

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE OF THE DAKSHIN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES UNION, HELD AT
GOLDEN ROCK ON 17-6-73.

This meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Dakshin Railway Employees Union after carefully studying the brief reports appeared on the Third Pay Commission's recommendations have come to the following conclusions:-

- (i) This report is a total rejection of the demand for the Need Based Minimum wage for which the Central Govt. employees agitated for the last over 16 years ever since the recommendations of the 15th Labour conference in 1957 where the representatives of the Government, employers and the employees agreed to the principle.
- (ii) The minimum wage that is recommended, namely, Rs.165/- for the unskilled arrived at only by totalling the existing emoluments of an unskilled worker and adding a paltry sum round about Rs.10/- which is due to him, even otherwise as per the D.A. formula already existing.
- (iii) It has refused to grant as a minimum wage even Rs.314/- the amount which it had itself arrived at by its own calculations and thereby put its official seal to the denial of the principle of a need based minimum wage and virtually introduced a wage freeze at the present level.
- (iv) On the question of full neutralisation of the increase in cost of living, the report has taken a similar stand by its rejection of that principle and had recommended the existing method.
- (v) Further it had made certain adverse recommendations to curtail the existing privileges (a) in creasing the working hours by half an hour for office staff (b) reducing the leave and concession travel facilities (c) curtailment of city compensatory allowances.
- (vi) In the matter of fitments service weightage is denied by totally discarding the principle of grant of additional increments taking the length of service into consideration.

Thus the report has done immense harm to all the employees of the Central Govt. services except to those in Class 1 service, to whom fabulous increase ranging from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 400/- is recommended.

This meeting therefore demands:

- (1) that the Central Govt. should reject this report and grant the minimum wage of Rs.314/- to the unskilled worker and revise the different scales to all categories.
- (2) the full neutralisation of increase of cost of living linking to the cost of living indices, and
- (3) the grant of Pons to all the employees at the rate of 8.33%, as is being given to all the workers in other industries.
- (4) 8 Hour work day to be granted to all Loco Running Staff.

But it is by now clear that the Central Govt. is closely behind the Pay Commission's recommendations and that it is its policy which is reflected in the report and hence nothing better can be expected from the hands of the Central Govt. unless it is forced to do so.

This meeting welcomes the moves of certain Unions/Federations of the Central Govt. employees who have rejected the report and have come forward for united action to press the above demands of the Central Government employees, but regrets to find that no united action Councils at all India level or at the Zonal or local levels has been set up so far to declare a general strike in support of the above demands.

In so far as Southern Railway is concerned this meeting resolves that a United and total General strike paralysing the entire Railway system should be organised to press the above demands in coordination with all the Unions functioning on this Railway, for which a negotiation Committee of the following Office bearers is appointed who will jointly decide the details of the proposed General Strike.

- (1) K.A. Nambiar (2) R. Perlanayagassany (3) N. Ganapathy (4) V.Sundaramurthy
(5) P.V. Ramadoss.

Further it appeals to all Railwaymen and the working class to support such a General Strike which is called in support of the just demands not only of the Central Government employees but of all. The need based minimum wages if wrested from the Central Government could also be available to all other sections of working class in this country.

R. Perlanayagassany
GENERAL SECRETARY.

RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL TRADE UNION ORGANISATIONS HELD ON 28TH APRIL 1974, IN SUPPORT OF RAILMEN STRUGGLE.

R E S O L U T I O N .

A meeting of State Units of Central Trade Unions H.M.S., A.P.T.U.C., C.I.T.U., H.M.P., B.M.S., met here to-day.

This meeting expressed solidarity with the Railway workers and fully supports the indefinite Railway Strike to commence on 8th May. The meeting strongly deplored the action of Railway Board in cancellation of large number of trains and termed it as an act of provocation. Railway Board resorted to this action with sole intention of prejudicing the public against the Railway workers. This meeting appeals to the public to condemn this "anti-people" measure by the Railway Board.

This meeting vehemently condemns the propaganda that the proposed indefinite strike is politically motivated and reiterates that the strike is only intended to achieve the just and reasonable demands of the railway workers.

This meeting considers an historic opportunity comes to the working class in the country to put up united fight against the anti-working class policies of the Government. Any disruption in this historic united fight will not be allowed and stubbornly repulsed. This meeting vehemently condemned disruptive and anti-working class role of INTUC affiliated N.F.I.R in this united Railway workers' strike.

This meeting appeals to all the trade union centres and its affiliates and other trade unions to take this as a challenge and rally round the Railway workers Strike which is going to be historical landmark in the ~~history~~ history of trade union movement.


CONVENOR.

"WOMAN'S LIE' ON THE RAILWAYS.

It may not be as widely known as it deserves to be that there is a Women's Social Service ~~Org~~ Association on almost all the Railways, with its apex body functioning at Delhi, ~~xxxx~~ The wife of the Chairman, Railway Board, is its chief, the corresponding stewardship falling on the wife of the In-charge official concerned at the Zonal, Divisional and extra-divisional levels.

The ostensible aim of this body is said to be social service to the railwaymen and their families in the shape of promoting unity and harmony among them, to provide gainful occupation to the womenfolk in the railway colonies to supplement the wage-packet of the male bread-winner by organising training in handicrafts like sewing, knitting, embroidery etc. and providing the requisite accessories for the purpose, by finding market for their produce so manufactured at reasonable profits, school and hospital visiting, and, above all, to organise suitable Fund-raising campaigns and drives for financing the above projects. In this they get the assistance from the Railways, such as free office accommodation, use of staff cars or other transport for the movement of the leading members. Recently, on the South Central Railway, we are told that there was a 'grand' fete, followed by a Raffle for raising funds and good money from staff flowed in. This organisation also plays its role on the occasion or events of national importance, such as the last Pak aggression, rehabilitation of the Bangla refugees, famine and pestilence, ~~xxxx~~ ^{as affecting railwaymen & their families} Substantial is their part in the annual tamasha of and campaigns for Railway week celebrations, Prime Ministers and Railway Ministers Relief Fund.

Laudable as ^{the} much publicised above activities are, it is not ^{however} record, whether these bodies have, as yet, interested

themselves in basic pursuits like securing a guarantee from the Railway Administrations and others concerned for the safe existence and proper working conditions for the ordinary woman employee, whose number to-day, is by no means inconsiderable. This less fortunate fraternity cannot even be members of the Women's organisations, ^{not being} ~~for they are~~ in a position to claim kinship with the Officer class. At best, they are drafted for volunteer work in the various campaigns or celebrations organised by the leading lights in the higher strata. Be that ~~it~~ as it may, it should have been some consolation if the Women's organisations concerned could make timely useful interventions on occasions of stress and travail to their less fortunate sisters. This would not appear to be the case, as witness a recent ~~incident~~ ^(male) happening on the South Central Railway, again. A senior Officer ^{is} stated to have had the audacity to make overtures to the young wife of his bungalow peon, stealthily putting the latter away on some pretext, to achieve his nefarious end. Thanks to ^{her} ~~the~~ presence of mind, courage and keenness of preserving personal modesty ~~of the girl~~, on her alarm, she drew a motely crowd to seek further remedies and it is stated that but for the timely, tactful and firm intervention of Shri Chaitanya, the Genl. Secretary of the S.C.R.M.U. with the C.P.O., a very ugly situation might have developed both for the Officer and the Administration too. The incident has not been disclaimed by the Administration, it is said. It is also not known whether the Women's organisation showed any interest in the sad affair and made any ^{meaningful} useful moves to make living yet worthwhile for ordinary women members of staff, ^{in the midst of a male dominated environment} Is woman safe amidst women ^{that} at least, man having denied ~~the~~ hope or assurance already? What about the 'lib' of the underdog women?

NEWS BULLETIN DATED, APRIL 10, 1974.

3325
30/4/74

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF CENTRAL GOVT. EMPLOYEES.

Sponsored by the All India Railwaymen's Federation (A.I.R.F.) the Convention was held at New Delhi on 15th March, 1974. Com: George Fernandes, President of A.I.R.F. presided over the Convention which was attended by all organisations of the Central Govt. Employees movement excepting N.F.I.R. Confederation was represented by Comrades Madhusudan and Vyas; National Federation of Post and Telegraph Employees by Comrades O.P.Gupta and A.D.Rajan; Federation of National Post and Telegraph Organisation by Com: N.K.Sangle, Defence by Com: Santak Singh, Railway Employees Confederation by Com: N.H.Bangoo, Income Tax Federation by Comrades K.N.Naygam, Pushpendu Sen and P.S.Rashtrapal. Total 140 delegates were present.

RESOLUTION.

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

As some of the demands on which the Rly. workers proposed to go into ~~active~~ are of common interest to all Govt. Employees, the Convention feel, that the Rlymen's strike will have greater impact and, therefore, other sections of employees can not remain ~~indifferent~~ indifferent.

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

The Convention calls upon all sections of the machinery to meet the challenge of the time.

CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RLYMEN'S STRUGGLE FOR
N. F. RAILWAY FORMED AT PANDU.

A meeting of 115 representatives of Mazdoor Union and U.C.R. was held at Pandu in Mazdoor Union Office under presidentship of Com: Biru Chatterjee, Joint General Secretary of Mazdoor Union. A Co-ordination Committee has been formed with Com: Indibar Kowar, Working President of Mazdoor Union as Convenor and Com: Naren Das of U.C.R. as Joint Convenor.

Com: Sibanandan, Fireman A of Southern Railway
was killed on 15th March last at Vanaras, the
venue of Annual Conference of All India Loco
Running Staff Association. Long live Comrade
Sibanandan.

STRIKE CAMPAIGN IN N. F. RAILWAY.

Com: George Fernandes, President of A.I.R.F. addressed mass meeting at Pandu on 22-3-74.

Com: Rakhal Das Gupta, Joint General Secretary of Mazdoor Union toured Upper Assam from 15th to 17th March last and addressed mass meetings at Mariani, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh.

Com: Biru Chatterjee, Joint General Secretary of Mazdoor Union toured Cachar District from 17th to 19th March last and addressed mass meetings at Badarpur, Karimganj and Silchar.

Railwaymen of Headquarters are agitating daily against repression, wage cut, increase of working hours etc.

Comrades of Alipurduar under the banner of Mazdoor Union staged "Satyagraha" for 84 hrs. (of 15-3-74 to 20 hrs of 18-3-74) demanding food grains. *(in front of D.S. Building from 8 hrs*

Everyday evening Mazdoor Union are taking out procession at Lumding.

Students and youths of Dooarghaon have extended their whole hearted support for Railwaymen's struggle.

Mazdoor Union Comrades of N.F. Railway staged 24 hours "Dharna" in front of important Railway offices on 29-3-74 to impress 6-point Charter of Demands of 20 lac Railwaymen.

◊ Release all arrested Railwaymen. Withdraw all ◊
◊ punishment cases. ◊

◊ Railwaymen, unite now for action. ◊

◊ See the audacity. ◊

◊ Com: R.K. Mazumder, Branch Secretary, N.F. ◊
◊ Rly. Mazdoor Union, Tinsukia went to discuss ◊
◊ some staff grievances with Mr. Awasty, AO/TSK. ◊
◊ Mr. Awasty refused to talk. Com: Mazumder ◊
◊ insisted. "Get out" replied Mr. Awasty. As soon ◊
◊ as the news spread out, a procession of ladies ◊
◊ chased Mr. Awasty and encircled him in the water ◊
◊ supply station and compelled him to seek apology ◊
◊ for his misbehaviour. ◊
◊ Wel done, Mothers and Sisters ! ◊

◊ The "Co-ordination Committee for Railwaymen's ◊
◊ Struggle" has been formed at Dibrugarh. ◊

◊ "Govt. Employees and other Workers Co- ◊
◊ ordination Committee, Dibrugarh" has been ◊
◊ formed. ◊

◊ Railwaymen ! United struggle will win your ◊
◊ demands. ◊

STRIKE PREPARATION AT DIBRUGARH.

21-3-74 : Gate meeting at DBWS was addressed by Com: J.N.Saikia of Mazdoor Union.

22-3-74 : Additional CME/MLG at DBRT consulted Mazdoor Union officials and wanted 2 month's time to settle all grievances of DEWS staff and 41 discharged workmen.

22-3-74 : Workmen of DEWS have decided to defer the proposed hunger strike and Tool-down strike for 2 months.

27-3-74 : 25-point grievances of Storesmen submitted to COS through SSO/MLG at DBRT and ACOS/DBRT by Mazdoor Union.

Com: J.N.Saikia discussed with AEE/DBRT and APO/HQ at DBRT on 43-point grievances of Electrical staff.

29-3-74 : Workmen of DEWS area paraded the main thorough fare of the Town in a procession from DBWS to General office Building shouting slogans demanding immediate mitigation of local grievances and 6-point charter of demands of 20 lac Railwaymen. A meeting was addressed by Com: K.K.Ganguly and Com: J.N.Saikia. They explained 6-point charter of demands. Executive members of Mazdoor Union interviewed DEN and AEE and urged upon them for early finalisation of local grievances.

30-3-74 : Com: Saikia explained 6-point charter of demands in a gate meeting at DBWS. He urged upon Railwaymen for unity and solidarity.

Com: Saikia addressed Carriage shed staff and formed Departmental Struggle Committee. Time has been given to DME/TSK upto 3-4-74 for finalisation of 13-point grievances.

In a workers meeting of Electrical staff, Com: Saikia explained the achievements made by Mazdoor Union by pressure on 43-point grievances of Electrical staff. The workmen decided to give one month's time to the Administration to finalise the balance items.

A departmental Struggle Committee for Electrical staff has been formed with 27 members.

DEMAND WEEK OBSERVED?

Demand week has been observed by Railwaymen of Dibrugarh under the banner of Mazdoor Union from 2nd to 8th April last. Demonstrations and meetings were held at different offices. Com: Saikia and Com: Ramendu Das was explained 6-point charter of demands and called upon Railwaymen to go on action peacefully when green signal will be received.

2-4-74 : Meeting at Stores Depot in the morning and demonstration at 11 hrs. Storesmen decided to go on Tool-down/Pen-down strike from 20-4-74 if their 25-point grievances are not finalised within 19-4-74.

Accounts staff were addressed by Com: R. Das and a Departmental Struggle Committee has been formed.

3-4-74 : Storesmen were addressed by Com: R. Das in the morning. Departmental Struggle Committee for Medical staff has been formed by Com: J.N.Saikia.

Sanitary staff was addressed by Com: Saikia in the evening. He also addressed Carriage shed and Electrical shed staff. He explained the progress so far achieved on their local grievances.

4-4-74 : Badges of National Co-ordination Committee distributed.

The Struggle Committee of Carriage shed decided in a meeting to allow some time to the Administration upto 22-4-74 to finalise the balance items of their 13-point grievances.

5-4-74 : Badges were distributed. Com: Saikia addressed a Workers meeting of Dibrugarh Railway Workshop and formed Departmental Struggle Committees for DEWS shop-wise.

6-4-74 : Demand Conventions were held at Railway Institute at 4 P.M. for ladies and at 6 P.M. for Railwaymen. Comrades Ganguly, Saikia, Bhattacharjee, Das, Bora addressed both the Conventions, explained the 6-point charter of demands and the role to be played by women and Railwaymen during the days of action.

7-4-74 : A joint meeting of Trade Union organisations of Rlys, Central Govt. and State Govt. was held in Mazdoor Union office 104 representatives of different Unions participated in the meeting. Leaders of different organisations addressed the gathering and expressed their whole-hearted support to other's struggle. A resolution was adopted supporting the demands of State Employees and their proposed Token Strike on 9-4-74.

8-4-74 : Demonstrations and meetings were organised in Stores Depot, Workshop and General office Building on the last date of Demand Week. Com: Ganguly, Saikia and Das addressed the workmen, explained 6-point charter of demands and called upon Railwaymen to maintain solidarity and unity during the days of action.

Income Tax Comrades in a mass meeting on 8-4-74 congratulated Railwaymen for their proposed general strike and called upon all sections of the employees to close their ranks, build up unity and gear up machinery to meet the challenge of the time.

THEY SUPPORTED OUR CAUSE.

A mass meeting was held on 9-4-74 at 15-15 hrs. at local Gandhi Maidan under the call of Govt. Employees and other Workers Co-ordination Committee, Dibrugarh. Com: Chamari Prosad Thakur,

prominent Trade Union leader presided over the meeting. Com: P. Bora of Mazdoor Union explained the 6-point charter of demands of Railwaymen and said that 20 lac Railwaymen would start country wide total indefinite rail strike from any date after 15-4-74 if these demands are not conceded to by the Govt. He also extended his organisation's whole-hearted support to the one day's token strike launched by State Govt. Employees on 9-4-74 throughout the country. Com: Debabrata Baruah of State Govt. Employees Action Committee explained the cause of their token strike and extended his organisation's whole-hearted support for Railwaymen's struggle. Com: Binanda Ch. Barua, Secretary, Nagarik Sangha, Dibrugarh, Com: Bimalendu Chakraborty of U.C.R, Com: Suren Gogoi and Com: Asoke Mitra also addressed the gathering supporting the cause of Railwaymen and State Govt. Employees' struggle.

◊ UNITY $\frac{8}{4}$ FAITH $\frac{8}{4}$ SACRIFICE ◊

◊ CANCEL THE ORDER OF 15% RESERVATION TO THE HIGHER POSTS FOR STRIKE-BREAKERS. ◊

◊ VOLUNTEERS OF MAZDOOR UNION ! MAINTAIN ALL ROUND PEACE DURING THE DAYS OF ACTION. ◊

◊ UNITY, FAITH, SACRIFICE. ◊

◊ Railwaymen! Do not hear Govt.'s propaganda and Dalal's whispering. Maintain faith on Comrade George Fernandes and hear only Mazdoor ^{Union} officials. ◊ Be aware of administrative tactics and its allies. ◊ Help officials, workers and volunteers of Mazdoor Union and other Associations who joined in strike during the days of action. ◊

◊ Remember, no compromise with hunger and humiliation. ◊

◊ Do not assemble in front of offices, workshops and streets to avoid troubles and harassment during the strike. Confine yourself in quarter during day time. Trust in God, in your strength, in your leader and organisation. ◊ Victory is yours. ◊

◊ Railwaymen, do not fall sick now. Struggle ahead. Keep your health strong. ◊

◊ Dalas have started anti-strike propaganda. ◊ Serve them rightly. ◊

◊ OVERCOME ALL SHORTCOMINGS. ◊

◊ Do not keep much faith on AKASHBANI or Govt.-minded Newspapers. ◊

The Red Day — 8th May, 1974.

PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT.
N. F. RAILWAY MAZDOOR UNION.
DIBRUGARH BRANCH.

GRAM: RAILWAYMEN.

PHONE: 40947.

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE.

Convenor:
George Fernandes

125 E, Babar Road,
NEW DELHI-1

April 15, 1974.

RESOLUTION ON GENERAL STRIKE ADOPTED
AT THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CO -
ORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S
STRUGGLE ON 15-4-1974.

The National Convention of Railwaymen held at New Delhi on 27-2-1974 had formulated a 6 point charter of demands and had called upon the Railway Ministry to arrive at a negotiated settlement thereon by April 10, 1974. Through the efforts of the Union Labour Minister who had himself initiated a round of talks with various trade union organisations of railwaymen's unions culminating in a joint meeting on April 11, 1974, a meeting was held with the Railway Minister on April 12, 1974 in which the Labour Minister also was present. The Railway Minister, at this meeting, declared that he favoured a negotiated settlement on the demands submitted by the National Co-ordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle. Consequent on this, the Action Committee of the NCCRS held talks on April 15, 1974 with the Member Staff, Railway Board on the demands which ended in sixty minutes with the Member Staff declaring on behalf of the Railway Ministry that no demand could be conceded and that he did not have the authority to negotiate. Why the Railway Ministry thought of making a mockery of the negotiating processes is best left to the Ministry to explain. The only conclusion to be drawn from the discussions held so far is that the Railway Ministry is keen on a confrontation with the workers and will concede nothing unless the workers have gone through a struggle.

The intentions of Railway Ministry are clear from the massive repression let loose on the trade union activities on the railways since the February 27th Convention. There have been penal transfers, suspensions, dismissals and arrests of workers on a large scale, especially on the N.F., Eastern, Northern and South Eastern Railways. The Territorial Army units have been moved to various railways, Border Security Force and Army have been called to duty, prospective strike-breakers have been offered fat rewards and concessions and the Administration is indulging in other unfair labour practices. The propaganda machinery of the Government, principally the radio, TV and newspapers, has been working overtime to run down the railwaymen and to drive a wedge between them and the people.

In the circumstances, railwaymen are now left with no alternative but to take a decision to launch an indefinite general strike. The National Co-ordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle calls upon the railwaymen to go on an indefinite general strike from 6 hours on 8th May, 1974.

Contd... 17

the efforts of those who are trying to isolate them from the people. The Committee appeals to the working Classes and toiling masses, youth, students and women, peasants and landless labourers and the broad masses of our people to extend their support to the railwaymen in their hour of trial.


The following Resolutions were adopted in the Working Committee Meeting held at Vijayawada on 12th April, 1974.

The request and announcement of Hon'ble Deputy Railway Minister, Chairman, Loco Running Staff grievances Committee, in the Committee on 6-4-1974 and its subsequent Meeting on 10-4-1974 and 11-4-1974 for asking postponement of work to rule to settle up the following issues:-

- (1) The issue of North Frontier Railway including the victimisation and implementation of 10 hours working rules will be settled up in favour, within 15 days.
- (2) The decision of pending grievances will also be given in favour within 15 days.
- (3) All package deal will be disclosed immediately and discussed in the Working Committee and decided to postpone the Work to Rule and 10 hours working Rule Movement for 15 days. Keeping a good faith on the Ministers' assurances, failing which the Association will resort the Work to Rule and implementation of 10 hours working Rule from 29/30-4-1974 (Mid-Night).

During this Movement if any loss to the Railways and inconvenience to the Travelling Passenger and Public, the Railway Ministry will be solely responsible.

Regarding the Joint struggle of Railwaymen, it is decided that the A.I.L.R.S.A. will join such struggle on common issues at the call of National co-ordination Committee of Railwaymen Struggle. Further, the A.I.L.R.S.A. urges the N.C.C. Members and the other Central Government Employees Organisations to come forward for the United Struggle in the national level which is the main ideal of the A.I.L.R.S.A. based on Burdwan and Varanasi resolutions.


(M.R. SABAPATHI)
President,
- A.I.L.R.S.A.

ALL INDIA RAILWAY STENOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION,
JHANSI BRANCH.

Dt: 28th March.'74.

R E S O L U T I O N

The Central Body Meeting of the All India Railway Stenographers' Association, Jhansi Branch held on date strongly deprecates the maltreatment of this category right from 1st Pay Commission, the New addition being Rly. Board's Circular letter No. E(NG) III-73-PC/52 of 4-3-74 purporting to attach one Senior Scale Stenographer with two Senior Scale Officers and reducing the strength of the Stenographers to 2/3rd of the Officers' strength.

Resolves that -

1. The Rly. Board's unilateral decision vide their letter under reference be withdrawn immediately as besides shrinkage of cadre and promotional chances it also aims at demoralising this category.
2. Each officer including junior scale should be provided with an independent Stenographer in appropriate grade.
3. The stenographers shall not comply with the impugned orders contained in Board's letter and will resist its implementation with all the vigour and strength at their command. If considered necessary, recognised/unrecognised Unions/Associations shall also be approached to muster their support in fulfilment of this objective.
4. AIRSA fully supports the demands of 96% upgradation in the clerical cadre and machine allowance to Typists as put forth by AIRMSA coupled with 6 popular demands jointly put forth by the recognised/unrecognised Unions/Category-wise Associations.

RESOLUTIONS
OF CENTRAL GOVT.
CONVENED BY AIRF AND
(CONSTITUTION CLUB)

NATIONAL CONVENTION
ORGANISATIONS
ABHAJ PATIL BHAVAN
DELHI on 15.3. 1974

March 15, 1974.

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

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

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

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

....

The railwaymen are fully aware, perhaps more than any other section of the community, of the consequences of a railway strike. They are aware that the railwaymen's role in the economic life of the country is second to that of none, and any disruption in the railway services is bound to deal a crippling blow to the nation's economy. What is shocking is the cavalier attitude of the Railway Ministry to the railwaymen's demands and the conscious and deliberate moves taken by it to force a strike on the railwaymen.

While calling upon the railwaymen to launch the strike from 6 hours on 8th May, the Committee calls upon the Railway Ministry to reconsider its stand on the railwaymen's demands and bring about an amicable settlement. At the same time the Committee wishes to make it clear that no meaningful talks between the Railway Ministry and the workers' representatives would be possible if the repressive measures let loose by the Railway Administration are not withdrawn forthwith.

The Railwaymen today are at the threshold of the biggest ever struggle of their history. On the outcome of this struggle depends not only the future of the railwaymen, but of the entire working class movement and of the movement of the exploited and downtrodden people in the country. There is no doubting that the new inevitable struggle will be a bitter one. From past experiences, from the attitude shown by the Railway Administration during the negotiations and from the repressive measures already let loose, it is obvious that the government will come down with all its might against the workers. Railwaymen will be called upon to make the greatest of sacrifices before they are able to wrest their just and legitimate demands from the Railway Ministry.

The meeting directs all unions/associations/organizations which are a part of the National Co-ordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle to serve a 14-day notice of strike on the 6 demands adopted on 27-2-1974 on their respective zonal railways before April 23, 1974, and send copies of the strike notice to the office of the Co-ordination Committee.

The Committee appeals to the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen which was a party to the infructuous negotiations with the Railway Ministry on 15th April to make common cause with all railwaymen, and join the strike also that the struggle to win the workers long-pending demands may be quick and decisive.

The Committee calls upon the railwaymen to spare no efforts between now and May 8 to further consolidate their unity so that they can withstand all attempts to disrupt the movement. In a disciplined way they must proceed to act, so that in all eventualities they are able to carry on their struggle till victory is achieved. They must do every thing within their power to keep the struggle peaceful no matter what the provocation. They must strengthen the links with the wider masses and frustrate