

Japan Opens Its Doors to Foreign Workers

The industrially and highly technically developed capitalist Japan has been boasting that it can solve its problem of labour crunch with more women and more robots without the necessity of migrant workers.

Such lofty claims may appear to be pleasant to hear, but cannot conceal the fact that without the exploitation of the labour power of workers that too the cheap labour power of migrant workers the capitalism cannot survive and thrive.

The same thing is proved with the recent experience of Japan. In the first week of November.18, the Japanese government approved legislation to potentially allow hundreds of thousands of blue-collar workers' legal entry for the first time. If this proposed legislation is passed in parliament, it will come in to effect in April.2019.

For all these years immigrants entered in to Japan without proper documents. While there were around 6,82,480 foreign workers in Japan in 2012, their number is doubled to 12,78,670 by 2017. More than half of these workers are students working part-time and so-called "technical interns" who are supposed be in Japan for training, but are used as low-skilled factory workers.

With such a proposal of legi-slation the Japan government expects 40,000 foreign workers annually adding up to 2,50,000 over five years.

These foreign workers will be allowed to work in 14 sectors like agriculture, nursing, construction and hospitality etc that face severe labour shortages. According to the proposed legislation two new visa categories will be created. One is designed for unskilled workers who will only be allowed to stay up for up to five years with no possibility of extension. The second is for more skilled migrants who will be allowed to renew their visas indefinitely and also to bring their families along.

Just like in all other developed countries people in Japan too are not in favour of allowing migrant workers with the wrong notion that the crimes and social friction would increase and the state had to maintain over-burdened public services.

But to allay these fears the P.M. of Japan Mo. Abe has been repeatedly claiming that the newly proposed law would not amount an "immigration policy".

That is how the capitalist Japan wants to benefit and thrive on the labour power of migrant workers, while at the same time it refuses to consider migrant workers on par with its citizens denying them to provide social welfare and to prevent discrimi-nation against them.

Such has been the class nature of capitalism, which on one hand survives and thrives on the labour power of migrant workers and at the same time on the other hand denies recognising them as human beings on par with its citizens and treating them with human dignity. This is the modern form of slavery being practiced by capitalism and imperialism in this epoch of globalisation.

Such a hypocritical practice of capitalist system has to be opposed and fought tooth and nail by the working class throughout the world.
