

30 Days Strike of Ordnance Factory Workers

While the BJP government and prime minister Modi are talking big on nationalism and defence of the country, they have decided for the corporatisation of the ordinance factory Board and thus to tune up the defence of the country to the benefit of big capitalists - foreign and its collaborating Indian capitalists.

The government of India is claiming that such a decision is made in order to have the ordinance factory board to have operational freedom, autonomy in decision making enhance productivity and to explore the export potential of its products. It argues that the decision is made so as to enable ordinance factories to respond faster to the future needs of the armed forces and provide an impetus to the export potential of the products. It is not known what causes have been restraining ordinance factories- freedom, autonomy in decision making productivity and there is no clarification how corporatisation will remove restraints. In reality, this decision further strengthens the hold of foreign and its collaborating Indian capital on the country's defence and security.

There are 41 ordinance factories under the Ordnance Factory Board and more than 82,000 workers and employees are working in them. These factories have been producing the necessary ammunition, war tanks, guns and other defence equipment required for Indian Navy, Army and Air-force. These ordinance factories are considered to be a fourth force of our defence forces. All the employees and workers have been working hard in producing required armament and defence equipment.

The successive defence ministers and prime ministers have been assuring that our defence sector, ordinance organisation will not be privatised, while moving along the road of privatisation. Now the B.J.P. government has blatantly chosen to corporatise the ordinance factories of our country which will automatically meet the fate of PSUs like B.S.N.L etc, leading to their control by big-capital-a dangerous decision of placing the defence of our country in to private hands-Indian and imperialist MNCs..

Opposing this anti-national decision of privatising (corporatisation) of ordinance factories of our country 82,000 workers and employees of 41 ordinance factories in India have started an indefinite strike of 30 days from 21st August 2019. Central trade unions A.I.T.U.C, C.I.T.U and A.I.F.T.U (New) have announced their support and solidarity to the workers and employees on 30 day-s strike on the call given by 3 recognised defence federations. Even the confederation of defence associations which has not given the strike notice too has given its support to the indefinite strike. Though group A officers and employees working in emergency departments are exempted from strike they too have expressed their solidarity to the strike and protest against corporatisation of ordinance factories, by not signing in their muster (attendance) registers but doing their duties.

This decision of corporatation of ordinance factories will put the control of defence of our country in the hands of big-capital-a perilous move that leads to further dependence of our defence on the foreign capital and imperialist transnational corporations.

CLASS STRUGGLE strongly opposes the corporatisation of ordinance factories and supports the striking workers and employees opposing the corporatisation of their factories. It calls upon all the democratic and patriotic forces of our country to oppose the corporatisation of ordinance factories and to whole-heartedly support the agitations of striking workers and employees.
