Withdraw M.V.Act Amendment Bill - Enact Social Security Act

Participate in 8 & 9th Jan-2019 Strike- Make a success - AIRTWF

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Dear Brothers,

The Road Transport Industry in India is in crisis. The ever increasing Diesel Prices, yearly increase in Insurance Premium, Toll Charges is the main reason for the crisis. The Transport Workers, particularly the un-organised Transport Workers do not have any Social Security. It is the right and ripe time to press upon the Government to respond and take suitable steps for the protection of the industry and for the betterment of the Workers. Let us unite, participate in the strike on 8 & 9th Jan 2019 and demonstrate the strength of the Transport to achieve our just and genuine demands.

The Crude oil price in the international market per Barrel in 2014 was 98.89 dollars which fell down to 71.4 and even lower some times. Correspondingly the diesel Price should also have to come down. But it has jumped from 61.12 to 67.38. Some time it went to Rs80/ even. This has pushed the small/individual vehicle owners in to crisis. During the same period the IRDA has enhanced the Vehicle and the third party insurance almost 100%. During the same period the burden of Toll Tax also doubled. Correspondingly, the income has not gone up. Due to which the small owners/owner cum drivers of Auto Rickshaw, Taxi, Private Bus, Truck etc are facing tremendous pressure and are not able to pay even the Bank Loan instalments. This is leading to suicidal deaths in recent periods. Adding to this the Police harassment is on high side.

All these are the resultant of the vicious policies pursued by the Modi led BJP Government. Unless and until there is a change in the policies, the industry and the workers cannot survive. Let us unite and fight back the vicious policies.

The Insurance premiums are enhanced by the IRDA abnormally and irrationally every year. From April 2014 to 2018 April the increase is almost 100%. The All India Road Transport Workers’ Federation filed a petition before the IRDA under RTI Act seeking information of the amount collected as premium for all the vehicles during the year 2015-16 and the compensation paid to the victims of the Road accidents during the same period. Ironically the IRDA replied that they don’t have details. It is the fundamental question that without having any details, how the IRDA is enhancing the premiums every year and what are the criteria for the increase. This proves that how the insurance companies are looting the hard earned money of the vehicle owners.

Toll Tax is another instrument hampering the vehicle owners particularly the Truck owners. Toll plazas are increasing and the Toll Tax is also being increased. For example the Toll Tax for a Truck from Modasa (Gujarat) to Mumbai and back is around Rs.7,000/-. This is the situation in all the long routes.

Police harassment has become the order of the day. On filthy reasons the drivers are challaned and treated inhumanly. There are instances of manhandling which are leading to deaths. In recent times the attacks of the anti social elements has increased. Looting of cash, hijacking the vehicles, beating and killing the drivers are taking place in several parts of the country. Recent incident took place in Rayagada of Odisha. There is no security either to the goods/ vehicle/Driver. All these onslaughts should be put to an end.

Even according to the government, all the commercial vehicles both passenger and goods are called as “Public Transport” which means they are serving the public/Nation and not for their personal purpose. The revenue collected from this sector by the Governments is so high. As far as employment is concerned, Road Transport is the second largest after the Agriculture. Transport is the life line of any economy. In spite of all, the industry as a whole and the workers are grossly neglected by the Governments.

Majority of the Road Transport Workers are not covered by any of the labour legislations of the country like PF, ESI, Gratuity, etc. No minimum wage is implemented. After a prolonged struggle by the AIRTWF, the Union Government entrusted the job of study the problems of the workers to the V.V.Giri National Labour Institute. That institute has studied the problems by visiting several places in the country. They have interacted with all categories of workers both at work spots as well residential places. Finally they have recommended to the Government to enact “Social Security Act” for the UN organised Road Transport Workers. They have suggested some models to create corpus fund so as there will not be any financial burden on the Government. The Institute further suggested that the PF, ESI etc Acts shall be amended so as to be applicable even to an individual worker working in a vehicle. Ironically, neither the UPA Government nor the present NDA Government paid any attention till date.

At this juncture, the Government of India brought the M.V.Act Amendment Bill in the mask of reducing the Road accidents and the fatalities. But the real motto of the Bill is to eliminate the large number of one/ two vehicle owners from the field and to hand over to the Corporate Houses. A new section is incorporated to allow the Big Companies in the name of “Aggregators”. Several sections are incorporated in the name of vehicle condition, licensing system. Penalties and punishments are enhanced many folds.

This Anti Industry, Anti Worker & Anti People Bill is pending in the Rajya Sabha because of the stiff opposition by the left MPs and supported by some others. This Bill is to be fought tooth and nail.

Keeping in view, almost all the National Federations in the Road Transport sector have decided to go strike on 08 & 09th January 2019 throughout the country. All the Road Transport Workers, petty vehicle owners, way side mechanics, small Driving Schools and all the stakeholders are requested to participate in the strike and see that even a single motor vehicle shall not come on the road during the strike.

Demands

 Withdraw Draconian M.V.Act Amendment Bill & Save the Transport Industry

. Enact Social Security Act for the un-organised Road Transport Workers

Transport (Commercial) Drivers shall be registered in Labour *Department*

Rs.24, 000/- Minimum wage shall be fixed to un-organised Road Transport

Workers

. Reduce third party insurance premium

 Roll back MORTH notification dt: 29-12-2016(Enhancement of charges)

 Protect all stake holders of Road Transport Sector

. Petroleum products should be brought under GST and compensate short fall

to State Governments.

 Reduce GST rate on Prefabricated buses

 Protect & Safeguard STUs with financial assistance

Unity is strength – Struggle is the Weapon - United we stand – Divided we fall

…………………. ALL INDIA ROAD TRANSPORT WORKERS’ FEDERATION

Date: 15-12-2018 ……………………. State Committee