

Agitation of Unemployed Youth against the Delays and Discrepancies in Recruitments in Railways

Students who appeared for Railway Recruitment Board's (RRB) non technical popular category (NTPC) Computer based test (CBT-1) exam 2021 held a protest on 25th Jan 2022, alleging discrepancies in the results. On Jan 15th after the declaration of the results of NTPC, the students started a protest.

Earlier a twitter campaign was launched nation wide by the aspirants of NTPC against the delay and irregularities in the selection process of candidates of the railway administration. On Jan 24th the RRB issued a decree that selection process for group D exam was changed to prelims and mains which was earlier a single exam. The delay and the new selection process and the discrepancies in NTPC results raged the youth and agitated youth came out in protest and thousands of students gathered on railway tracks and stations in protest with National Flags.

In 2019 before Lok Sabha elections, an advertisement for 35000 posts in NTPC and about 1 lakh posts for Group D category were issued. For the past 3 years the exams were being delayed and after huge cry the NTPC exams were conducted from Dec 28, 2020 to July 31, 2021 and the group D exam was due in Feb 2022. Around 1.25 crore candidates have applied for the exams of NTPC level 2 to 6 for the posts of train assistants, guards, junior clerks, time keepers and station masters with a pay range from 19900 to 34,500 per month. Around 60 lakh people appeared for the exam. The students and youth had earlier been protesting over the delay in updates over results and the next steps in selection process. They are opposing the exam in two stages, claiming that a second stage is unfair to those who cleared the first stage.

Everywhere from Prayagraj, Patna, Arrah, students raised their legitimate demands. Hundreds of youth blocked the main railway line in Patna, Bihar that delayed the train services for 4-5 hours and at some places such as Gaya, the protesting students were alleged to set coaches of a train on fire and were caned by the police. Students were brutalized and were detained in Prayagraj, UP and in many parts of Bihar. Just to suppress the anger the railway ministry has decided to suspend the tests and look into the concerns of the aspirants. The student

bodies have called the railway ministry's move to form a committee to look into the concerns a 'hoax'.

Many student and youth organizations extended solidarity to the just demands of the unemployed youth and students. Several Student Organisations have called for a Bihar bandh on Jan 28th 2022 and was observed successfully in various parts of the State. Inquilabi Chhatra Morcha from UP strongly condemned this barbaric repression of students and appealed to all students and progressive citizens to unite and vehemently oppose this police repression by the government and called to intensify the movement and struggle to end corruption in examinations, and demands to fill vacancies, make employment a fundamental right and end the policies of privatization, liberalization and imperialist globalization. All India Students and Youth Organization also stands in solidarity with the protesting students and condemns the brutal repression by the Government and calls for a united struggle against the irregularities and delays in RRB recruitments.

– All India Students and Youth Organization