Over 20000 workmen are being prosecuted under the Defence of India Rules for participating in the strike, and railway and State Government authorities are seeking summary trials and criminal conviction of these workmen.

Railwaymen are being transferred from one unit to another and from one division to another, and in the process not only are they being separated from their families, but they are being compelled to run two establishments on the pittance that is their salary. There have been innumerable reversions and forced premature superannuation of railwaymen. Unilateral changes in working conditions have been introduced to harass and brow-beat the workmen.

The so-called loyal workers who are otherwise known as black-legs and scabs have been rewarded with special increments, irregular promotions, preferential treatment in matters of promotions, appointment of their children, allotment of quarters etc. creating in the process a state of permanent tension between workmen and workmen.

The consequences of the suicidal course followed by the railway administration are there for all to see. Almost a month after the strike was called off, there is still no normalcy in the running of rail services, what to speak of normalcy in management-employee relationships. The Economic Times of June 25 was to report that "even nearly one month after the withdrawal of the railwaymen's strike, passenger and goods services on the Northern, Eastern and North Eastern Railways have not come to normal: More than 200 passenger trains - mostly serving the muffsil areas - remain cancelled on these three railways and wagon loading, in general, has been running 20 to 25 percent lower than what obtained before April 27, when first cancellation of trains were ordered". What is true of the Northern and North Eastern railways is true in a larger degree of all other zonal railways in the country.

NCCRS warns the railway administration that there will be no return to normalcy on the railways unless the administration changes its ways and restores normalcy in its relations with the railwaymen. It would do well to realise that the unilateral withdrawal of the strike by the NCCRS Action Committee does not mean that the railwaymen have either given up their demands or have accepted defeat. The localised actions that have taken place during the last four weeks in Bombay, Ajmer, Madras ICF, Narkatiaganj, Samastipur, Tughlakhabad and other centres as also the decision of the Southern Railway NCCRS calling for another strike on any day after July 12 are indicative of the mood and temper of the workers which the railway administration can ignore at its own peril. The meeting hereby demands that the government and the railway administration take immediate steps to release all those arrested in connection with the strike, withdraw all pending warrants and all cases in connection with the strike, and all acts of victimisation and resume negotiations with the NCCRS on the demands of the railwaymen. Only then will it be possible to restore normalcy and build

a new relationship so that the biggest and the most important sector of our national economy functions at optimum efficiency in the larger interests of the nation.

The NCCRS calls upon the railwaymen to preserve and strengthen the unity they have achieved during the days of the great struggle. Railwaymen should particularly guard against the efforts made by their enemies to divide and split their ranks. Most demands of the railwaymen are yet to be won and the problems of victimisation have to be tackled. In such a situation any move from any quarter to sow dissensions in the ranks of railwaymen and undermine their unity will only mean strengthening the hands of the railway administration in its mad desire to suppress the workmen. The NCCRS hereby calls upon all railwaymen to (1) activate the NCCRS at all levels and to constitute its committees where they may not yet have been set up and rid those committees of strike breakers; (2) to hold conventions of railwaymen at all levels under the auspices of the NCCRS; (3) to observe a Protest Week from July 22 to 28 against repression by holding rallies, demonstrations, organising dharnas, wearing badges etc. and to demand a negotiated settlement on the charter of demands; and (4) to take all steps at every level to provide relief to workmen who have become victims of the railway administration's repressive, anti-trade union moves.

The meeting resolves to call a National Convention of Railwaymen on August 26 in New Delhi to decide on the future course of action. In the meanwhile, it calls upon the railwaymen to do all in their power at every level to fight against victimisation in all its forms.

Handwritten notes: Hiching P. ... 16/7/74 ...

The meeting appeals to the organised trade union movement in India to render financial and other help to the NCCRS to provide much needed relief to the victimised workmen and their families. The NCCRS thanks the International Trade Union organisations for their fraternal support and solidarity during the struggle, and seeks their continued moral and material support in dealing with the new situation.

In the opinion of the NCCRS the Government's ruthlessness in dealing with the railwaymen's dispute, on wages, bonus etc. and its breach of faith in the days following the withdrawal of the strike area a challenge to the entire working class movement in India, and it is, therefore, imperative that there is a united response by all organised sections of the working people against this challenge. To plan this united response of the working people against the government's offensive, the meeting resolves to unite all Central organisations and national federations of labour to a conference in New Delhi on July 20 and 21.

With the railwaymen's strike, a new era has opened up before the working class movement in India. The nation-wide strike action on May 15 by the trade unions in support of the railwaymen was a demonstration of the new unity of purpose and action that is emerging. It is necessary to consolidate this unity and to move forward, learning from the mistakes of the past and determined to avoid the pitfalls in the future. The NCCRS pledges to do everything within its power to spearhead the movement, to forge the fighting unity of the working classes and the toiling masses in the country, transcending all divisions based on any consideration.

National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle

New Delhi

June 26, 1974

Draft Resolution

The NCCRS Salutes The Railwaymen for successfully fighting the biggest ever struggle in the history of the working class movement in India. The unity, determination and courage displayed by railwaymen and their families in the course of their struggle and against the police brutalities and the coercive weapons used by the government will stand out as a shining example to workers all over the world in their movement against injustice. The NCCRS greets all those who stood by the Railwaymen during their heroic struggle and pledges that the railwaymen will repay their debt of gratitude by forever staying in the vanguard of peoples struggle for justice.

Never in the history of the working class struggles in India have workmen faced repression like what was unleashed by the Government against railwaymen.

More than 50000 workers were illegally arrested and detained without trial; nearly 30000 thrown out of their houses with bag and baggage and with their helpless ~~xx~~ wives and innocent children; women ~~px~~ raped by the minions of law and order; a Goebblian propagand war against railwaymen carried through the state-owned radio, and television network; newspaper advertisements inserted with money from the public exchequer to defame and deride the railwaymen and their leadership; a campaign of lies, slander and perfidy of an unprecedentedly low level; use of the Army, Border Security force, Territorial Army, Special Reserve Police, Central Reserve Police and other organs of state power buttressed with the most indiscriminate use of the draconian laws like Maintenance of Internal Security Act and the war-time Defence of India Rules; marching the workers to their work places at bayonet point; nonpayment of their earned wages in order to literally starve the workers into submission - these were the methods used by the Govt. to meet the just and legitimate demands of the railwaymen. The resoluteness with which the railwaymen and their wives and children faced this terror and fought for their rights is a saga that must have few parallels in the annals of the working class and democratic movements anywhere in the world.

During the strike and immediately after it was called off, the President, ~~xxx~~ the Prime Minister, the Railway Minister and the Home Minister had emphatically declared on more than one occasion, that there would be no victimisation of workmen for participating in the strike and that negotiations would be resumed with the representatives of the railwaymen in order to arrive at a settlement on their demands.

Though it is now more than four weeks since the Action Committee of the NCCRS unilaterally called off the strike, it is a pity that the Railway Administration should have chosen to pursue a course that is designed to keep alive the state of confrontation with railwaymen.

In the last four weeks, the Railway administration has resorted to victimisation and provocation which is not only in clear ~~xxxx~~ breach of its earlier utterances but appears to be in keeping with its behaviour during the strike.

It has given a break-in-service to about 10 lakhs of permanent railwaymen, and all these employees are now being treated as new recruits.

Nearly 30000 permanent workmen have been either removed or dismissed from service for participating in the strike.

About 50000 casual and substitute workmen have not been taken back on work, though most of these men have been working for periods ranging from five years to twenty years.

Over 20000 workmen are being prosecuted under the Defence of India Rules for participating in the strike, and Railway and State Government authorities are seeking summary trials and criminal conviction of these workmen.

Railwaymen are being transferred from one unit to another and from one division to another, and in the process not only are they being separated from their families, but they are being compelled to run two establishments on the pittance that is their salary. Unilateral changes in working conditions have been introduced to harass and brow-beat the workmen.

The so-called loyal workers who are otherwise known as black-legs and scabs have been rewarded with special increments, irregular promotions etc. creating in the process a state of permanent tension between workmen and workmen.

The consequences of the suicidal course followed by the Railway administration are there for all to see. Almost a month after the strike was called off, there is still no normalcy in the running of rail services, what to speak of normalcy in management-employee relationships. The Economic Times of June 25 was to report that "even nearly one month after the withdrawal of the railwaymen's strike, passenger and goods services on the Northern, Eastern and North Eastern Railways have not come to normal: More than 200 passenger trains - mostly serving the mufsil areas - remain cancelled on these three railways and wagon loading, in general, has been running 20 to 25 percent lower than what obtained before April 27, when first cancellation of trains were ordered". What is true of the Northern, Eastern and North Eastern railways is true in a larger degree of all other zonal railways in the country.

The NCCRS warns the Railway Administration that there will be no return to normalcy on the railways unless the administration changes its ways and restores normalcy in its relations with the railwaymen. It would do well to realise that the unilateral withdrawal of the strike by the NCCRS Action Committee does not mean that the railwaymen have either given up their demands or have accepted defeat. The localised actions that have taken place during the last four weeks in Bombay, Ajmer, Madras ICF, Shoranur and other centres is indicative of the mood and temper of the workmen which the railway administration can ignore at its own peril. The Southern Railway NCCRS has adopted a resolution calling for another strike on any day after July 12. The meeting hereby demands that the government and the railway administration take immediate steps to release all those arrested in connection with the strike, withdraw all pending warrants and all cases in connection with the strike, and all acts of victimisation and resume negotiations with the NCCRS on the demands of the railwaymen.

The NCCRS calls upon the railwaymen to preserve and strengthen the unity they have achieved during the days of the great struggle. Railwaymen should particularly guard against the efforts made by their enemies to divide and split their ranks. Most demands of the railwaymen are yet to be won and the problems of victimisation have to be tackled. In such a situation any move from any quarter to sow dissensions in the ranks of railwaymen and undermine their unity will only mean strengthening the hands of the railway administration in its mad desire to suppress the workmen. The NCCRS hereby calls upon all railwaymen to (1) activate the NCCRS at all levels and to constitute its committees where they may not yet have been set up and rid those committees of strike breakers; (2) to hold conventions of railwaymen at all levels under the auspices of the NCCRS; (3) to observe a Protest week from July 22 to 28 against repression by holding rallies, demonstrations, organising dharnas, wearing badges etc. and (4) to take all steps at every level to provide relief to workmen who have become victims of the railway administration's repressive, anti-trade union moves.

The meeting resolves to call a National Convention of Railwaymen on August 26 in New Delhi to decide on the future course of action. In the meanwhile, it calls upon the railwaymen to do all in their power at every level to fight against victimisation in all its forms.

The meeting appeals to the organised trade union movement in India to render financial and other help to the NCCRS to provide much needed relief to the victimised workmen and their families. The NCCRS thanks the International trade union organisations for their fraternal support and solidarity during the struggle, and seeks their continued moral and material support in dealing with the new situation.

In the opinion of the NCCRS the government's ruthlessness in dealing with the railwaymen's dispute, on wages, bonus etc. and its breach of faith in the days following the withdrawal of the strike are a challenge to the entire working class movement in India, and it is, therefore, imperative that there is a united response by all organised sections of the working people against this challenge. To plan this united response of the working people against the government's offensive, the meeting resolves to unite all Central organisations and national federations of labour to a conference in New Delhi on July 20 and 21.

With the railwaymen's strike, a new era has opened up before the working class movement in India. The Nation-wide strike action on May 15 by the trade unions in support of the railwaymen was a demonstration of the new unity of purpose and action that is emerging. It is necessary to consolidate this unity and to move forward, learning from the mistakes of the past and determined to avoid the pitfalls in the future. The NCCRS pledges to do everything within its power to spearhead the movement, to forge the fighting unity of the working classes and the toiling masses in the country, transcending all divisions based on any consideration.

RESOLUTION

"The emergent working committee meeting of the "Carriage and Wagon Staff Council, Eastern Railway reviewed the situation just after called off the Railwaymen strike from 6 hrs. of 23.5.74 by the majority members of Action Committee of the N.C.C.R.S./New Delhi.

The meeting condemned the activities of the Action Committee NCCRS/New Delhi to called off the strike when other 4 members of the Action Committee was available at New Delhi either at jail or out side, for their opinion. The meeting seriously noted that a large number of the Railwaymen are still lying at jail and under court cases, and a maximum number of Railwaymen has been removed, discharged, dismissed from their service. The meeting requested to NCCRS/New Delhi and NCCRS/Eastern Railway to makeout a constructive programme to revoke the victim persons at an early period.

The meeting suggested to the NCCRS/New Delhi to implement an active programme as like as "WORK TO RULE" and "WORK TO DESIGNATION" movement all over India at a suitable early period to reinstatement of the victim persons and fulfillment of 6 point demands."

From:- Sri A. K. Dutta,
General Secretary,
C&W.S.C./Eastern Railway,
10, Priya Nath Ghose Street,
Calcutta-56.

CARRIAGE & WAGON STAFF COUNCIL
EASTERN RAILWAY

REGD. NO. 6369.

C/O. CARRIAGE FOREMAN. E. RLY.
CHITPUR, CAL-37.

No..... Dated.....197.....

To
The Convener,
NCCRS/New Delhi,
125/E, Babar Road,
New Delhi.

Comrade,

I am forwarding the Resolution adopted in the Emergent "Working Committee Meeting" of the Carriage & Wagon Staff Council/Eastern Railway held on 4th June '74 at Calcutta for discussion the same in the NCCRS meeting and its consideration.

A list of C&W workers who were discharged/removed/dismissed from service is also forwarded to yours for your disposal as per as collected.

It may please be noted that the enclosed list is incomplete and full list of the above persons will be submitted to yours as early as possible.

Comradely Yours,

General Secretary.

Phone: 40947

Grams: Railmen

ALL INDIA RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION

125-E, Babar Road,
New Delhi-110001.

Ref:
AIRF/89

July 21, 1977

The General Secretaries of all affiliated Unions &
Members of the Working Committee / A.I.R.F.

Dear Comrades,

Reg: Working Committee meeting of the A.I.R.F. to be
held in New Delhi from August 12 to 14th, 1977.

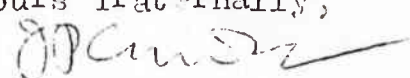
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Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Working
Committee of the A.I.R.F. will be held at New Delhi, in the
Federation Office from August 12 to August 14, 1977, to discuss
the following agenda: Comrade George Fernandes, Union Minister
for Industries will address the meeting.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Working
Committee meeting.
2. Progress in the matter of reinstatement of employees
and vacation of other forms of penal action in the
context of the May 1974 strike.
3. Organisational Matters :-
 - (a) Affairs of South Eastern Railmen's Union.
 - (b) Organisation of other affiliated unions.
 - (c) Formation of Industrial Councils.
4. Accounts and payment of affiliation fees.
5. A.I.R.F.'s Annual Convention to be held from 9th
September to 11th Sept.'77, at Madurai (S.Railway).
6. Any other matter with the permission of Chair.

The Railway Board has been advised to grant special leave
and passes for members to attend this meeting. The Station Supt.,
New Delhi Station has also been requested to make reservations of
beds in Dormitories and Retiring Rooms, on usual payment. You
are requested to kindly attend the meeting.

Yours fraternally,


(J.P. Chaubey)
General Secretary

rn*

Action Committee of the
NCCRS met on 7-6-1974
at 4.00 pm.

cc 15/1/74

Present:

1. J. P. Kumar
2. S. S. Kulkarni
3. P. S. Kulkarni
4. S. S. Kulkarni
5. S. S. Kulkarni (BRMS)

NCCRS

- NCCRS meeting: 26th June full day starting 10.00 am
discuss reports on the strike situation,
victimisation etc. June
- Action Committee: 25th June 10 am.
- Anti-Victimisation Day: 18th June
- negotiations from the point where
they ceased on April 30.
Revenue talks, ~~as~~ as stated in
Rajya Sabha. PM's statement on
talks. & on victimisation.
- 8-7 meet LNM and discuss
victimisation, negotiations etc.

Action Committee. 7/6.

Contd. 2.

collecting on 16th. One ~~man~~ ^{representative}
from each organization with
proper credentials.

Legal aid & help to the needy workers.

~~Relief Collection~~: On some
railways, done together. This is a
welcome ^{step}. It should be
done at all levels on
all railways.

Next meeting of Action
Committee on 10th at 4-00pm.

Gram: RAILWAYMEN

Phone: 40947

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

Convenor:

George Fernandes

125-E, Baber Road,
New Delhi.

No. NCCRS/1/74

Dated June 7, 1974

To

All participant Unions and
Associations.

The Action Committee of the National Co-ordination Committee met on 7-6-1974 at 4.00 P.M.

Present

1. George Fernandes
2. Shri Samar Mukherjee
3. Shrimati Parvati Krishnan
4. Shri Sri Krishna
5. Shri G.D. Sohany

It was decided to convene a full meeting of the NCCRS on June 26 in New Delhi. Every participating union/Association will depute only ONE delegate and he will come with proper credentials from his organisation.

2. All units of the NCCRS will send reports of the strike and its aftermath at the earliest to the NCCRS headquarters, in any case before the meeting of 26th June.

3. The Action Committee will meet on June 25, to finalise the agenda etc. for the 26th meeting.

4. It has been decided to observe an Anti-Victimisation Day all over the country on June 18. Meetings, demonstrations, dharnas and other forms of protest will be organised by all units of the NCCRS. Help and cooperation of other fraternal bodies will be sought.

5. It was decided that the Convenor will write to the Railway Minister seeking immediate negotiations on the Demands from the point they ended on April 30.

6. It was decided that the Convenor will seek a meeting with the Railway Minister and discuss with him problems of victimisation etc.

7. The Committee noted with satisfaction the initiative taken by various units of the NCCRS to provide legal aid and other assistance to the victimised workmen. It hoped that all units of the NCCRS will take the necessary steps in this regard.

8. The next meeting of the Action Committee will be held on June 10 at 4.00 p.m.

George Fernandes
George Fernandes