

AIRF

## All India Railwaymen's Federation

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



January 25, 1974.

PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY GEORGE FERNANDES,  
PRESIDENT, ALL INDIA RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION.

\*\*\*

The two-day meeting of the representatives of various category-wise organisations on the Railways convened by the All India Railwaymen's Federation ended today with the participants issuing a Declaration (copy enclosed).

The meeting was the most significant gathering of leaders of railwaymen and the decisions it took will have a far-reaching impact on the forthcoming struggle of railwaymen.

The General Council of the All India Railwaymen's Federation is meeting in Nagpur on February 6 and 7. The General Council will take stock of the preparations made by railwaymen all over the country for the general strike on their five-point charter of demands and also take decisions on the future course of action.

Encl: as above.

*George Fernandes*  
 George Fernandes

To  
 The News Editor,  
New Delhi.

DECLARATION ADOPTED AT THE MEETING  
OF REPRESENTATIVES OF RAILWAYMEN'S  
UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS HELD AT  
NEW DELHI ON JANUARY 24 AND 25, 1974.

\*\*\*\*\*

Representatives of railwaymen's union and associations (list appended) participated in a two-day meeting convened by the All India Railwaymen's Federation. Mr. George Fernandes, President of the AIRF Presided over the meeting.

The meeting while reiterating the Declaration adopted at the earlier meeting of railwaymen's Unions held on December, 26 and 27, noted with deep concern the failure of the Railway Administration to concede the vital demands of the railwaymen relating to job evaluation, reclassification and regradation; immediate parity in wages with public sector undertakings; Dearness Allowance linked to the cost of living index; Bonus; Decasualisation of casual workmen; and supply of adequate foodgrains at subsidised rates. The only conclusion to be drawn from the attitude of the Railway Administration to these legitimate demands of the railwaymen is that the Administration is desirous of a confrontation with the railwaymen for reasons best known to itself.

The Railwaymen do not have words strong enough to express their anger and resentment at the public statement recently made in Calcutta by the Railway Minister, Mr. Lalit Narain Mishra, that railwaymen could not be paid Bonus because they numbered 27 lakhs. Though this is the most absurd argument that must have ever been expressed by any employer to deny a legitimate demands of the workers, the Railwaymen would urge the Railway Minister to give a break-down of the figures of employment in the Railways cited by him. According to the Railway Establishment Schedule, the total number of temporary and permanent railwaymen is a little under 15,00,000 and the casual worker number about 5,00,000, making a total of about 20,00,000 railwaymen. If transport workers in various sectors including the State Transport systems are paid bonus, there is no earthly why railwaymen should be denied this minimum benefit.

The meeting called upon railwaymen belonging to all organisations to take immediate steps to ready themselves for action to achieve their minimum demands. As an important prelude to the now inevitable struggle, the meeting decided that the AIRF convene a broad-based convention of representatives of all railwaymen's Unions and Associations, irrespective of their status or affiliation in New Delhi to forge the unity for action and to serve a united ultimatum on the Railways for an indefinite strike in joint form. The participated organisations suggested that the convention be held on February, 27.

The meeting welcomed the decision of the AIRF to convene a Convention of all Central Govt. Employees Organisations and Central Organisations of Labour in pursuance of the decision of its Secunderabad Conference.

There is no denying that only through a massive struggle and the willingness to make every kind of sacrifice will the railwaymen be able to win their just demands. The Government and the Railway Administration will resort to every repressive measure to prevent the railwaymen from achieving their demands. They can also be trusted to create dissensions among the ranks of the railwaymen and to try their best to keep the workers divided. Railwaymen must guard against all the negative and disruptive moves of the Government and in the coming days do all that is within their power to create a new sense of unity of purpose and action. The meeting gives a clarion call to all railwaymen to be prepared to make the greatest of sacrifices in the fight for their rights.

...

Appendix : List of Participants

LIST OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RAILWAYMEN'S  
UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE  
HELD ON 24th and 25th JANUARY, 1974.

<u>Name of the representative.</u>	<u>Organisation.</u>
1. Shri S.M. Dhar.	Jt. Secretary General, All India Loco Running Staff Association,
2. Shri H.S. Choudhary,	General Secretary, All India Loco Running Staff Association, Western Railway.
3. Shri H.S. Bawa,	Zonal Secretary, All India Railway Technical Supervisors Association.
4. Shri B.L. Saxena.	Vice Chairman, All India Railway Telegraph Staff Council.
5. Shri S.P. Sharma,	Treasurer, All India Railway Technical Supervisors Association.
6. Shri J.P. Banerjee.	Member, Central General Body, All India Railway Technical Staff Supervisors Association.
7. Shri Shiv Vishal Singh,	Railwaymen's Labour Union, Western Railway.
8. Shri J.L. Luthra,	Working Chairman, Steering Committee, Baroda House.
9. Shri S.H. Paul.	Working President, All India Railway Technical Supervisors Association.
10. Shri L.S. Rao.	Member, All India Rly. Technical Supervisors Association.
11. Shri R.P. Gupta.	Northern Rly. Civil Engineering Works, Staff Association.
12. Shri V.P. Trivedi,	Divisional Secretary, All India Guards Council, Lucknow.
13. Shri M.R. Saini,	Divl. Secretary, All India Guards Council, Delhi.
14. Shri Mohammed Hassan	Executive President, All India Trains Clerks Association.
15. Shri S.S. Ahuja.	Office Secretary, All India Guard's Council,
16. Shri P.C. Choudhary,	Jt. General Secretary, All India Rly. Technical Supervisors Association.



17. Shri A.C. Sarkar. President,  
Eastern Railway Technical  
Supervisors Association.
18. Shri S.S. Verma. Asstt. General Secretary,  
All India Station Master's  
Association.
19. Shri S.K. Saxena. Divisional Secretary, All  
India Station Master's Asso-  
ciation, Moradabad.
20. Shri R.A. Mittal. All India Trains Examiners  
Association.
21. Shri H.L. Kapoor. General Secretary,  
All India Trains Examiners  
Association (North Zone).
22. Shri I.P. Ranjan. Office Secretary,  
All India T.X.Rs Association  
(North Zone).
23. Shri H.K. Pandey. Working President,  
I.Rly., Civil Engineering  
Way and Works Staff Association.
24. Shri Jagdish Prasad. Organising Secretary,  
Indian Railway Permanent Way  
Staff Association,
25. Shri Harchandan Singh. Jt. General Secretary,  
Indian Rly. Technical Supervisors  
Association.
26. Shri J.M. Roy. Sr. Vice President,  
Indian Rly. Inspectors Staff  
Association.
27. Shri I.H. Khgr. Genl. Secretary, All India  
Railway Telegraph Staff Council.
28. Shri J.C. Sindhi. General Secretary,  
All India Rly. Technical Supervisors  
Association.
29. Shri B.B. Srivastava. Jt. General Secretary,  
All India Claims/Commercial  
Inspectorate Staff Council.
30. Shri R.K. Malik. Asstt. Secretary,  
R.D.S.O., Karam Cheri Sangh.
31. Shri A.L. Srivastava. -do- -do-
32. Shri M.M. Verma. All India Commercial and Claims  
Inspectorate Staff Council.

33. Shri Inderjit Singh. Divl. Secretary,  
Northern Rly. Supervisors Committee.
34. Shri M.L. Bazaz. Vice-President. -do-
35. Shri B. Prasad. Driver, Loco Kanpur.
36. Shri Dwarka. Loco Kanpur.
37. Shri Bishan Pd. President, Northern Railway  
Supervisors Committee.
38. Shri R.M. Sehgal. Member,  
Electrical Supervisors Committee
39. Shri R.S.M. Danney. Sr. Cashier,  
All India Railway Cashiers Assn-  
ciation.
40. Shri K.D. Sareen. All India Railway's Cashiers  
Association.
41. Shri S.D. Dogra. Divisional Secretary, Hd. Qrs. Div.  
NRMU.
42. Shri Bimal De. General Secretary, ERMU.
43. Shri B.S. Sen. Jt. General Secretary, NERMU.
44. Shri Surjit Roy. AGS/ERMU.
45. Shri U.M. Purohit. Asstt. General Secretary, AIRF.
46. Shri A.V.K. Chaitanya. Asstt. General Secretary, AIRF.
47. Shri B.F. Roy Choudhar. -do- -do-
48. Shri V.R. Malgi. General Secretary, National  
Railway Mazdoor Union.
49. Shri R.K. Verma. Org. Secretary, All India Rly.  
Cashiers Association,  
Rly.,
50. Shri B.K. Ghoshal. All India/Shroff Association.
51. Shri A.C. Lehri. Secretary General, All  
India Station Masters Association.
52. Shri C.P. Sharma. Org. Secretary,  
I.F.D.S.A.,
53. Shri Puran Singh. C&W, Mechanical Staff Association,
54. Shri Shamim Ahmed. Secretary, Claims Organisation.

55. Shri C.L. Upadhaya.
56. Shri Attar Singh Ahuja
57. Shri T. Shivaraman
58. Shri Mohinder Kumar,
59. Shri Pemanand.

4 :-

General Secretary,  
All India Guards Council.

Executive President,  
All India Guards Council,

Working President, Southern  
Railway Mazdoor Union.

Org. Secretary,  
All India C&W Mechanical  
Staff Association.

President, -do-



Representatives of railwaymen's union (list appended) participated in a two-day meeting convened by the All India Railwaymen's Federation. Mr. George Fernandez, President of the AIRF presided over the meeting.

u  
AIRF/60-3/1

The meeting while reiterating the Declaration adopted at the earlier meeting of railwaymen's unions held on December 26 and 27, noted with deep concern the failure of the Railway Administration to open negotiations on the vital demands of the railwaymen relating to job evaluation, reclassification and regradation; immediate parity in wages with public sector undertakings; Dearness Allowance linked to the cost of living index; Bonus; Decasualisation of casual workmen; and supply of adequate foodgrains at subsidised rates. The only conclusion to be drawn from the attitude of the Railway Administration to these legitimate demands of the railwaymen is that the Administration is desirous of a confrontation with the railwaymen for reasons best known to itself.

The Railwaymen do not have words strong enough to express their anger and resentment at the public statement recently made in Calcutta by the Railway Minister, Mr. Lalit Narain Mishra, that railwaymen could not be paid Bonus because they numbered 27 lakhs. Though this is the most absurd argument that must have ever been expressed by any employer to deny a legitimate demand of the workers, the Railwaymen would urge the Railway Minister to give a break-down of the figures of

employment in the Railways cited by him. According to the Railways Establishment Schedule, the total number of temporary and permanent railwaymen is a little under 15,00,000 and the casual workmen number about 5,00,000, making a total of about 20,00,000 railwaymen. If transport workers in various sectors including the State Transport systems are paid bonus, there is no earthly reason why railwaymen should be denied this minimum benefit.

The meeting called upon railwaymen belonging to all organisations to take immediate steps to ready themselves for action to achieve their minimum demands. As an important prelude to the now inevitable struggle, the meeting decided that the AIRF convene a broad-based convention of representatives of all railwaymen's Unions and Associations, irrespective of their status or affiliation (on February 27) in New Delhi to forge the unity for action and to serve a united ultimatum on the Railways. for

The meeting welcomed the decision of the AIRF to convene a Convention of all Central Govt. employees organisations and Central organisations of labour in pursuance of the decision of its Secunderabad Conference.

There is no denying that only through a massive struggle and the willingness to make every kind of sacrifice will the railwaymen be able to win their just demands. The Government and the Railway Administration will resort to every

repressive measure to prevent the railwaymen from achieving their demands. They can also be trusted to create dissensions among the ranks of the railwaymen and to try their best to keep the workers divided. Railwaymen must guard against all the negative and disruptive moves of the Government and its stooges and in the coming days do all that is within their power to create a new sense of unity of purpose and action. The meeting gives a clarion call to all railwaymen to be prepared to make the greatest of sacrifices in the fight for their rights.

...

(Regd. No. NAT/38)

Hd. Qrs.:

Rly. Qr.No. L 39/B,  
LOCO COLONY,  
P.O. LUMDING,  
ASSAM.

Camp : New Delhi.

January 24, 1974.

P R E S S   R E L E A S E

Shri S.K. Dhar, Joint Secretary General, All India Loco Running Staff Association has issued the following Statement :

We are surprised to find that the Railway Ministry has accused the Association of dilatory tactics about peaceful settlement of the grievances, while the shoe is on the wrong foot. It is the official side in the grievance committee who have done their best to delay settlement. The following would squarely prove the same.

- (i) The penal measures and D.I.R. cases pertaining to May-August, '73 and earlier agitations were not withdrawn as assured. Now a sub-committee has been formed to go into this.
- (ii) The question of implementation of 10 hrs. duty was due to be settled within six weeks from 14th August, 1973. This could not be done. An unilateral announcement was made by Railway Minister on 29th November, 1973. The question was **again** reopened and an agreement was reached on 20th January, '74.
- (iii) Other grievances which were pending discussion were initially opposed by the official aide. It took six months for them to agree to discuss the same. Notes in reply have not been submitted on all the items as yet. These issues are to be taken up in the next meeting of the Grievance Committee.

On the otherhand, the Railway Administration have been piling up measures of victimisation which touched off the November-December, 1973 struggle. Even all the assurances given at that time of withdrawal of this struggle have not been properly recorded or implemented. This has been the attitude of the Railway Ministry althrough. They had unleashed a campaign to the effect that all assurances have been fulfilled which is far from the truth.

We are confident that the public who have been apprised of the real situation from time to time would appreciate the position and support the Loco Running Staff in their struggle for implementation of the agreement and assurances.

\_\_\_\_\_  
The News Editor/Spl. Correspondent,

\_\_\_\_\_ - for favour of publication.

(S.K. Dhar) 24/1/74

A L L I N D I A L O C O R U N N I N G S T F F A S S O C I A T I O N :

(Regd. No. NAT/38)

Head Quarters:

Qr. No. L 39/B,  
Loco Colony,  
P.O. LUMDING  
(ASSAM).

Camp: New Delhi.

January 23, 1974.

-----  
P R E S S R E L E A S E

Shri P.K. Barua, Secretary General, A.I.L.R.S.A. has released the following resolution adopted in the Working Committee Meeting held on 20th and 21st January, 1974 for information of the Press and public.

Resolution :

This meeting of the Working Committee of the All India, Loco Running Staff Association, supports the struggle of the textile workers of Bombay, Jute workers through out the country, the workers of the Indian Airlines, Life Insurance Corporation and Junior doctors of Delhi, who are engaged in a bitter fight to win their just demands.

This meeting condemns the attitude of the Government of backing out of their assurances to the Doctors and not conceding the just demands of other sections of workers and taking recourse to suppression of these struggles. This meeting urges upon the Government to change their policy and settle the demands of the workers without further delay.

\*\*\* 000 \*\*\*

The News Editor/Spl. Correspondant,

\_\_\_\_\_  
- for favour of information and publication.

*S.K. Dhar*  
(S.K. Dhar) 23/1/74  
Jt. Secretary General,  
A.I.L.R.S.A.