

**Address of General Secretary IRTSA in virtual CEC meeting of IRTSA held on
23.08.2020 through Whatsapp group**

President Er.Shanmugam and Brother Engineers,

I welcome you to this meeting of the central executive committee being held on the Whatsapp as a virtual meeting of CEC. We had to call it as a virtual meeting because of the prevailing pandemic in the country as well as the world over. I am sure you will understand the requirement thereof to be held in this manner. That situation also demanded to call this meeting to convey to you that we have to keep ourselves in the best of the stride to face the challenges ahead before the category, as well as part of working class.

We feel that the present situation is essentially requiring our attention because of some steps being taken by the government in this period, but before coming over to that, I would like to convey my heartfelt condolences to all those who have expired due to covid within our category, as well as in India as a whole and in the world elsewhere, I also convey my homage to the brave soldiers of India who have fought the battles against China as well as Pakistan on the borders.

While paying our homage, we must realize that it is our duty to give full moral support to all the soldiers fighting at the borders and now coming to the challenges before us, I would like to reflect that, it is sad that the government is going ahead with a plan to privatize the train operations, which is an unprecedented step in India and which is a failed experiment the world elsewhere, almost seven countries privatized the railways, but later on all of them have taken it back as nationalized their railways working step by step. Now that the railways is going ahead with the introduction of about 151 trains under private operations, I feel that it is high time that we make the government to further think and reconsider this proposal. We have already given two or three memorandums on this subject with the detailed justification for not going ahead with it and highlighting the drawbacks of privatization of the trains, but the government has still continued to go further with it.

Similarly, on the corporatization of the Production Units, we are represented continuously to the government with justification for stopping this process of corporatization of production units and with the alternative proposal to raise funds and raise production of the coaches and rolling stock as well as the locomotives within our existing capacity or by supplementing the capacity without privatization or PPP. At the same time, one of the worst situations created in the recent period, which is also equally unprecedented, is the freezing of the dearness allowance and Dearness pension for the central government employees and the pensioners.

This is has never been done before and only step which was earlier taken was to deposit the dearness allowance and the dearness pay in the provident fund and dearness pay was never, never, ever frozen. But the government has done that for one and a half year from 01.01.2020 to 30.06.2021. We have represented against this. Federation and the union are also represented against it. But it's not adequate and we shall have to follow up with the Government to defreeze that there are certain other steps also which are being taken by the government, which are not favorable to the working class as well as to our category and for that, IRTSA continues to represent to the government, the judgment of the CAT and high court are also not been implemented in respect of revision of pay scales and revision of pension as well as revision of allowances, even the MACPS has also not been implemented

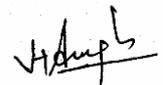
from 01.01.2006, as held by the Bombay High Court, as well as by the Supreme Court in Defense Employees case and for the central government in place by the Bombay High Court.

There are many other areas where we have continuously been representing for acceptance of our demands for MACPS from 01.01.2006, for ex gratia payment to the families of those who died due to covid, as well as on other issues, but particularly about the pay level we have already filed a court case in Chennai, but unfortunately, due to the non functioning of the CAT for the last two to three years at Chennai and due to the unavailability of the judge and now due to Covid the case is getting delayed. But we have prepared our case well, and I'm sure when the courts open soon now our case will be taken up and a favorable decision for raising the pay level of the technical supervisors, SSE & JE shall be taken as pleaded by us from 01.01.2006 & 01.01.2016. Besides, there are other demands which we are pursuing, and I call upon you to strengthen IRTSA at all levels and start a new phase of working of IRTSA just as we have started holding this virtual meeting on the CEC similar meetings, virtual meetings should be held at unit and sub-unit levels so that the proposals that we have placed before the government are adequately discussed through interaction on the online virtual meetings and government has conveyed the feelings of the people that our demands are genuine and must be met with. But for that, grass root level organization has to be strengthened and there is no other way except to strengthen the organization at all levels.

Funds should also be raised adequately particularly through the membership of IRTSA as well as through the legal fund because even for the court case we may require more funds if we have to take this case to the High Court and to the Supreme Court and I appeal to the members to strengthen the central fund send the central quota, raise membership send and central quota for current and previous year also to the Central Treasurer as well as for Voice of Rail engineers. I wish you all the best and I'm sure that you will very kindly go through the agenda carefully and give your consent to all the items on agenda recorded on the WhatsApp that you agreed to all the items in the agenda to hold the virtual meeting in this period and the next Annual general body meeting can only be held next year on a physical basis but in between we hope to have another virtual meeting to get your views as to how we can pursue our demands more effectively and how active you are. I thank the president as well as all those CEC members for participating in this meeting and I am sure that in the coming future we shall be able to effectively meet the challenges before us by do a strong organization as well as with the cooperation of all of you. Thank you very much wish you best of luck and best of spirit.

Thank you Jai Hind

Long live IRTSA.



HARCHANDAN SINGH,
General Secretary.