

IRTSA MEETING AT WR & CR ZONES

GS IRTAS/IRTSA & Sr.JGS/IRTSA addressed meetings

Er.Harchandan Singh General Secretary IRTSA & Er.K.V.Ramesh Sr.JGS IRTSA visited units of WR & CR Zone in Mumbai between 27.2.17 to 1.3.17 and addressed the gatherings of Rail Engineers / Technical Supervisors. Er.R.B.Singh Zonal Secretary/WR, Er.Subir Ray, Er.Hari, Er.P.T.Hegiste, Er.A.A.Ansari and Er.R.L.P.Yadav made elaborate arrangements for meetings.

General Secretary IRTSA & Sr.JGS IRTSA addressed the meeting at Mahalakshmi workshop & Lower Parel workshop on 27th & 28th February. Er.Harchandan Singh briefed about the achievements of IRTSA in over 51 years. Merger of Pay scales (*from traditional 6 to 5 and then to 4 from 1973 and now to only 2 from 2006*), upgrading of Posts (from 94% posts in lower scales to 67 % in the apex scale of SSE), Change & unification of Designations (as JE & SSE), inclusion of Supervisory Cadre for Compensation for Hurt on Duty under Employees Compensation Act, Grant of Incentive Bonus to SSE, Grant of PCO Allowance, Grant of highest scale in Group 'C' (i.e. Rs.840-1040 & Rs.840-1200 to Technical Supervisors as compared to Rs.700-900 given to rest of the Group C) by 3rd Pay Commission and Rs.2375-3500 given to Technical Supervisors as compared to Rs.2000-3200 given to other Group 'C' Cadres) by 4th CPC, counting of training period for pensionary benefits, seniority & Increments, financial upgradation under ACP/MACPS and grant of PLB to all upto SSE etc. by removal of ceiling of eligibility, First class to all JEs, are some of the major achievements over the years explained General Secretary.

Er.K.V.Ramesh Sr.JGS/IRTSA explained major demands still remain unfulfilled including time bound promotions, career planning, Group 'B' status, removal of anomalies in pay scales, inclusion of training period for MACPS, harsh criteria imposed for financial upgradation under MACPS and improvement in service conditions etc. He explained about retrograde recommendations made by 7th CPC.

He briefed about two court cases being fought by IRTSA for grant of Group 'B' (Gaz) & higher Pay scale for JE/SSE at CAT Chandigarh & CAT Chennai respectively. He also explained two contradicting stands taken by Railways & Finance ministry at CAT Chandigarh & Chennai. At CAT Chandigarh Railways argued that, Railways is a multi-disciplinary operational system governed by separate rules. Separate pay rules & DAR rules. Not governed by CCS & CCS classification, control & appeal rules. Railway servants specifically excluded from CCS rules 2008 as per explanatory memorandum. Due to unique nature, Railways stands in different footing than other Ministries of Central or State Governments and classification as Group 'B' cannot be extended. But, in its denial to implement the judgment of CAT Chennai on higher Grade Pay to JE & SSE, Finance Ministry submitted that Grade Pay of Rs.4200/- is a major pay scale in the Government in the Group 'C' category, belonging to Junior Engineers in all major Departments including CPWD, MES etc. Any change in the pay scale of Railways will have direct impact on JEs in general, leading to substantial financial implications. He also explained other points submitted by Finance Ministry to CAT Chennai, which will be challenged by IRTSA.

Er.K.V.Ramesh & Er.R.B.Singh addressed the meeting at Parel workshop Central Railway, S&T workshop Byculla and EMU car shed Mumbai central. Er.R.B.Singh Zonal Secretary appealed for unity of Rail Engineers under the umbrella of IRTSA, the oldest and largest Association for the category. At Parel K.V.Ramesh also clarified the points raised by Secretary of Engineers Association on name of the category, reducing the cadre structure from 4 to 2 tier, MACPS benefits, and unity among Rail Engineers. K.V.Ramesh replied that, when a small group celebrated re-designation of then Dy.Shop Superintendent & Shop Superintendent as JE-II & JE-I, it was only IRTSA fought vigorously to get the designation of JE for then Charge man, SE for then Dy.SS and SSE for then SS. Reduction of number of level as 2 tier ensures atleast three financial upgradation up to pay level-9, but promotional avenue need to be improved substantially by increasing the officers post above SSE, particularly to eliminate stagnation among Graduate Engineers, he said. He also added that in every CGB & CEC meeting IRTSA passes the resolution unanimously for the unity among Technical Supervisors / Rail Engineers and unity will fetch positive results.