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For Publication:

24-03-2023

All India road Transport Workers' Federation strongly condemns the proposal of the Ministry of Road Transport to enhance the Toll Charges from 01<sup>st</sup> of April. The Federation demands the Ministry to withdraw the proposal forthwith. The Federation appeals to all the Road Users to stop all the vehicles on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 for 10 minutes from 12.00 n00n to 12.10 noon throughout the country and express protest against the enhancement.

Enhancement of Toll charges on the existing Toll Plazas is against the principles and also unethical. The Toll charges were fixed at the time of the inauguration of the Toll Plaza after considering the life of the Toll and the Vehicular Traffic density. Enhancing the Toll Rates after some years is illegal and unethical. At a time when the entire industry is in serious financial crisis because of the abnormal increase in fuel charges, insurance premiums and toll charges, the industry needs some concessions to come out of the crisis. Contrary to the situation enhancement of toll charges will further ruin the industry which is the life line of the economy.

It is not out of place to mention here that the Government of India is collecting Road Development CESS on petrol, Diesel. Later your Government has changed the name as "Infrastructure Development Cess". That Cess has to be utilized for the Construction, Maintenance and operation of the Roads. Again collecting Toll is illegal and nothing but looting the people.

The Federation once again appeals to all the Road Users to stop all the vehicles on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 for 10 minutes from 12.00 noon to 12.10 noon throughout the country.

R. Carmy

(R.LAKSHMAIAH) General Secretary