

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF RAILWAYSMEN'S STRUGGLE (NCCRS)

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Statement of National Coordination Committee of Railwaymen's Struggle(NCCRS)

Oppose the Privatisation of Production of Vande Bharat at ICF Chennai and Marathwada Rail Coach Factory, Latur!

Oppose the Privatisation of Production of 6000 HP Electric Locomotives at BLW, Varanasi!

Oppose the Privatisation of Production at Railway Production Units!

Brothers and Sisters,

The Indian Railways has signed agreements with multinational companies to manufacture 200 Vande Bharat(VB) train sets over the next 3 to 5 years. These multinational companies will be given the existing facilities, resources and skilled manpower of Railway Production Units of ICF Chennai and Marathwada Rail Coach Factory(MRCF), Latur to manufacture these train sets. They will also be given the drawings and design of the Vande Bharat train sets.

The Vande Bharat train sets are fully indigenously designed by RDSO and built by ICF Chennai. They have been successfully run for the last 5 years and provide a higher level of comfort and speed for rail passengers. ICF Chennai has already built 40 Vande Bharat Train sets and has orders to produce 35 more. The cost of production of a Vande Bharat by ICF Chennai is Rs. 104 crores as per the Railways' own reply to an RTI query. However, the Railway management has signed agreement with multinational companies to manufacture VB train sets at Rs. 139 crores at ICF Chennai and Rs.120 crores at MRCF, Latur. These costs are much higher than the cost of production at ICF, Chennai.

Indian Railways has deliberately not been filling up 2000 vacant positions currently existing at ICF, Chennai . Over and above this ICF has been forced to surrender 5000 positions to Railway Board over the last few years. The government is now claiming that since ICF cannot produce the required number of trains, we have to ask the private companies to produce them!

NCCRS condemns this agreement which is against the interests of the railway workers and against the interests of the people of India.

In June 2022 an Expression of Interest (EOI)was issued by the Railway Board inviting foreign companies to manufacture 800 numbers of 12,000 HP electric locomotives at BLW, Varanasi and 1200 numbers of 9,000 HP electric locomotives at Dahod Railway Workshop, Gujarat over a period of 10 years.

The order for manufacture of 1200 numbers of 9,000 HP Electric locomotives was given to Siemens India in December 2022 for a cost of Rs. 26,000 crores. This works out to Rs. 21 crore per locomotive which is nearly twice the cost of the 9,000 HP locomotives already being manufactured at Chittaranjan Loco Works(CLW). Siemens India will manufacture 120 of these locomotives per year whereas CLW already produces more than 400 of these locomotives every year. The railway ministry has already

spent more than Rs. 500 crores in building the necessary infrastructure at Dahod to enable this foreign multinational, Siemens India to use the facility to produce the locomotives.

After the original EOI was issued in June 2022, no foreign multinational was coming forward to manufacture 12,000 HP locomotives at BLW, Varanasi. Hence the EOI was revised and reissued three times to better attract foreign investment. However, there was still no satisfactory response. So now a new EOI has been issued inviting foreign multinational companies to manufacture 6,000 HP electric locomotives at BLW, Varanasi. The existing infrastructure as well as the skilled manpower of BLW will be offered to the bidder.

BLW already produces over 400 numbers of 6,000 HP electric locomotives every year at costs which no foreign multinational will match.

Recently on 29th of November 2023, the Railway Board issued a circular asking three production units, BLW, CLW and PLW to surrender 5535 vacant posts, 535 at BLW, 3661 at CLW and 1007 at PLW.

BLW and CLW are fully capable of meeting the requirements of the Indian Railways for 6,000 HP and 9,000 HP electric locomotives and additional numbers can be produced if all the existing vacancies are fully filled.

NCCRS condemns the award to manufacture 1200 numbers of 9,000 HP electric loco at Railway workshop Dahod to Siemens India and the attempt of the Railway Board to invite private multinational companies to manufacture 6,000 HP electric locomotives at BLW, Varanasi. These are against the interests of the railway workers and against the interests of the people of India.

Brothers and Sisters,

NCCRS calls on the workers in the railway production units to unite to oppose the attempts of the Railway Board to handover the facilities of the production units as well as their skilled manpower to foreign and Indian private monopoly companies in part or in whole. This is only one step away from privatization of these production units.

NCCRS calls on the workers in the railway production units to unite and form Joint Action Committees (JAC) in every railway production unit. These JACs should be inclusive. All the unions and associations of the workers, whether recognized or not and irrespective of, political affiliations should be invited to become part of this JAC.

NCCRS calls on the JAC in every production unit to organize protests, demonstrations, dharnas, rallies, etc. to convey to the authorities that they will not accept privatization of the production units in any form.

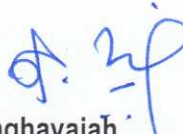
NCCRS reminds all the workers of the production units that in July 2019, similar massive demonstrations of the railway workers along with their families under the banner of JAC's which had been formed, had forced the Railway Ministry to roll back the plan to corporatize the production units.

United Action is the only way to save the production units, our jobs, as well as the people of India from profit hungry monopoly capitalists, Indian or foreign.

NCCRS calls on all rail workers to support the struggle of the railway production units against privatization.

**Let us also mobilise our families and the people at large to our cause!
Save the Indian Railways!**


(ShivaGopal Mishra)
Convenor


Dr. M. Raghavaiah
Co-Convenor

Constituents of NCCRS

Convenor: **Shri Shiva Gopal Mishra**, General Secretary, All India Railwaymen's Federation.

Co-convenor: **Dr. M. Raghavaiah**, General Secretary, National Federation of Indian Railwaymen

Members:

All India Railwaymen's Federation(AIRF).

National Federation of Indian Railwaymen(NFIR).

All India Guards Council(AIGC).

All India Loco Running Staff Association(AILRSA).

All India Station Masters Association(AISMA).

All India Railwaymen's Confederation(AIREC).

All India Railway Track Maintainers Union(AIRTU).

All India SC & ST Railway Employees Association(AISC&STREA).

Bharatiya Rail Mazdoor Sangh(BRMS).

Dakshin Railway Employees Union(DREU).

Indian Railway Loco Running Men's Organisation(IRLRO).

Indian Railway Signal and Telecommunications Maintainers Union(IRSTMU).

Indian Railway Technical Supervisors Association(IRTSA).

Indian Railway Ticket Checking Staff Organisation(IRTCO).

Kamgar Ekta Committee.

Railway Karmachari Track Maintainer's Association.