

**Call All India Federation of Trade Unions (New) (AIFTU-N)**  
**Ensure Success of All India Strike on 8th and 9th**  
**Jan. 2019 for Defence of Workers Jobs & Rights**  
*Intensify Struggles against Central Govt's Pro-imperialist- Anti*  
*Worker and Divisive Policies*

***Comrades,***

Since the assumption to power by the BJP at the centre in 2014 the attacks on the working class have intensified and it is becoming more and more challenging today to retain our jobs and our hard won wages and rights. In the last four and a half years there have been many workers struggles at the local levels in the country in defence of their rights and for better conditions of life. There have been sectoral struggles in this period and in the past three years two one-day general strikes were organised on a charter of demands touching the issues of all sections of workers. But the Modi sarkar under the facade of *achhe din* to the common people continues to put to affect its anti-worker policies which are in essence pro-big business. Ease of doing Business is more "*achhe din*" for the corporate and foreign capital and not for the workers at large.

The various anti-worker policies-from making changes in the existing labour laws to the fixed term employment contract to all sectors' are being pushed through aggressively by the Central Govt of RSS-BJP. While it is a known fact that existing labour laws are rarely implemented, the government at the centre had been making serious attempts to make amendments in these laws in favour of the managements. It has codified the 44 labour laws in to four codes. The BJP ruled states, starting from Rajasthan, have already made changes in the contract labour in the Industrial Disputes Act etc effectively putting out a large mass of workers outside the purview of benefits under the laws on the one hand and giving a free hand to the managements to hire and fire. The policies of the government have further hit hard on regular employment and the process of contractorisation has intensified. The Constitutional principal of equal pay for equal work, reiterated by the Supreme Court recently is brazenly violated by the managements of both public and private sectors with contract workers subjected to wage and other discriminations. Added to this, through an executive order in 2018, it extended fixed term employment contract that was restricted only to the apparel industry to all sectors of industry and services. This was in order to facilitate "ease of doing business". The Modi government made tall claims of providing 2 crore jobs per year while the reality is that job losses are on the rise. The MV Amendment Act passed in the Lok Sabha in 2016 was aimed at privatising road transport in favour of the corporate that would displace thousands of small transporters. There are workers who are denied even the status of worker e.g AASHA workers, sanitary workers and other scheme workers. Despite the Supreme Court rulings, all state Governments continue to sit on astronomical amounts collected as construction cess and continue to create new complications in the construction worker's access to this money which is meant only for their welfare. The Supreme Court observed that huge amounts under the cess meant for welfare of construction workers are frittered away and BOC Act is flouted with impunity. Throughout the country, the right to life of workers becomes more expendable as seen in the rise of so-called accidents at work place. Labour law enforcement staff is cut down and safety measures are not enforced both in public and private sectors. Statutory rights of Minimum wages, ESI and PF are also violated and accessed by a diminishing number. The Central Govt on its part is divesting public sector built with public money and also allowing 100 % foreign investment in several sectors. Railways, defence and other key public sector industries have been completely opened to foreign and local corporate players. The people of this country had experienced the adverse effects of demonetization and GST.

This government is unleashing all-round attacks on the people. The Central Govt, stands for and backs attacks on people on cast and communal lines to push through its anti-national, pro Corporate policies. Patriarchal norms are upheld as are lynchings, mob killings to advocate upper caste chauvinism. Let us never forget, that the first victim, Mohd Aqlakh, was also an ex contract worker at an MNC in Noida (UP). We are also witnesses to the various forms of state terror on people's movements as seen in Thoothukudi killing.

An All India strike of Working class has been called for on the 8th and 9th of January 2019 by several trade union centres, our working class organisation also taking part in that call. It is a must to ensure that all sections of struggling workers strike together and deal a mighty blow against these anti worker policies. The real fight must be further developed. As always, we call on the working class to strike together on the 8th and 9th of January to strengthen our common struggle. Come comrades, hold powerful strikes on both days!

1. *Contain price rise. Universalize PDS. Cut taxes on petrol and diesel!*
2. *Strict enforcement of all labour laws especially statutory laws!*
3. *No amendments to labour laws. Withdraw all circulars issued by Central Govt, and also various state governments which restrict the law implementation by changing procedures. Strengthen the labour law enforcement machinery!*
4. *Minimum wage of Rs. 18,000 per month and linked to price index!*
5. *Accord the status of workers to so-called voluntary worker like AASHA workers. Minimum wages should be paid to them!*
6. *Assured pension of not less than Rs 3000 per month for all workers and should also be linked to minimum wages in the states!*
7. *In cases of accidents at work place, since these are all cases of wilful negligence, cases under non-bailable sections should be lodged against the employers. Punitive action should also be taken against concerned factory inspectors. There should be compulsory jail term apart from fines for the guilty employers!*
8. *Stop contractualization of jobs outsourcing and temporary appointments and regularize all contract and outsourced workers. Equal pay benefits and allowances must be implemented for equal work. Scrap Fixed Term Employment!*
9. *Remove ceiling on payment on eligibility and payment of bonus, PF and increase quantum of gratuity!*
10. *Ensure universal ESI coverage and PF facilities!*
11. *Withdraw new pension scheme for govt employees!*
12. *Implement reservation in the private sector jobs!*
13. *Stop state sponsored attacks on minorities, Dalits and other sections, Ensure punishment to the guilty Stop false encounters!*
14. *Scrap UAPA and other repressive laws. Release all falsely arrested civil rights activists and trade union leaders booked under such charges!*
15. *Stop FDI and revoke FDI in retail, railways and defence!*
16. *Stop disinvestment of public sector undertakings. Revoke mergers of public sector banks!*
17. *Compulsory registration of trade union within 45 days of submission of application!*
18. *Compulsory registration of all construction workers, issuing of safety kit to each registered worker, Rs. 10 lakh for each case of death in accidents Separate labour machinery to deal with the registration and claims of these worker in a time bound manner!*
19. *The new governments in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh under the Congress party should repeal the anti-worker amendments in labour laws brought in by the previous BJP governments!*

**Support the struggles of Adivasis for the rights on forests and for land!**

**Support the struggles of peasants and agriculturists for land & for remunerative prices for their produces!**

**Implement Swaminathan Commission recommendations!**

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