

**Unite and fight back the retrograde policies to
Protect the Industry and the rights of workers
Make the Strike on 23rd & 24th February-2022 a success**

Dear brothers,

The unorganized Road Transport Workers are facing serious problems. These workers are not covered any labour laws. No social security benefits. No self-respect and are being ill-treated. In many places minimum wage, weekly rest, ESI,PF etc denied to these workers.To put an end to all these we have to unite and fight back. The Central Trade Unions like CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS, AICCTU, AIUTUC etc and many independent All India Federations have called for a general strike against the anti-people, anti-worker, anti-national policies of the Central Government. Participate in the All-India general strike on 23rd & 24th February 2022. Demonstrate strength and make it a historical one.

OIL TANKERS: - The nature of driving the Oil Tankers itself is highly dangerous. The Driving License for Oil Tankers is a special one. The drivers and cleaners of tankers, which transport diesel, kerosene, petrol and gas are working in dangerous conditions. The oil companies Viz. IOCL, HPCL, BPCL Etc. will supply their stocks from their storage depots to the oil bunk dealers located at various places of consumption through oil tankers on contract system. The contractor's place the oil tankers with the oil companies "On Hire". The Oil Companies are the Principal Employers, but claim no responsibility of the Oil Tankers workers even though the companies earn huge profits. The concessional rates of eatables applicable to the company employees in the canteens are not made available to the oil tanker workers. Neither the Oil Companies nor the contractors take the responsibility of implementation of statutory provisions like, minimum wages and other facilities to the oil tanker workers. Even the Personal Insurance premium is not paid by the Company/Contractor.

SMALL GOODS VEHICLES: - Due to the growth of urbanization the necessity of the use of auto trolley, Tata Ace, vehicles of small wheelbase are increasing. Majority of the drivers are the owners of the said vehicles. The ever-increasing prices of Diesel, Insurance premium, Toll charges etc have thrown this sector in to deep crisis. As in the case of other drivers, the harassment by the police and other authorities is faced by these drivers also.

Contd... 2

AMBULANCES: - There are a good number of Ambulances in the Country. All most all are self-employed. The effects of hike in prices as mentioned above are affecting these drivers also. These Ambulances are meant to save the lives of people and to transport the dead bodies. But the drivers working on these ambulances do not have any kind of rights and facilities to safeguard their own lives and livelihood.

SCHOOL & COLLEGE BUSES: - Education has become a trade now a days. All most all the medium and big Educational Institutions are operating Buses for the transportation of their students. There by the number of School/College buses in the Country has gone up phenomenally. There are enormous complaints against the condition of these buses. Though the managements gain much profit in the operation of these buses, they take a little care on the maintenance of these buses and do not care to provide even statutory facilities including minimum wages to the drivers of these buses.

Private Bus Workers: Unlike Auto, Taxi and lorry, the private bus workers are not the owner cum drivers. They are working under bus owners. These workers are not paid minimum wages. No statutory benefits like weekly rest, PF, ESI, Gratuity etc are allowed to these workers. In states like Madhya Pradesh, the private bus workers are not paid even monthly salaries. A meagre amount basing on the earnings of that day are paid to the conductor and driver. The Sword of job loss will always be hanging on their heads.

Social Security: At the consistent and militant struggles organized by AIRTWF, in the year 2006, the then Central Government has entrusted the study of these unorganized transport Workers problems, particularly the social security cover to V. V. Giri National Labour Institute. A committee of that Institute have visited many places in the country both the work places as well the residential areas of the transport Workers. Interacted with conductors, drivers, mechanics, booking staff etc. Finally, they have submitted a detailed report to the Government. In that report they have recommended for social security act along with other favorable suggestions. They suggested resource options to create corpus fund by imposing some small amount of cess on purchase of all the motor vehicles. They have explained what are the benefits can be extended to the workers from that corpus fund. Ironically, till date the governments have paid deaf year to those recommendations.

In the light of the above, it is the need of the hour to raise to the occasion. All the ill effects are because of the retrograde policies of the Governments. When the entire working class is going on strike to put a check to those policies, it is only the way for the unorganized Road Transport Workers to join the strike on 23rd & 24th February 2022 to save the industry and the wellbeing of the workers. AIRTWF appeals to all to participate and make the strike a success irrespective of the affiliations.

Demands:

1. Supply Food grains @10 kgs per person till March 2022 without insisting Ration Card.
2. Payment of Rs.7,500/ per month to all the unorganised Transport workers till March 2022.
3. Withdraw enhanced excise duty in the year 2020 on Diesel/Petrol and roll back the revised prices by the Oil Companies since 07th June 2020.
4. Bring Petrol & Diesel under the purview of GST duly compensating the loss of revenue to the states.
5. State Governments should make arrangements for loan through Nationalised Banks for purchase of new vehicles to the self-employed.
6. Steps shall be taken to control the harassment by the Private Finance Companies.
7. Insurance premiums are enhanced irrationally by the IRDA. It should be controlled and Trade Union representatives also shall be included in the Committee. Transparency shall be maintained.
8. Enact Social Security Act for the unorganised Transport Workers duly implementing the recommendations of V.V.Giri National Labour Institute for the appointment letters, applicability of Acts.
9. Withdraw the Amended M.V. Act 2019 and discuss with all the stakeholders for a better and proper alternative policy.
10. Withdraw anti Working-Class Labour Codes.
11. All the unorganised Road Transport Workers including self-employed shall be recorded in the registers of labour Department.
12. All the unorganised Road Transport Workers including self-employed shall be covered under all the labour laws. Suitable amendments shall be carried out accordingly.
13. Harassment of Police and other Officials should be stopped forthwith.

14. The Drivers and cleaners working on oil Tankers through the contractors shall be paid minimum wages, PF, ESI, Gratuity, etc. The Oil companies shall be held responsible for the implementation. This clause shall be incorporated in the agreement entered in to with the contractors.
15. The profession of Driver shall be treated with dignity and respect.

UNITY IS OUR STRENGTH - STRUGGLE IS OUR WEAPON

ALL INDIA ROAD TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION(AIRTWF)