**Appeal to Road Transport Workers**

**For Social Security Act- Improvement in working Conditions**

 **Withdrawal of draconian M.V.Act Amendment Bill**

Defeat BJP & its allies- Elect Left, Democratic, Secular Candidates- AIRTWF.

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 22.3.2019

Dear Brothers/Sisters/Comrades,

 17th Parliament Election process has started. This is the time and opportunity for us to demonstrate our strength and decide to whom we have to vote. Candidates from different parties will request you for vote. They may offer sops, request or even threaten you. But don’t shake to them. Vote is not only your right but a weapon in your hand to decide your future and the fate of the road transport industry. Defeat those who got our vote and put their hand on our head earlier and elect those who are with us in the struggles and defended us in the Parliament.

**What happened in 2014:-** BJP under the leadership of Shri.NarendraModi made huge promises/assurances. Some of us also felt that our lives will be better if BJP comes to power and have given an absolute majority. But within six months after assuming power, the first attack started on the Road Transport Industry and on the workers in the mask of “Road Transport & Safety Bill”. The real intention of the Bill was to eliminate the Auto, Taxi Truck, Private bus ,STU , other workers in this sector and petty owners and to hand over the sector to the Giant Companies. Immediately we realised, got united and shown our strength by making the first All India Strike on 30-04-2015 after Indian independence and made it a grant success. The UnionGovernment finally came out with the M.V.Act Amendment Bill 2017

**Consistent struggles & Left support led to victory:-** the Road Transport Workers along with petty operators and other stake holders continuously launched struggles. Even then the Government placed the Bill in the LokSabha. Bypassing the strong objections raised by the Left, the Bill was passed by the LokSabha on 10-04-2017. But the NDA has no majority in the RajyaSabha to get the Bill passed. The Left MPs have taken advantage of this situation, mobilised other opposition parties and strongly resisted in the RajyaSabha. The Government tried to get it passed by in different ways including unethical methods. In the last Budget Session also it was listed. But with a fear of defeat, it could not push for discussion and retreat. In the meantime a united national strike of workers and stake holders was organised on7.8.2018. This is the victory of unity and struggle with the help of left and some other opposition parties.

**Sword is still hanging on head- Be alert:-**The victory is temporary and only a breathing gap. There is the danger that the new Government may push the Bill to get it passed. That is why; we should pledge to defeat BJP and its allies. We should also demand the other Political parties to withdraw the draconian M.V.Act Amendment Bill, Statutory steps be taken in consultation with the unions and other stake holders to safeguard the industry and for the betterment of the conditions of the workers. These shall be included in the “Election Manifestos”.

**What will happen if at all the Bill is passed?**The entire one /two vehicle owner cum drivers will be eliminated and the Corporates will run the Transport. The wayside mechanics will lose their earning as all the repairs and servicing activities shall be done in the authorised showrooms only. The small and medium scale auto mobile spare parts manufacturing units will either have to shut down or to become subordinate units to the branded companies. The workers in such units and the dealers will have to suffer. The small Driving Schools which are giving practical training on road will not survive as; driver training institutes will be managed by big houses. The Government Transport Department employees will face job threat as all the activities will be outsourced. The State Transport Corporations will be put to natural death and the workers will face job threat. The passengers have to pay high fares as the Corporates monopoly will exist. The prices of all the commodities will go up.

**All India Co-ordination Committee of Road Transport Workers Organisations** submitted a representation to all the Political parties other than BJP in this regard. The diesel/petrol prices, abnormal hike in Insurance premium, Toll charges, GST etcare the main reasons for the crisis of the industry. These policies are to be reversed. The Road Transport Workers working hard round the clock are contributing for the economic development of the nation. But minimum recognition is not given rather they are being ill- treated. This situation is to be changed. They should be allowed to work with self-respect and dignity. Social Security Act shall be enacted. Minimum wage is to be fixed at Rs.25,000/- and ensure that it should be implemented.PF, ESI, 8 hours work and other statutory benefits shall be implemented. Wayside amenities like rest rooms, hotels, parking facilities shall be provided.

To reduce the accidents, defects in construction of roads shall be rectified and the defaulters shall be booked. Signals, Sign Boards etc are to be updated. Separate lanes shall be provided at least in the National Highways for different types of vehicles. Block spots are to be identified and necessary steps will be taken to avert the accidents.

**Conclusion:-**All India Road Transport Workers’ Federation appeals to all the Road Transport Workers and all other stake holders to defeat BJP and its allies. Elect Left, Democratic and Secular candidates who will stand with us for our cause.

Don’t be deceived that someone will come and do something.

 Utilise the weapon of Vote to protect ourselves.

K.K.Divakaran

General Secretary