

Observing the Centenary year of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The Constitution of BSNL Employees Union declared participation in building a socialistic society as one of its aims and objectives.

Though the Constitution of India has declared India as a socialist country, the ruling capitalist and land lord classes led by the big capitalists have never taken it seriously except claiming that the Public Sector built after independence and the welfare measures taken were equal to Socialism. But after starting the implementation of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation policies in 1991, the ruling classes started to destroy public sector and welfare state concept and abandoned talking about socialism even for name sake and the inequalities are growing day by day.

Labour power is the unique feature of human beings. When put to work, it creates not only its own value, but also creates surplus value. While the value created by the labour power is paid as wage, the surplus value created by it is pocketed by the ruling classes who are the owners of means of production, like land and buildings, without paying anything to the worker who created it. This is called exploitation.

For the first time, on 7th November 1917, such a socialist revolution took place in Russia. In this revolution, the old State Power of the of the Emperor Tsar and capitalists and land lords was smashed and the new State Power of the working class in alliance with peasantry and other exploited classes was established. Since November 7 was October 25 as per the old Russian calendar, this revolution was called as the October Socialist revolution. Its aim is to end the exploitation of labour.

The working class rule established by this revolution in Russia has nationalised the means of production like land, industries etc., collectively owned by the people. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Soviet Union) was established. Production grew tremendously. Illiteracy, unemployment and poverty were completely abolished. Free education and health care were made available to all. It ensured equal rights, equal wages, maternity benefits and right to divorce, for women. It was the first country that granted voting right to women. It liberated women from the drudgery of domestic work by handing over 90% of that work to the society and men began to share the domestic work.

This socialist revolution inspired working class struggles in several countries including India. Due to its inspiration, AITUC, the first trade union Center in India was formed in 1920. Working class and peasant alliance came to power in several countries. It inspired nations liberation struggles in several countries including India. The Congress Party that lead the independence struggle in our country began to talk about land to the tiller, socialism and welfare state. The ruling classes in the advanced capitalist countries were compelled to adopt several welfare measures for the working class. The Soviet Union lead the defeat of fascism in the Second World War and thereafter, till now there is no Third World War. It helped in the development of the third world countries like India.

But this experiment of building socialism has failed and the socialist camp led by Soviet Union has collapsed and capitalism was restored in these countries. This is due to the mistakes that occurred in building the first socialist society. Any initial experiment will not guarantee final success and it will become finally successful after learning from the mistakes.

But it is proved now without any doubt that capitalism cannot solve any one of the fundamental problems like exploitation of labour, inequality, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, selfishness, strife between various races, war, discrimination against women and minorities and social oppression in the name of race, gender, religion and caste etc. Now in the entire world capitalism is facing a prolonged economic recession heaping miseries on the working people and even making the earth not a safe place to live healthily, by destroying the environment.

But Socialism, even though it failed due to the unavoidable mistakes in any experiment, has proved that it only could solve the above said fundamental problems of human beings.

Therefore, on the occasion of the centenary year of the October Socialist Revolution which started from 7th November 1917, this 8th Conference of BSNL Employees Union held at Chennai from 31.12.2016 to 3.1.2017 resolves that the union will organise a campaign among BSNL Employees on the concept of scientific socialism and the way to build a socialist society in India in a better manner by learning from the mistakes done in other countries in building socialism. The campaign will be organised throughout the centenary year until 6.11.2017 by organising seminars, meetings, study classes, distribution of pamphlets and books on socialism etc.
