

MINUTES OF CENTRAL GENERAL BODY MEETING & 54TH ALL INDIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF IRTSA HELD AT LUCKNOW ON 10TH & 11TH DECEMBER 2019.

1. Central General Body meeting & 54th All India Annual Conference of IRTSA was hosted by Northern Railway Zone of IRTSA at Lucknow on 10th & 11th December 2019 in a grand manner at Charbagh Railway Club, Lucknow. 151 delegates from all over the country attended the meeting and deliberated on the issues pertaining to Rail Engineers / Technical Supervisors.
2. Com. Shiv Gopal Mishra GS/AIRF, Sri.Sanjay Tripathi DRM Lucknow, Sri.Vivek Khare CWM Charbagh, Sri.Manish Pandey CWM Alambagh, Sri.Suresh Tiwari, MLA Lucknow Cant, officers and office bearers of Unions and Associations graced the Conference as guests in the inaugural function.
3. **Inauguration:** Com. Shiva Gopal Mishra GS/AIRF inaugurated the Conference by lighting the lamp.
4. **Welcome by the Hosts:** On behalf of hosts Er. Akilesh Vishvakarma & Er. Vivek Shukla welcomed the delegates from all over Indian Railways.
5. **Address by Central President:** Er. M. Shanmugam Central President IRTSA in his inaugural address said that Lucknow is an important place in the history of IRTSA. Lucknow has produced many stalwart leaders of IRTSA, Harchandan Singh GS/IRTSA and Upadhiyay Former Treasurer are prominent among them. He recalled the huge support rendered by Northern Railway Zone of IRTSA particularly of Lucknow for all the agitations and seminars conducted by IRTSA at New Delhi & elsewhere.

President IRTSA condemned part of 100 days Action plan on Railways. Railways proposals for Corporatization of Production units and Train operation by private train operators will ruin the Railways. He said that IRTSA stands with all Railwaymen in opposing these two proposals. He explained about various agitation held in the Production Units and IRTSA's vigorous participation in all the agitations organised by Joint Action Councils of Production Units formed against the corporatization. He briefed about the Convention held in New Delhi organised by RCF Bachao Sangharsh Samati in which all Unions and Associations participated. He said that IRTSA is maintaining cordial relations with both the Federations and thanked the leaders of Federations for taking up the issues of Technical Supervisors.

6. **General Secretary's Address:** Er. Harchandan Singh GS/IRTSA in his address briefed achievements of IRTSA over the years. He said IRTSA provides platform for Rail Engineers / Technical Supervisors to highlight and address demands of the category. He said IRTSA has represented to all Pay Commissions from 3rd to 7th CPC, Railway Reforms Committee, Railway accident enquiry committee, cadre restructuring committee, incentive revision committee, etc. He also briefed about the legal battles fought by IRTSA for getting higher pay scales and classification as Group 'B'. He expressed his hope in getting the desired result from CAT Chennai in OA filed by IRTSA pleading for higher pay level for JE & SSE. He appealed to GS/AIRF and GS/NFIR to separate out the demands of Technical Supervisors on Pay Level & Classification of posts from the common demand. GS/IRTSA recalled selfless services of leaders from Lucknow during and after 1974 General Strike. He specifically requested GS/AIRF to immediately resolve the issues of inclusion of training period for the purpose of MACPS and restoration of PCO Allowance at the rate of 7.5% and 15% for JE & SSE respectively.
7. **Chief Guest Address:** Com. Er. Shiv Gopal Mishra GS/AIRF graced the conference as chief guest. In his address he promised that, AIRF will be the voice for entire Railwaymen i.e. workmen, employees, Technical Supervisors and officers. He said that Railway Federations are opposing the move by the Government to convert production units of IR into corporation and introduction of private train operators in Indian Railways. He briefed about meeting with Minister for Railways, Chairmen Railway Board and others in registering Federations' strong views against Corporatization of Production Units and introduction of private train operators. He assured GS/IRTSA and all Technical Supervisors that he will pursue the issue of higher Pay Level for Technical Supervisors and Classification as Group 'B' with Railway Board more vigorously to get the desired result. GS/AIRF also raised his apprehensions on "Sangoshti for Parivartan" without taking the views of organised labour. GS/AIRF said the Federations will go for Strike Ballot if Government is not changing its attitude on vital issues raised by the Federation on the Demands of railway men..

8. **Guest of Honour Address:** Sri. Sanjay Tripathi, DRM Lucknow & Sri.Vivek Khare CWM graced the inaugural session as Guest of Honour. In his address to the Rail Engineers he said that, change is the demand of time and it is the credit of Railwaymen that they adapted to the changes. Technical Supervisors own the credit of holding the organisation together by their role. Railwaymen need to cope up with mounting of traffic increase every year and Railway can achieve it by working together. They also advised the railwaymen in doing the organisational duties in a proper way is very important for the Railways.

9. In his address Er. L.N. Pathak Patron IRTSA recalled the hard work of GS/IRTSA right from the days of Apprenticeship. Designation change as Engineers, First Class Pass to all JEs, restructuring, pay increase, incentive revision are hard earned by IRTSA, which he appreciated.

He criticized the action of the Government favouring Corporatization of PUs when MCF Raebareli is able to produce coach at the cost of 2.6 crore, compared to the offer given by private firms more than 5 crore per coach. He also warned about the unsecured retirement settlement for railwaymen who joined after 01.01.2004 and forced into National Pension Scheme (NPS).

10. Condolence resolutions were adopted and two minutes silence was observed for the sad demise of family members of S.G.Mishra, Dharsan Lal, Khusala Kumar and for the demised members of IRTSA.

11. **General Secretary's Report:** GS/IRTSA Er. Harchandan Singh presented his Report for the year 2018-19 and asked Er. KV Ramesh to read out the same on his behalf.

The GS in his Report highlighted the struggle & achievements of IRTSA over the years and the vital role of Technical Supervisors in safe & efficient running of the Trains. It was regretted that many of the vital issues concerning the category were not being resolved. GS was critical about denial of Recognition of the Association and lack of any platform to directly negotiate and resolve the problems of this middle management category of Technical Supervisors, Pay Levels, avenues of promotion & classification of the category as Group 'B' (Gaz) etc. GS cautioned about the new challenges for basic existence of Railways in its present form. Government's decision on permitting private train operators in passenger train operations and corporatization of Production Units of Indian Railways are the major threats for the Railway men which need to be fought against effectively.

The report also discussed about country's economic conditions, Government's decision affecting Railwaymen & Rail Engineers in particular, court case filed by IRTSA, Pay level of CMT, Stores & IT Engineers, MACPS, Rates of Incentive Bonus, PCO Allowance, Training Allowance, adverse working conditions. GS enlisted the Memorandum submitted by IRTSA during the year and appealed to all Units to intensive Membership Drive for IRTSA, ensure wide circulation of the bi-monthly publication of IRTSA - "Voice of Rail Engineers", improve communication through IRTSA's social media, and keep the members aware of the major achievements of IRTSA for the past 54 years as well as the challenges ahead.

12. **Statements of Accounts:** Balance sheet & Statement of account of IRTSA for the year 2018, was read out by Er. M. Bhatpat Zonal Secretary RWF on behalf of the Central Treasurer Er. ON Purohit (who could not attend due to his sickness).

13. **GS Report & Balance-sheet** of Accounts were passed unanimously after deliberations.

14. **Resolutions of demands:** Er. K.V.Ramesh, Er.N.V.Ramanmurthy, Er.E.Ramesh, Er.Jhatana, Er.Khanthasamy, Er.Bipin Kumar Mishra, Er.Thirumaran, Er.Y.R.S.Banerjee and Er.Vetrivel initiated discussions on various Resolutions of Demands of Technical Supervisors on Railways. Resolutions of demands emphasised on major areas of frustration including low Pay Levels & stagnant Career prospects of Technical Supervisors as these have gone from bad to worst over the years. Technical Supervisors shoulder direct responsibilities of safe, efficient & 'Failure-proof' production, repair and maintenance of Rolling Stock, Locomotives, P-Way, Works, Bridges, Signal & Telecommunication, IT Systems, Overhead Equipment (OHE), other assets and equipment on the Railways. Reduced manpower, introduction of large number of new trains, addition of new assets and introduction of new & modern technologies etc. have substantially added to their duties and responsibilities over the years. Other departments are only supporting departments for the technical & operating departments. But the other Departments were given a better deal by the last three Pay Commissions than the Technical Supervisors.

Excerpts of Resolutions on Main Demands: Recognition of IRTSA, Pay Level of 8 & 10 for Technical Supervisors, dropping of Corporatization of PUs & private train operation as proposed

under 100 days plan of action of Railway Ministry, 5% PA Increment, Defined Career Progression and Avenues Of Promotion, Incentive Bonus & Special Pay as per established norms & with MACP Pay Levels, reasonable Benchmarks & Yardsticks for Staff strength, Relaxation of MACPS Norms, Hardship Allowance, Improvement of Working conditions & Hours of Work, OTA etc. Removal of Anomalies in Pension & Retirement Benefits, Withdrawal of National Pension Scheme, Welfare & General Amenities, Financial management, expansion and privatisation on Railways.

15. Resolutions of demands were unanimously adopted by the CGB for early acceptance by the Government & the Ministry of Railways.
16. **Zonal Secretaries' Reports:** N.V.Ramanamurthy Zonal Secretary SCR, K.Gobinath Zonal Secretary ICF, M.Bhatnagar Zonal Secretary RCF, R.B.Singh Zonal Secretary WR, M.Bhapat Zonal Secretary RWF, Ashok Chowdhery Zonal Secretary CLW, Er.Akhilesh Viswakarma Zonal Secretary NR, Vetrivel Secretary/BBQ SR and other office bearers submitted reports about the activities in their respective Zone.
17. **Sri. Sia Ram Bajpai** Chief Patron IRTSA in his spirited address said that IRTSA should stand for the common cause for the betterment of Indian Railways. He said that IRTSA should consider seriously joining with strike led by Railway Federations, if Federations decided so.
18. **Resolutions on line of action:** CGB IRTSA, resolved to authorise President and the General Secretary IRTSA to continue to pursue all the demands and to decide on the Line of Action as required especially in view of the developments in respect important issues of the category and other main demands of IRTSA.
19. CGB IRTSA agreed to a proposal by Er. M. Shanmugam that a Seminar be conducted in 2020 at New Delhi to highlight some of the main demands pertaining to the category & stopping of Corporatization of PUs & introduction of Private train operation. Federation leaders and leaders of Joint Action Councils (JAC) of all Production Units be invited for the Seminar besides experts & Board Officials.
20. **Organisational resolutions** were proposed by Er. K.V. Ramesh.

i) **PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

CEC & CGB IRTSA noted that suggestions had been received from the Members for a change of the name of the Association by including the word "Engineers" in the nomenclature in the changed scenario, particularly since the category has recently unjustly been described as "Group C Engineers" by some elements, thereby damaging the claim for Group B before the Committee on

- i) To continue as IRTSA; OR to rename as: ii) Indian Railways Supervising Engineers Association; iii) Indian Railways Middle-Management Engineers Association iv) Indian Railways JEs & SSEs Association (IRJE & SSEA), v) Indian Railways Superintending Engineers Association.

After detailed discussion, CEC proposed & CGB IRTSA agreed in principle to change the name of the Association keeping in view the above said proposals received during the meeting.

A Committee was formed to consider these proposals and put up its report in the next meeting of the CEC. The Committee will consist of Er.Dharsan Lal as Chairman, Er.Vinod Kumar as Convener and Er.Ashoke Chowdhury, Er.N.V.Ramanamurthy, Er.K.Gobinath and Er.Akhilesh Viswakarma as its Members. CP & GS IRTSA shall be Ex-officio Members of the Committee. It shall submit its report in the next meeting of CEC.

- ii) CGB reiterated the appeal for intensive Membership Drive & for Legal-cum-Struggle Fund.
- iii) Elections of CEC was held unanimously (as per List attached)
- iv) **55th Conference & CGB meeting of IRTSA:** CGB decided to hold 55th Annual Conference & Central General Body Meeting of IRTSA at Kapurthala to be hosted by RCF Zone of IRTSA.
- v) **Er. Darshan Lal Working President IRTSA** called upon all Technical Supervisors/Rail Engineers to extend whole hearted support & participate in all the activities of IRTSA. He said that danger of Corporatization & Privatisation are looming very large than ever before and every member of Railway Family has to be ready for action. He said that without dedication, hard work and sacrifice nothing can be achieved. He invited all the Members of IRTSA to the 55th All India Annual Conference & CGB Meeting of IRTSA to hosted by RCF Zone at RCF Kapurthala in 2020.
- vi) The Meeting was concluded after a vote of thanks to the Chair, to all delegates & the Hosts.