

29th August, 2019

APPEAL TO ALL THE CENTRAL TRADE UNIONS, INDEPENDENT FEDERATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS IN VARIOUS SECTORS, SUCH AS TELECOM,TRANSPORT, STEEL, COAL, NON-COAL MINING, PETROLEUM, POWER, BANKING, INSURANCE, DEFENCE, CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND OTHER PSUs etc.

Dear Friends,

The Central Trade Unions (CTUs) met in New Delhi on 21st August, 2019 to take stock of heroic strike by the Ordnance Factories Defense Employees from 20th August, 2019 onward against the Central Government's stated policy of corporatisation of 41 Ordnance Factories. The CTUs and Independent Federations congratulate the defence sector employees and their federations for the successful strike action. The Central Government had to step back and announce that no formal decision of corporatization was taken and a Committee will be formed to look into objections of the employees before taking any final decision. The employees have therefore withdrawn the strike for the present, with an option to again proceed on strike if the proposed Committee reiterates the decision of corporatization.

The meeting also reviewed the developments in the intervening period featuring aggressive onslaught on the rights of the working people through fast-track pro-employer labour law reforms, huge joblosses, forcible retrenchment, lay-off in various sectors owing to continuing economic slowdown arising out of faulty neoliberal economic policy regime pursued by the Govt. at the centre.

The unrest and spontaneous opposition by the employees and their family members of production units of Indian Railways against Government's move to privatise them, agitations and struggles against privatization of steel plants at Durgapur, Salem and Bhadrabati, agitation against disinvestment in BEML and NTPC was also taken note of. The CTUs and Federations extend solidarity and support to all these struggles.

The Central Government's efforts to dilute their share in banks, insurance and other PSUs, in the name of controlling budget deficit, land pooling and the unions' opposition everywhere, were also noted in the meeting.

Thereafter, the matter of the CTUs' response to and condemnation of the Central Government's efforts to rush through labour law changes (Wage Code has been passed, Code on Occupational Health, Safety and Working Conditions introduced in Parliament and two Codes and amendments to the Trade Unions Act, 1926 in the pipeline) was discussed.

It was also noted that in the background of continuing economic slowdown, forcible and unlawful retrenchments, lay-off and shut-downs are going on in various industrial sectors

throughout the country, with the labour departments, both in the centre and most of the states remaining an indulgent onlooker to the alarming phenomenon of job-losses and repression of labour rights. And in such a situation, the Union Finance Minister has announced a host of further liberal concessions to the big business/corporate class, severely affecting the national exchequer, while the workers being biggest sufferers shamelessly denied any protection to unlawful retrenchment and lay-offs and any other relief at all. This exposes total servility of the Govt. to the moneyed class and its cruelty to the working people in general.

The Central Trade Unions and Independent Federations stressed upon the urgency for developing countrywide united struggles against these anti-worker and anti-people policies of the Govt. and in defence of the rights and livelihood of the working people who actually create wealth for the entire nation and keep the wheel of the economy running.

It has been decided to organise a massive open National Workers' Convention in Parliament Street, New Delhi on 30th September, 2019, where further course of action will be announced.

Please mobilise your members in large numbers and make this Convention a success while preparing for a bigger countrywide united struggles.



INTUC



AITUC



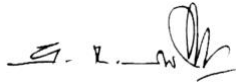
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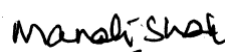
CITU



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