

ARTEE's series of important meetings addressing pending issues.

Leadership met Mrs. Ambika Soni, H'ble Minister of I & B on 23rd July'2009. H'ble minister listened to our views with an open mind and she seemed to have a positive view towards the demands. ARTEE raised all the seven pending issues for which we are on Agitation. H'ble Minister was also urged to start Departmental Council Meeting on JCM pattern, to address the grievances of Govt. Employees under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Secretary, I & B. This exercise will solve so many of the problems which require intervention at the highest level. H'ble Minister appreciated the demand and asked Joint Secy. Broadcasting Mrs. Zohra Chatterjee to explore the possibility.

On the issue of ACP, Hon'ble Minister advised JS (B) to adapt similar stands on the issue, as accorded to CCW Staff, for all Subordinate Engg. Cadres, since both were beneficiaries of 25.02.99 scale restoration order. It is worthy to mention that ARTEE and CCW Engineers both filed case against discrimination in granting ACP benefit in Hon'ble CAT Kolkata and both succeeded in getting favorable judgments. In both the cases Department went into appeal and the appeal in case of CCW Engineers was dismissed early. Hon'ble Minister categorically stated not to go for legal proceedings in similar cases, if appeal of the department has been dismissed in one case. She asked JS(B) to look into the matter.

As we had been told earlier and JS (B) reiterated in this meeting, that the issue of grade pay of Rs.5400/- for AE's has been rejected by Ministry of Finance. ARTEE confident of the issue, has submitted a bunch of documents along with all supporting documents. Based on the new submissions, H'ble Minister has assured to get the issue looked into. If required, she will take up matter with Ministry of Finance. Similarly the issue of Grade pay of Rs. 4600 for EAs will be looked into and was explained in detail along with supporting documents to H'ble Secy.

On issue of same posts same pay-scale She asked JS(B) to look into the matter to eradicate the discrimination.

She was also informed that since 6th CPC could not consider any of our cadre based issues, an exercise of Cadre Review is being done. JS(B) informed that Cadre Review proposal has not yet received by the Ministry. H'ble Minister assured to look into the matter positively, since it will remove so many of the anomalies.

ARTEE leadership explained the situation of maintaining status quo about recognition issue, when she mentioned that as on date, no Association is recognized. She was informed about, the reply of DOPT informing that its instruction of de-recognizing all Associations is not applicable on us. After this a status quo is being maintained in AIR & DD for all official purposes. Department is dealing with nine (9) recognized Associations of which ARTEE is the largest. ARTEE also demanded that the process of recognition and introduction of "check off", system in AIR & DD.

The issue of up gradation of Helpers to Gr 'C' cadre was not taken up as DG AIR has already issued orders to implement it.

Many other issues were also addressed.

About staff shortage and abolished posts H'ble Minister informed that she has already asked to form the GOM again and it is in the terms of reference of H'ble GOM.

The meeting ended on a positive note.

ARTEE Leadership met Sh. Jagatrakshakan Hon'ble Minister of State I & B on 21st July 2009. It was an introductory brief meeting, still a few of the sensitive issues were also discussed. H'ble Minister was also extended the invitation to grace the National Convention in Thiruvananthapuram. H'ble Minister accepted the invitation and assured to attend the convention.

ARTEE Leadership also met Sh. Raghu Menon , H'ble Secretary I & B on 21st July 2009.. Since our status of Govt. employees is clear from the decision of H'ble Cabinet on the recommendations of H'ble Group of Ministers, ARTEE demanded that Departmental Council Meeting, should be started under his Chairmanship which is a inherent part of JCM mechanism, to address the grievances of Central Govt. Employees. Sh. Menon after knowing all the facts appraised Employees concerns and assured to talk in detail after being updated from his juniors.

ARTEE office bearers present in these meeting are Sh. Anilkumar S, President, Sh. Umesh Chandra, Gen.Secy., Sh.Kuldeep Bhan, VP(AIR), Sh. Sunil Thapliyal, Addl.G.S., Sh. Shailendra Shah, Secy.(AE), Sh. Sudhir Nayyar, Secy. (SEA/EA), Sh. G.M.Tyagi, Secy.(Sr.Tech/Tech), Sh. Rajesh Gautam, DG Council member (DD), Sh. Ashwani Dagar, Member Deptt.Council, Sh.Pulak Ray, Editor Filament

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