



MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT: A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTOR TO RAILWAYS PROFITABILITY

Western Railway has been doing consistently well in the areas of Freight Loading and Overall earnings year after year by utilising its assets (Rolling Stock, track etc.) to the maximum. The Materials Management Department of Western Railway is also providing matching logistics (quality material) support at the right price and at right place to maintain its assets. Besides, it is contributing significantly in Internal Resource Generation through disposal of scrap [Sale of Scrap Rs. 330 Crs. Cash realization towards sales : Rs. 351.75 Crs. against General purpose Purchase Grant of Rs. 331.44 Crs.] thereby reducing the revenue expenditure and Operating Ratio which in turn enhances the profitability of Western Railway.

FUNCTIONS & ORGANISATION: The Materials Management Department has an integrated responsibility in respect of Stores functions such as provisioning, purchase, inspection, receipt, warehousing, distribution and inventory control. The department also deals with disposal of obsolete / scrap material. Purchase function is mainly centralized at headquarters office situated in Mumbai. The Warehousing function (receipt, inspection, stocking and distribution) and scrap disposal is handled through 3 Stores Districts with HQ at Mahalaxmi, Dahod and Sabarmati. Besides, Material Management Organisations are also set up at Divisional level in all six Divisions of Western Railway (i.e. Mumbai Central, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Ratlam, Rajkot and Bhavnagar) to provide service to consumers at their doorsteps. A Printing Press is functioning under the department to take care of all printing requirements of the Railway. The department also undertakes supply of uniforms to eligible staff including public image category.

★ RIGHT SIZING OF THE ORGANISATION: In line with the corporate policy the Department is constantly reviewing its cadre to make the organisation lean by surrendering posts every year despite expansion of activities.



★ **Shri Bimal Rautji**
Controller of Stores
Western Rly. Churchgate

★ SCRAP DISPOSAL: The disposal of scrap is one of the important and necessary activity for any organisation as this not only helps in getting rid off the scrap material generated all over, but also decongesting the previous space and premises available for more productive works and also keeping the premises and areas neat and clean.

★ INNOVATIONS & SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT: Snap shots of various Innovations, system improvements introduced and special achievements on Western Railway in the recent past are as under:

★ E - GOVERNANCE : a) E-Tendering: Since inception about 14000 tenders have been invited through E-Procurement System (IREPS). Now 100% tenders are issued through the E-Procurement System (except Global Tenders for which the system is to be developed by CRIS).

b) E-Auction: Western Railway has prepared itself for implementation of E-Auction Module developed by CRIS and eagerly awaiting E-Payment Gateway and authorisations by Railway Board to conduct E-Auctions.

c) Materials Management Information System (MMIS): In the area of MMIS all the modules implemented through in-house effort in Western Railway (no consultancy contract awarded). Recently following new systems enabled on MMIS:

- i) Daily online cash realisation from scrap from depot.
- ii) Daily pop-up alerts for Purchase Officers to plan / to organize their day to day schedule / time management.
- iii) Monitoring of recoveries towards GD/RP/PA advance payments.

★ TRANSPARENCY & IMPROVING INTERNAL VIGILANCE: The department works in a transparent manner by inviting open tenders electronically through IREPS and updating the tender status. The details of all High value purchases are available on the Western Railway public website. In addition to the Open tenders, the details of all Single tenders, Proprietary tenders and Limited tenders are also published on the W.Rly. website. The

status of vendor registration and renewals are also published on the website.

A departmental online website is also available on the railnet which provides a whole gamut of information related to the department in a very user-friendly and interactive manner. A system of scrutiny by Sr. Officers for direct acceptance of cases finalised by Jr. Officers has been introduced. The purpose of scrutiny is to guide and groom the Jr. Officers in their day to day working. A system of putting up discharged / re-tendered cases to COS has also been introduced.

★**MARKET RESEARCH:** Costing & Market Research Cell of Western Railway had conducted a cost analysis study of 6V / 120 Ah Low Maintenance Lead Acid Battery on the basis of various inputs, raw materials etc. This cell has taken up further studies of items like Water Tank Assembly, Lead Acid Battery Activator & Brake Blocks.

Besides, in order to address the difficulties being faced by the suppliers and also to improve the rapport and relations with them, a Buyer – Seller Meet was arranged. The same was attended by about 50 suppliers from various industries dealing with railway specific items.

★**INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT:** During the last two years 21 machines valued at Rs 216 lakhs have been sanctioned, out of which 9 machines have already been received.

Under the sanctioned Depot Modernisation project, installation of Intelligent Automated Storage and Retrieval System at Lower Parel, a very elegant administrative building has already been developed and tenders for civil work for the ASRS portion have already been opened and are under finalisation. The tender for the material portion will be invited after assessing the progress of civil work.

A new modern Green Scrap Depot has been developed at Mahim which has all facilities to deal with scrap in a modern and green way.

Under the Works Programme, total 16 works costing Rs 33.07 Crs have been sanctioned for Materials Management Department, out of which 12 works costing Rs. 22.52 Crs have already been completed.

★**HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT:** a) In-house Training of Officers and introduction of concept of Quality Circles: Apart from providing class room training to Jr. Officers, a concept of Quality Circle is introduced wherein the Jr. Officer share their ideas, knowledge / difficulty on a particular subject through a Power Point Presentation with their colleagues and Sr. Officers.

b) Officers apart from being sent for mandatory courses run by Railway College, are also being sent for various courses organized by Indian Railway Institute for Logistics and Materials Management and Indian Institute of Materials Management from time to time. Supervisors and staff are regularly trained at headquarters as well as depots to improve their knowledge and skills.

★ Arrangements have been made for in house printing of CVM Coupons by Printing Press, Mahalaxmi within the existing infrastructure.

★**CUSTOMER CARE:** Sr. Headquarter Officers of Western Railway have been nominated as Guardian Managers of each of the Depots and Divisions to guide and supervise the works of the field units.

★**STORES OFFICERS AS A SAFETY OFFICER:** All the Stores Officers are regularly conducting safety night inspections, thereby rising above the normal expected functions and contributing to safety aspects.

She was a stray bitch and she walked into our old community type building that we stayed in, in the seventies.

"Susie", she was christened, by whom or when, nobody could recollect after. The tan brown colour of her fur gave her the look of a little doe. Her favourite spot was the portico, where she would rest her head between her forepaws and looked up every time we passed, with her half-closed, khol-lined peaceful and docile eyes, expecting to be patted or spoken to and then go back to snoozing once we were out of sight. Sometimes, she perked herself upon hearing approaching footsteps and followed us wagging her tail, half-way to school. When we came back in the evenings, tired, she would vigorously jump up and down, reaching for our collars and licking our faces in gleeful enthusiasm. We were about thirty kids in the building at that time, all school going and often when things got a little rough between us, it always resulted in claiming ownership for Susie too between the warring teams. Susie, for all she knew,



however, showered no special preferences or affiliations, and like the Lord above, looked at all and sundry with a benevolent eye and equal attachment. Twice she was gone for long periods to have her beautiful pups. She came back both times with her little ones in tow, suckling her, knowing full well that the best care they could have was with us! Susie and her pups literally ate out of our hands! We fed her whatever we had, rice even, which she carefully tapered off our hands with her teeth without so much as a nick to the hands that fed her! Then one fateful day it happened. It was the summer holidays and all of us kids left early in the morning for the beach. When we returned late in the evening, the tragic news that Susie was

captured by the dog-pound squad of the municipality was broken to us. The news was an apocalypse to us kids who thought that Susie was part of our lives forever, a part of ourselves.

We were right, you see, she still is.

✍️ VIDHYA SRIDHAR, OS II, DRM Office, Central Rly., Pune