

March on to protect the Transport Sector

The Rights of the Workers!

Participate & make success Chalho Parliament-24th March-2025!

AIRTWF

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

All India Road Transport Workers' Federation has given a call for Chalho Parliament on 24-03-2025 to protect the Road Transport sector and for the redressal of the grievances of the Workers. AIRTWF appeals to all the Road Transport Workers to participate in a big way to make the Government to come down heavily.

Why this Parliament? All the segments of the Road Transport sector right from the E-Rickshaw, Auto Rickshaw, Taxi/Cab, Truck, Private Bus, RTCs are thrown in to serious financial crisis due to the wrong policies pursued by the Government of India. The Conditions of the Workers are deplorable. To change the situation, we should rise our voice and build pressure. That is why the Chalho Parliament call is given.

Conditions of the Workers: The Road Transport Workers have to drive the vehicles round the clock in all the weather conditions like severe cold, heat and rains even at the risk of their lives. Even then they are not covered under any labour laws, minimum wages etc. They are working in a pathetic condition. At the same time the prices of all the essential commodities, expenditure on Education and Health have increased many fold. It has become highly difficult to manage.

Social Security Act: The Building and other construction workers have fought heroically and achieved the Social Security (Welfare Board). Transport is the back bone of the economy. Even then the Road Transport Workers do not have the Social Security.

Penalties: Adding fuel to the crisis the penalties have been increased many folds by the Government through the M. V. Amendment Act 2019. This is eating away the hard-earned money. In addition to this the harassment of the Police Officials has become the order of the day. As a culmination of all these burdens, it has become very difficult to maintain the families.

Dangerous Labour Codes: Adding fuel to the pathetic condition of the workers, the Government brought 4 Labour Codes duly abolishing the Labour laws which are beneficial to the workers to some extent. The Government is making serious efforts for the implementation of the Codes. The right to form the union, Collective bargaining, right to strike etc will be no more if the Codes are implemented.

Crisis of the sector: The Government of India has enhanced the prices of Petrol, Diesel and Gas abnormally at a time when the Crude Oil prices in the international market have fallen drastically. Third Party Insurance Premium, Toll Charges, prices of spare parts etc have sky rocketed. The expenditure has gone up so high and the income has not increased proportionately.

Threat to the very existence: A new section 93" Aggregator" was incorporated in the M. V. Amendment Act 2019 to drive away the petty vehicle owners and hand over to the giant Corporate Companies like Uber/Ola/Rapido/Porter etc.

With all the above stated draconian policies of the Government, the Road Transport sector is in deep crisis and the Workers are in a pathetic condition. Why should we allow this situation to continue? We should put an end to this menace. We should rise to the occasion.

The efforts were unheard: AIRTWF has represented the Government on many occasions to protect the sector, welfare of the workers, to withdraw the enhanced penalties, for safe and respectable working conditions. AIRTWF has organised many protest actions. On 18th December 2024, a delegation of AIRTWF met the Transport Minister Shri. Nitin Gdکاری. Submitted a memorandum and had a detailed discussion. But the Government paid a deaf ear.

Solution: We have to fight back the evil efforts of the Government. For which a serious pressure is to be build up on the Government. In this direction only AIRTWF has given a call for Chalho Parliament. AIRTWF appeals to all the Road Transport workers to participate in the program in a big way. We demand the Government to settle the following demands.

Demands:

1. Reduce and rationalise Diesel Prices, Insurance Premium and Toll charges.
2. Vehicle Scraping Policy should not be mandatory. Testing should be under the Transport Department. ASRTU & CIRT should be involved. If the vehicle is to be scraped 1/3 of the cost shall be subsidised by the Government of India and 1/3 by the vehicle manufacturing Company.
3. M.V. Amendment Act 2019 shall be suitably amended to protect the sector and the petty owners.
4. Loans shall be arranged to petty owners through nationalised Financial Institutions to relieve from the clutches of the Private Finance Companies.
5. Social Security Act shall be enacted for the unorganised Road Transport Workers including self-employed.
6. PF, ESI Acts shall be suitably amended to be made applicable to all the unorganised Road Transport Workers without the ceiling of minimum number of Workers.
7. Provisions of MTW Act shall be strictly enforced with regard to duty hours, weekly day of rest etc.
8. Provision of Double Drivers rule on National Permit Vehicles shall be restored.
9. Way side amenities for the drivers on all the National Highways shall be provided with all facilities.
10. Section 106(1) & (2) of BNS should be withdrawn duly amending the BNS-2023.
11. App based platform alternative to Uber/Ola/Rapido/Porter etc shall be developed and operated by the Government of India to protect the drivers and the consumers from the exploitation by the Companies and it will generate huge amount of money to the Government of India.
12. Segregation shall be implemented on all the National Highways to reduce the accidents.
13. STUs shall be strengthened and expanded.
14. Capital Contribution to STUs as per RTC Act 1950 shall be restored.
15. Outstanding debts of all the STUs shall be converted in to Government equity.
16. Electric Buses procurement, maintenance and operation shall be allotted to the STUs. Subsidy and the viability gap funding shall be extended to the STUS.
17. Withdraw labour code.