

A P P E N D I X - I

RAILWAY'S TRADE UNION :

The Indian Railways are an industry which employ the largest number of workman under one single employer in the country. The Indian Railways have played and will continue to play an important part in the economic, social and the political life of the country. The Railway being the principle mode of transport in our country, the industrial development of the country must depend's upon the efficient functioning of the railway system to meet the growing demands of the Rail Users.

Indian Railways have a long history of labour movement. The railways trade union movement also grew with the expansion of the Indian railway system and as the British managed Indian Railways drew inspiration from the British Empire, the railway men's trade union movement drew inspiration from the National

Leadership who were spearheading the struggle for independence and freedom. In the formation of All Indian Trade Union Congresss in the year 1920, and the formation of All India Railwaymens Federation in the year 1924 national leaders like Lala Lajpat Rai, V.V. Giri, Chandrika Prasad, N.M. Joshi played eminent role and in fact were the founder of the Trade Union Movement in our country, it would be appropriate to mention here that local unions of railwaymen and other workmen in the country were formed much earlier. E.I. Railway Employees Union was formed in 1906, G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union in 1929, N.W. Railwaymens union 1919 M & S M. Railwaymen's Union in 1919 B.N. Railway Labour Union in 1920 B & N W. Railwaymen's Association in 1920 BB & CI Railway Employees Association in 1920 and E.B. Railway Employee Association in 1920.

An agreement was reached between late Shri Jay Prakash Narayan, then the President of All Indian Railwaymen's Federation and late Shri Gopalswamy Iyengar, the then minister for Railways providing for periodical meetings at all levels of the Railway Administration under the scheme of permanent Negotiating machinery (PNM). The agreement was reached in 1951.

The trade Union Movement of Railways is as old as Labour movement in India (1897). All India Railwayman's Federation represents oldest (1925) National organisation of workers Leaders of All India Railwaymen's Federation, like Maniben Kera Peter Alvaris, Priya Gupta has not only Railway Unions but also lent a carrying hand to various worker's organisations at state and Central level. It holds largest number of numbers on its roll in any govt. undertaking, if firmly holds a

network of grass root leadership and mass participation through regulars elections.

Organised Labour Unions have got two fold responsibility to discharge. Firstly they fill in the communication gap between the Administration and its employees so that the Administration are made aware of the grievances and problems that its employees was went to be solved, and at the same time the employees come to know the objectives to be achieved by the organisation.

With the growth of united strength of the workers, the attitude of the Railway Administration had been changing from the worst industrial relationship towards establishing proper industrial relationship between the management and the railway workers.

Trade Union movement played an important role during the freedom struggle and therefore, now the movement particularly Railway Union should play its role for inculcating and fostering the spirit of National Integrity and communal harmony which is vital for industrial peace and social upliftment of the masses. Trade Union should champion equality and social justice.

