

Report on the DMC Meet of ARTEE Members on 6th August 2014

A Meeting of ARTEE members working under DMC Adoor in Kerala was organised at the state guesthouse at Chengannur on 6th August. The meeting was special because it was the first convention after the New State Secretary and the DMC Coordinator took over and the first ever official meeting for last few years.

The meeting started with prayer at 11 am and was presided over by Shri. Shibu Sebastian, the DMC Coordinator. Shri P N Subhash of the host unit welcomed all the delegates and the leaders. He hoped that unlike earlier meetings members will get more importance and a thread bare discussion would take place. In his presidential address Shri Shibu Sebastian placed the various issues with the concern of the retirement of 60% of subordinate engineering staff by end of 2026 before the august house. He highlighted the necessity of unity among the ARTEE members and also reminded that social network like facebook may be used with a positive spirit and for the betterment of the association instead of targetting any individual or to defame them.

He informed the house that Shri M Seshagiri, VPSZ, could not come to the Meeting as either his or AGS' presence is needed there and read out the message from the VPSZ and from Shri Deepak, VP WZ. He deplored the upload of some official papers and critical documents by some members in social media.

Shri Venugopal, SS Kerala, inaugurated the convention. He emphasized on the need for the very existence of AIR & DD as a public broadcaster of our country holding unity in diversity and also the role of international public broadcasters .. He declared that ARTEE is for members and requested members to express their views freely as these inputs would strengthen ARTEE. He explained the activities of the new state committee for the last two months after taking the charge. He reiterated the need to strengthen AIR&DD to bring its past glory and each unit of ARTEE can contribute to it and informed his meeting with the minister I&B. He also explained the contents of memorandum given to the I&B Minister at Trichur, including 300 channels in DTH. He emphasised on the necessity of preparation of a documentary for a duration of 10 minutes to portrait the role of AIR & DD in the public broadcasting sector and to thereby create awareness among the public and the I&B Minister. He felt that members in LPTs and small units are feeling sidelined and authorities are hell bent to deny even the basic amenities. He shared the incidents happened due to the anti-employee stand of authorities in LPT Idukki, a difficult station under DMC Thrissur and how he solved it after personally visiting the station. He informed the house of nominations to the DMC Coordinators, organizing secretary and publicity secretary. Shri P S Suresh State Organizing Secretary and Robin J Cheryeth state Publicity Secretary greeted the gathering.

Later Shri M G Hari Krishnan Nair, AGS AIR SZ, expressed his great pleasure in addressing the members in his home state on an invitation from the State Committee for the first time in the last many years and thanked Venu and Shibu for that. He expressed his gratitude to Shri Sali Mathew, the veteran leader who moulded many ARTEE leaders. He said that members and not the leaders are important and requested members to raise all the issues in a free and fair manner during his speech itself so that maximum time can be spent on the problems faced by the members. He informed the activities and achievements of SZ committee under the dynamic leadership of Shri Seshagiri. He informed them that the present leadership could release the MACP of Sr. Techs that was pending for many years. He also informed that the list of Helpers under the 25% quota will be released soon. Members raised various issues and ACP for Helpers, DED, D.Tech, Mast tech issues, Tech/ LA pay parity, GP of New Tech, GP of EA s including New EA, and Patna ACP. He explained each issue in detail and informed the latest position on each issue. The debate mainly focused on Tech/ LA pay parity and the Helper issue. Members while expressing their happiness in the seriousness and alacrity of the central leadership in handling these issues with paramount importance, cautioned against the delaying tactics of the authorities. They wanted that ARTEE may even go for an agitation on the issue of Tech/ LA pay parity if it is not resolved through negotiations. They told that they felt cheated when they came to know that there was no official

proposal on 5K for techs and those responsible for that may be exposed. They expressed their anguish that ARTEE suddenly woke up when the GP of EA were reduced. All are talking about new EAs but no one is thinking about the New Tech. They felt that some forces within the ARTEE itself are working against the interests of the members. Shri Harikrishnan explained the truth behind each issue and how the draconian order on GP of EA will affect other cadres. He declared that ARTEE is the only association that fought for all cadres and requested members to work united. Shri Shibu explained his personal experience in this issue. The satisfied members did not press for their demand for a unanimous resolution as they expressed their faith in the present leadership to work for the early settlement of the issue. Members congratulated the SZ committee for the timely release of transfer orders, MACP lists, etc. and for taking up the genuine issues of members. The case of Shri Ramesh EA specifically came for discussion. Also, they are happy that our leaders help them whenever they visit ADG office.

Members stressed the need to strengthen FM transmission. Our once popular DTH service has lost its viewer ship as regional channels have backed out due to the higher carriage fee. The meeting unanimously suggested that DD DTH has to be strengthened by including popular regional channels. They congratulated SS for taking up the issues of various cadres and of strengthening the department with the minister. They also appreciated his impressive leadership and felt that his visit to LPT Idukki showed that he will be in the forefront to fight for the members. Shri Zubair, Publicity Secretary (SZ), thanked the members for their faith in the leadership and the leadership at the state, zone and central level is able to do justice to the aspirations of the members. He deplored the attitude of a handful of members to paint ARTEE in black, but this would never deter the leadership from fighting for the welfare of members. Some members who were crying hoarse on irregularities in the election process mysteriously did not bother to give any suggestion on the electoral reforms. He requested members to send in their suggestions on Transfer policy. He announced that the SZ website would be ready soon.

Shri P N Rajesh, US LPT Pathanamthitta delivered the Vote of Thanks. He thanked the leadership for nominating DMC Coordinators as many issues of LPT staff can be settled.

The members were so enthusiastic that the interactive session with AGS continued without any Lunch-Break. Shri Sali Mathew the most respected leader of ARTEE in Kerala attended the convention, irrespective of his ill health. Through this he exemplified the spirit of ARTEE. It was the largest DMC Convention in terms of attendance as 34 members attended. There are 7 LPTs under the Adoor DMC and almost all ARTEE members attended the meeting. All congratulated Shibu for the impressive turn out and lauded the efforts of his team including Shri P N Rajesh. Congratulations to the staff of LPT Chengannur under Shri P N Subhash for the nice arrangements. ARTEE state committee congratulate all the staff members under Adoor DMC for making this a memorable event. Hard-work and loyalty to the association alone made this success.

**P S SURESH
ORG.SECRETARY
Kerala state committee. ARTEE**

Pictures of the DMC Meet.

