

**Defeat BJP and Allies that have ruined the Transport Sector!
Vote for Left, Democratic and Secular parties to save the nation and to
protect road transport workers!!**

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

18th Lok Sabha Elections is going to be held in April-May. All India Road Transport Workers' Federation appeals to all the Road Transport Workers and their families to exercise their vote freely. Before voting to a political party, we should think twice/thrice to whom we have to vote. The main criteria should be to protect our nation in general and the Road Transport Sector and our livelihood in particular. The ruling dispensation at the centre which came to power has ruined the nation during the last 10 years. The penalties for normal transport offenses have been enhanced many fold. The demand for Social Security Act was being loudly heard. The fuel prices, Insurance premium, Toll charges have sky rocketed. The livelihood is at stake. Hence it is the time to defeat such anti Transport Sector, anti people and anti national policies with the weapon of our powerful vote.

Miserable conditions of the Workers: The unorganised Road Transport Workers are not covered under any of the Labour laws like PF, ESI, Weekly day of Rest, 8 hours duty etc. Particularly the drivers are to be on the roads round the clock even at the cost of their lives. No facilities for rest and food on the en route. The driving- the highly skilled profession of driving is being ill treated. The demand for Social Security Act is badly neglected.

Auto Rickshaw: Majority of the Auto Rickshaw Drivers are the owners and they them self the drivers. They do not have any security. They are being fined in a big way on flimsy grounds. The municipal authorities are supposed to allot parking places. But in practice they have failed to do so and the Auto Rickshaw drivers are being penalised on the pretext that they have stopped at an unauthorised place. The harassment by the police and Transport Department Officials is on high side.

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita: The Government of India has attacked the entire vehicle driving public- particularly drivers by enacting draconian provisions in the notorious act in accident cases. All the drivers will be in jails with heavy fine on the implementation of the provisions. Immediately the drivers revolted against it by going on strike on 01st and 02nd January 2024. Then the Government was compelled to announce that they will consult before implementation. But the Government has issued notification for implementation of the Act except 106(2). But 106(1) which prescribes 5 years

imprisonment and fine is going to be implemented. Thus, the sword of Damocles is still hanging on the heads of every diver.

App based drivers: The App based companies like Uber/Ola/Rapido/Porter/Lynk etc are squeezing the blood of the drivers. The drivers are neither considered as the workers of those companies nor provided with any security. The Government can develop an alternative App to protect the drivers and for the benefit of the customers as the Kerala State Government has done. But the Central Government paid a deaf ear to this demand.

M.V. Amendment Act, 2019: This was brought with the intension of handing over the entire Road Transport Sector that has been known for its petty, small, medium size ownership to big corporate houses. Penalties have been enhanced many folds squeezing the blood of the drivers.

Diesel Prices: The Crude Oil Prices in the international market in May 2014 was 109 US Dollars. Then the price of Diesel per litre was around Rs. 56. Now the Crude Oil Price in the international market is 82 US Dollars. But the price of Diesel per litre is around Rs. 95. This is how the Government has looted the hard earned money of the Transport Sector. The more cruelty is that during the Covid pandemic, the Crude Oil Prices in the international market has drastically fallen to 20 US Dollars. But the Government did not reduced the prices of Diesel rather enhanced the Excise Duty by Rs.16 per litre within 3 months in 2020.

Insurance Premium: The third party insurance premiums of all the vehicles have been doubled and more also. Normally the premiums are to be decided basing on the accidents and the compensation paid. Even according to the statistics of the Government, the accidents have not doubled during the last 10 years. Even then the premiums have been doubled. This is to benefit the insurance companies.

The exorbitant Toll Charges (loot): The Government is collecting Rs.12 on every litre of Diesel and Petrol as Road Development Cess. The Modi Government in the year 2017 has changed the name as Infrastructure Development Cess. Lakhs of rupees every year is being collected under this account. Again collecting Toll Charges is nothing but deceiving the people. Toll charges after certain period have to be abolished. But in practise, they are being continued. Surprisingly the toll Charges are being enhanced every year. This is nothing but looting the people.

Scraping Policy: The Government has brought the Vehicle Scraping Policy burdening the petty vehicle owners and also the individual personal vehicle owners. This is meant to protect the profits of the Manufacturing Companies. As a result of all the above policies pursued by the Government of India the Road Transport Sector is in serious crisis and the workers are left to suffer.

Defied promises: The BJP and Narendra Modi during the 2014 and 2019 elections have assured the voters certain promises. Bringing down the prices of essential commodities within 100 days, creation of two crore jobs every to the unemployed youth, depositing Rs.15 lakhs in to the accounts of all the citizens etc. All these promises have been defied by the Government after coming to power. The prices of essential commodities have sky rocked, no new jobs have been created rather job losses has occurred. Black money has been made white money. Atrocities on women, minorities and dalits are on the high side. The assurances given to the farmers on MSP etc are violated. More so people are divided on communal basis.

So, All India Road Transport Workers' Federation appeals to all the Road Transport Workers and their family members and all other stake holders to defeat the BJP led NDA and vote for those who come forward to protect the Sector and assure to implement the following demands.

1. Social Security Act for the unorganised Road Transport Workers be enacted
2. All labour laws shall be made applicable to all the Road Transport Workers irrespective of the number of workers employed.
3. Rest rooms for the drivers with all facilities shall be provided on all the National Highways.
4. An independent investigation team with experts should be constituted to study the Road accidents and to fix up the responsibility.
5. Loans shall be arranged through Nationalised Banks to the self employed commercial vehicle owners and stop the exploitation by Private Finance Companies.
6. Penal Provisions 106(1) & (2) of BNS should be withdrawn
7. M.V.Act Amendment 2019 should be repealed
8. Diesel prices, Insurance Premium and Toll Charges are to be regulated.
9. The Government of India should develop an alternative App to Uber/Ola/Rapido etc to protect the interest of the drivers and the customers and should enact a law to regulate the existing App Companies with regard to fares, welfare of the workers etc.
10. Vehicle scrapping policy should not be mandatory. It should be optional.

- All India Road Transport Workers' Federation (AIRTWF)