

BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

General Strike on 08th January, 2020.

Make it successful in BSNL.

The National Open Mass Convention, held at New Delhi, on 30th September, 2019, has called on the Indian working class to organise a one day General Strike on 08th January, 2020, against the pro-corporate and anti-worker Neo-Liberal Policies being implemented by the Narendra Modi government. The Central Executive Committee meeting of BSNLEU, held at Ghaziabad on 12th & 13th October, 2019, has decided to successfully organise this General Strike in BSNL.

Why is this General Strike?

After assuming charge as the Prime Minister of the country in 2014, Narendra Modi famously declared, "I have come from a poor family. Hence, my entire energy will be spent to serve the poor." But, the experiences of the past 5 ½ years prove that, the policies implemented by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, are only pro-corporate and anti-worker. For example, when the Central Trade Unions demanded that the minimum wage of workers should be fixed at Rs.18,000/- pm, it was rejected by the Narendra Modi government. But, recently we saw that the Corporate Tax was cut down from 30% to 22% and 15%. As a result of this, the big corporates of the country are benefited to the tune of Rs.1,45,000 crores. As a result of the Neo-Liberal Policies being intensively implemented by the Narendra Modi government, the rich are becoming richer and the poor are becoming poorer. Statistics show that 73% of the new wealth created in India in 2017, has been garnered by the top 1% of the population. What more evidence is required to prove that the economic policies of the Narendra Modi government are pro-corporate and anti-worker?

Attacks on the Public Sector of the country.

Ever since the BJP came to power in 2014, intensified attacks are being unleashed on the Indian Public Sector. The Indian Railways is being privatised in a very big way. The government has announced to start 150 private trains within the shortest possible time. Further, the government has also taken steps to privatise the Railway Production Units, against which massive struggles erupted. The government is moving fast in the direction of privatising all the Ordnance Factories, which are manufacturing arms and ammunitions to the armed forces of the country. Against this move, more than one lakh defence workers, belonging to 41 Ordnance Factories, went on a 5 day strike in August, 2019. In the name of Banking Sector reforms, the Modi government is taking steps to kill the Public Sector Banks. In this direction, 10 Public Sector Banks have been merged into 4. A massive one day strike by the bank employees was held on 22nd October, 2019, against the ill-conceived merger of Public Sector Banks. The government has decided to privatise Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), which is earning massive profits. Days are not far away, for the privatisation of HPCL and other Public Sector Oil Companies. A massive one day strike has taken place on 28th November, 2019, against privatisation of the oil PSUs. It is important to note that all the above mentioned strikes are not for the economic demands of the workers, but to protect the Public Sector of the country.

Attacks on the rights of the Working Class.

Whatever Labour Laws that are existing in the country today are not wind-fall. They are the hard-won rights of the working class. The Narendra Modi government is working overnight to modify all these acts. In the name of 'Labour Law Amendments', whatever minimum protections are ensured in the existing Laws, are being taken away or diluted, to suit the

needs of the employers. These Labour Law Amendments are nothing, but intended to give more 'teeth' to the employers to exploit the workers more ruthlessly.

To protect BSNL.

The government has announced a revival package for BSNL. According to this revival package, around 80,000 employees are being sent home through VRS. The Minister for Communications has announced that BSNL will not be privatised or disinvested. But, this announcement cannot be taken at face value. BSNL cannot escape from privatisation, considering the fact that Mukesh Ambani himself is into the telecom business. BSNL alone cannot be protected, without protecting the Indian Public Sector.

Despite going on 3 strikes in 2017, 2018 and 2019, the 3rd Wage Revision for BSNL employees has not been settled. Denial of Wage Revision, citing the financial health of BSNL, is a very big injustice to the employees. Similarly, Pension Revision to BSNL retirees has also not been settled, since it has been linked with the Wage Revision. Financial assistance for BSNL's revival, 30% Superannuation Benefits to the Directly Recruited employees, timely payment of employees' salary and contract workers wages are also issues, warranting a struggle.

Hence, to protect BSNL as a Public Sector Company and also to win over our demands, we call on the employees to join the strike enmasse.

Charter of Demands

Part - A

- 1) Stop disinvestment / privatisation of Public Sector Undertakings.**
- 2) Do not amend labour laws in favour of employers.**
- 3) Ensure National Minimum Wage of Rs.21,000/-.**
- 4) Take immediate actions to control price rise.**
- 5) Control unemployment through employment generation.**
- 6) Ensure universal social security cover for all workers. etc.**
- 7) Assured Minimum Pension of Rs.10,000/- for all, by Government funding.**

Part – B

- (i) No privatisation / disinvestment of BSNL.**
- (ii) Implement 3rd Pay Revision to BSNL employees w.e.f. 01.01.2017.**
- (iii) Extend financial assistance to BSNL for the expansion / upgradation of BSNL's networks and compensation for loss making rural services.**
- (iv) Revision of pension to BSNL retirees w.e.f. 01.01.2017.**
- (v) Ensure 30% Superannuation Benefits to BSNL's Directly Recruited employees.**
- (vi) Payment of salary to BSNL employees on due date by BSNL / DoT.**
- (vii) Ensure payment of wages to contract workers.**
