

Joint Statement Condemning the Essential Defence Services Ordinance 2021

Appeal of the Associations:

The Meeting was presided by Com. S.N.Pathak, President/AIDEF. The Meeting thoroughly discussed the arbitrary, one sided and biased decision taken by the Government to slice the 41 Ordnance Factories into 7 non viable corporations with the ulterior motive of privatising these strategic Defence Industry. After discussion It was unanimously decided that the entire 76,000 employees of Ordnance Factories should unitedly fight back and the battle should continue till the government rolls back its decision and protect the 41 Ordnance Factories and its committed and devoted workforce. The meeting also came to the conclusion that considering the adamant and authoritarian attitude of the Government, the employees organisations are left with no other option than to revive the deferred indefinite strike. CDRA representatives assured their fullest co operation in all the struggles and they expressed their concern about their limitations under the CCS (RSA) Rules 1993. There after the meeting took some unanimous decisions.

AIDEF/INDWF/BPMS

The new Essential Defence Services Ordinance 2021 is one of the most draconian pieces of legislation seen in recent times. It enables the Central Government to prohibit strikes in what are defined as “essential defence services”. However the definition of “essential defense services” is wide enough to cover almost any establishment or undertaking since it includes any such establishment or undertaking “dealing with production of goods or equipments required for any purpose connected with defence”. It also includes any other service as the Central Government may declare to be an essential defence service.

We condemn this ordinance and ask for its immediate withdrawal. We stand with the defence workers and all others who may be affected by this ordinance. We call upon the whole of the working class to come on to the streets to fight against this ordinance.

The right to strike is a valuable right won by the working class after years of struggle. At its most basic level, it is the right to refuse labour. This is a fundamental human right as forced labour is slavery. This struggle to restore

the right to strike as a valid legal right of the working class is a crucial struggle that the working class of this country will have to take up in the coming days.

Comrades, It must be our task to fight this extremely authoritarian measure with all our strength!

AICCTU IFTU NTUI TUCI IFTU (Sarwahara)
Grameen Mazdoor Union (Bihar)
Inqlabi Mazdoor Kendra
Jan Sangharsh Manch Haryana
Mazdoor Sahyog Kendra
Mazdoor Samanvay Kendra