

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

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Every STUs in the country is in serious financial crisis. The retrograde policies of the Governments both at Centre and states are the root cause of the crisis. The M.V.Act amendment 2019 is aimed at dismantling the existing STUs. The 4 Labour codes will create slavery environment for the workers. Privatization and sale of PSUs are declared by the Central Government as their policy. The core sectors of the economy and the assets of the PSUs are going to be handed over to the corporate houses in the name of NMP. The central trade unions like INTUC, AITUC, HMS, AICCTU, AIUTUC etc and independent All India Federations have called upon the working class of this country to go on for two days general strike on 23rd & 24th February 2022 in protest against the anti-working class, anti-people and anti-national policies pursued by the Government. AIRTWF appeals to all the workers of STUs in the country to participate in the strike to protect the STUs and the rights of the workers.

Condition of the STUs: All the STUs in the country are in serious financial crisis. They are neither able to expand its services to meet the demand nor even to replace the old age buses. Gradually the share of the STU buses in the country has come down from 23% in 1980 to only 8% by 2017 and have further come down. Some STUs are in much difficulty even to pay the bills to the oil companies.

Workers are made scapegoats: The burden of the financial crisis have been thrown on to the workers. In some STUs like J&K, MSRTC, RSRTC etc, the payment of monthly salaries is being delayed for months together. In many STUs, the retired employees are not paid the terminal benefits and the payment of pensions is also delayed. Reducing the manpower and increasing the workloads, out sourcing of many of the activities, hiring the private buses on KM basis has become the order of the day. In some STUs the workers are facing serious harassment by the authorities with the intention to throw away the workers. With this pathetic situation, in some STUs the workers are committing suicide.

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Why this situation happened? In the name of the liberalized economic policies, the governments have gradually withdrawn the social responsibilities and left to the market forces. The consumers have to pay for the services which they want to avail has become the policy of the Governments. Public sector undertakings are blamed as white elephants. Withdrawal of the capital contribution to the STUs, measuring the STUs on the scale of profit & loss, Amendments to the M.V.Act, promoting the private operators by liberalizing the permit system, National Permit scheme, abnormal enhancement of excise duty and VAT on diesel etc are the poisonous fruits of the liberalized economic policies which ruined the STUs.

What is the solution? All the above ill effects are part and parcel of the retrograde policies of the Government. These retrograde policies can only be defeated through powerful united struggles. The Farmers sustained and year long united struggle proved this. Unless and until the retrograde policies are defeated, the STUs cannot survive. When the entire working class is going on strike against the retrograde policies, it is only the way for the STU workers to join the strike to protect the STUs and the legitimate rights of the workers. AIRTWF once again appeals to all the workers of the STUs in the country to send a warning to the government that the STU workers will never be the silent spectators when the STUs are being ruined. Join the strike on 23rd & 24th February 2022 irrespective of union affiliations and make it a success.

Demands:

- 1) Strengthen & expand STUs by allocating Budgetary support.
- 2) Capital Contribution to the STUs both by the Central and State Governments at the ratio of 1:2 is to be restored. Suitable methods can be adopted to mobilise funds for this purpose as is being done in different countries.
- 3) The accumulated debts of all the STUs in the country are to be converted in to Equity by the Governments as one-time settlements.

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- 4) One lakh buses are to be procured by the Central Government and distributed to all the STUs on proportionate basis for replacement and augmentation (to be operated and maintained by STUs only) as one time settlement.
- 5) Exempt STUs from Excise Duty, Sales Tax on Diesel, Chassis, Spares, Fabrication, etc.
- 6) Electric Buses under FAME I & II shall be procured and operated by STUs only.
- 7) STUs should not be measured on the scale of "Profit & Loss".
- 8) M.V.Act Amendment 2019 should be withdrawn forthwith and suitable amendments are to be made to strengthen the STUs.
- 9) STU employees shall be provided suitable conditions of service including fair wages, establishment of Provident Fund, living accommodation, Places for rest, recreation and other amenities as stipulated in Section 19(1)(c) of RTC Act 1950.
- 10) All STUs workers should be made eligible for Pension scheme on par with Government Employees (old pension scheme prior to 2004).
- 11) Withdraw anti-Working-Class Labour Codes.
- 12) STUs Workers also shall be considered as COVID-19 Warriors. 50 lakh Insurance and other benefits shall be extended.
- 13) Scraping of the Buses should not be made mandatory for STUs as they have established best maintenance practices and adopting scraping policies of their own.
- 14) All the STUs should be permitted to take up Goods Transport to generate additional revenue as is being done in AP, Telangana etc.
- 15) Petrol, Diesel out let dealer ship shall be granted to the STUs to generate additional revenue.

*Transport is not a technical problem- It is a political decision
Advance city is where rich uses Public Transport.Enrique Penalosa,
Former Mayor, Bogota.*

**UNITY IS OUR STRENGTH – STRUGGLE IS OUR WEAPON – LET US UTILISE THIS
FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE STUS AND OUR FAMILIES**

ALL INDIA ROAD TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION

