

ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION



(Registered under the Trade Unions Act 1926, Registration No.:3427/Delhi)

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For all affiliates/Members

Dear Comrades,

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF WORKERS EXPRESSES SERIOUS CONCERN/ DECIDES ACTION PROGRAMMES

6th August, 2013 was yet another historical day in the Trade Union Movement of our country. National Convention of Workers from all recognized eleven trade unions namely BMS, INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, UTUC, LPF and Independent Workers/Employees Federation was held in the famous Mavlankar Hall at Rafi Marg, New Delhi. Hall was overflowing with more than 800 workers occupying their seats before the scheduled time of the convention. Leaders of all the eleven central trade unions formed the presidium and eleven speakers from these organizations were also on the dais. Com. Harshvardhan M.-President, Com. Harvinder Singh-General Secretary, Com. Sunil Bali-President ABOA, Com. Ameetaa Sharma-State Secretary, Women's wing Delhi and other comrades represented AIBOC in the convention.

The Convention started with paying homage to the deceased of Uttarakhand tragedy and Sh. Narender Singh - the transport worker, who lost his life during last strike. Stating the background and purpose of the convention the speakers spelled out that after the successful strike of 20th and 21st Feb., 2013, the Prime Minister constituted a committee of GoM under the leadership of Defence Minister Sh. A K Antony. Finance Minister, Labour Minister & Food Minister were other members of the committee to discuss and settle the Ten Point Charter of Demands formulated by the Central Trade Unions. The first meeting between CTUOs and the GoM was held on 22nd May, 2013. The Central Trade Unions had demanded concrete response from the GoM on the following 10 issues:

- 1) Minimum Wage not less than of Rs 10,000,
- 2) Universal Social Security Cover for all workers,
- 3) Assured Pension for the entire working population,
- 4) Same wage and benefits for contract workers as regular workers for same and similar work,
- 5) Strict implementation of Labour Laws,
- 6) Concrete measures to contain price rise,
- 7) Concrete measures for employment generation,
- 8) Stoppage of disinvestment in Central and State PSUs/Undertakings,
- 9) Remove all ceilings on payment and eligibility of Bonus, Provident Fund; Increase the quantum of gratuity and
- 10) Compulsory registration of trade unions within a period of 45 days and immediate ratification of the ILO Convention Nos. 87 and 98.

Despite categorical announcement by the Prime Minister in the 45th Indian Labour Conference about the justness of the demands and that many of them are under advanced stage of consideration, the GoM, instead of making any concrete response told the Central Trade Union Organisations that the Government need more time to study the Charter of Demand. Meeting remained disappointing. No response has ever been received from Government since then.

The speakers explained about the Government's apathy towards the genuine demands of the workforce. They also expressed serious concern and anguish over continuing indifference and inaction by the Govt. towards vital and basic demands presented by all in the united platform of trade unions and pursued through numerous agitations/programmes including strikes during the last three years. The pathetic state of affairs in the matter of Govt. spending on social security measures, despite huge tax collection, was also brought to the notice. Struck by charges of corruption repeatedly the Government has lost all its credibility. It is almost non-functional. The colossal failure of the political system to provide the basic rights of life to the people of the country is shameful. The Government seems to have no effective strategy to mitigate the challenges being faced by the common people who are exposed to the brunt of the deepening crisis. Considering such indifference and injustice, it was decided to intensify the countrywide united struggle in the days to come.

Accordingly, in the present phase, the following joint programme of agitation was unanimously adopted in convention:

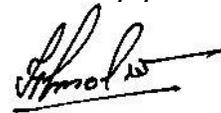
- 1) Demonstration/Rallies/Satyagraha at all State Capitals with respective statewide mobilization on 25th September 2013.**
- 2) Massive Demonstration before Parliament with main mobilization from neighbouring states on 12th December, 2013.**
- 3) On the same day of Demonstration before Parliament (12th December, 2013); District-level Demonstrations at all District Headquarters all over the country.**
- 4) Sectoral programme of joint actions for effectively opposing Restructuring, Outsourcing etc. and on sector-specific issues/demands and against Divestment of Shares in Public Sector Enterprises.**
- 5) Exclusive joint Action Programmes on the demand of Minimum Wage and Contract Workers related other demands.**

An appeal was made to the entire working class of the country to demonstrate the power of all-in-unity of the trade union movement and take part in the programmes at the respective levels, thundering the message unity of workers and their strong determination at each and every workplace throughout the country.

We call upon all our affiliates and the members to gear up for the cause of the work force in particular and the common people of our country in general and extend their whole hearted support and continued involvement in the action programme given in the convention.

With Revolutionary Greetings,

Comradely yours



(HARVINDER SINGH)
GENERAL SECRETARY