

# **Strengthen & Expand STUs-Restore Capital Contribution Participate and make success All India Protest Day on..... AIRTWF**

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

We are all working hard round the clock in all the adverse weather conditions even some times at the cost of our lives. Workloads and work pressures are increased day by day. But we are not getting the payment of salary in time. Terminal benefits are not being paid at the time of retirement.

**Why it is happening?** It is told that because of the financial crisis the STU is unable to replace the old aged buses and to introduce new services for augmentation. Even it is becoming difficult for payment to the suppliers like Fuel, Spares etc. In such a situation the revision of wages, payment of wages in time and payment of terminal benefits are not being done. The main task is to minimise the expenditure.

**Are the workers responsible for the Financial Crisis?** The answer is “No”. According to the official data, the utilisation of crew, Vehicle, spares are ever increasing. The OR, Revenue per Bus etc are increasing year by year. The vacancies arising due to retirement and deaths are not being filled up. The existing workers are bearing the burden.

**Who are the culprits?** They are the retrograde policies of the Government dictated by the Fund Bank by withdrawal of the Government from its responsibilities and leaving to the market forces. Measuring the STUs on the scale of “Profit & Loss” has become the policy. The Capital Contribution by the State and Central Governments as envisaged in the RTC. Act 1950 was discontinued and the burden was shifted on to the shoulders of the STUs. It was instructed by the then Planning Commission of India not to expand the fleet strength of the STUs. Even though the price of Crude Oil in the international market is less than what was in 2014, the Diesel prices went up more than 40% when compared to 2014. In addition the bulk buyers are charged much higher rate than the retail market. The legitimate revenues are being drained out by the illegal private operators in a big way. By amending the M.V.AAct 1988, the illegal operation of the Private

operators as stage carrier by obtaining the Contract Carriage, is made as legal. The amendment to National permit rules by allowing the Private operators to operate from anywhere to anywhere as stage carriage, the procurement and operation of Electric Buses by private people guarantying the profits at the cost of the STUs are the root causes of the financial crisis of the STUs. The recent “Vehicle Scrap Policy” will add fuel to the crisis of STUs. In true spirit, the Government is wilfully committing this crime with a motto to dismantle the existing STUs.

**Are the retrograde Policies detrimental to the STUs alone?**

No. The vast section of the people, the commuters will be left to the mercy of the Profit greedy Private Operators. The SC, ST, BC, Women will be deprived of the rule of reservation benefits by dismantling the STUs. The commuters availing Free/Concessional travel will lose the benefit. The hill and village route passengers will forgo the services and will be forced to depend on unorganised risky private transport. The lives of the commuters and property will be lost due to high rate of accidents (the lowest rate of accident is recorded in STUs only). The pollution levels and the import of oil bill will skyrocket. All these are the ill effects on the nation after dismantling the STUs.

**Then what is the solution?** The only one and right solution is in the hands of the STU workers with the active support and cooperation of the public to change the retrograde policies of the Government. We should get united and launch for a nationwide struggle. The Peasants have proved it and made the Government to repeal the Black Agricultural Laws. When the farmers can do, why can't we? We will certainly win by launching the united movement at national level to protect and expand the STUs and for the welfare of the workers.

**Appeal:** All India Road Transport Workers' Federation appeals to all the STU Workers irrespective of union affiliations to join and make the “Protest Day” a grand success.

**Unity is our strength-Struggle is our weapon**

**Victory is ours-Move forward to achieve**

**Participate and make success the Protest Day on.....**