

# COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC SECTOR TRADE UNIONS

Press Communiqué:

13<sup>th</sup> August, 2010

## **CPSTU calls upon all PSU workers to participate in 7<sup>th</sup> September All India General Strike**

The Core Group of the CPSTU acclaims the unprecedented unity achieved by the Central Trade Unions (CTUs); Industrial and Service Sector Federations on the basis of the five demands adopted at the joint national convention held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009 as abridged and noted below:

**(1) Against unprecedented price rise and for universal Public Distribution System (2) Strict enforcement of all Labour Laws (3) Concrete proactive measures for generation and protection of employment (4) Modification of unorganized Workers Social Security Act 2008 to remove all the restrictions on eligibility for coverage and provision for Central Funding to extend benefit to contract/casual and unorganized sector workers (5) Against Disinvestment of profit making PSUs and for investment of Reserve & Surplus Funds of PSUs for expansion and also for revival of sick PSUs.**

BMS, INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, AICCTU, UTUC and Federations and unions of Industrial and Service Sector workers have jointly observed All India Protest day on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2009; Massive Dharna on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009 and Satyagrah/Jail Bhoro on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010 to press for the demands, but shockingly the Government at the centre has remained totally unconcerned.

Now the united National Convention of Workers held at New Delhi on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010 has given a call for General Strike in the country on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010. The declaration adopted at the convention *inter alia* expressed deep concern at the shocking promotion of rampant contractorisation, casualisation and outsourcing by the Government, nothing is being done to prevent the declining living condition and inhuman exploitation of working masses, the pernicious policy of reckless disinvestment in the profit-making public sector enterprises is continuing with impunity.

The CPSTU Core Group noted that the disinvestment is aggravating under the UPA-II Government. Shockingly the Secretary of the Department of Disinvestment has declared that the targets of the Government during the current fiscal are Coal India, Power Grid Corporation, Hindustan Copper, Steel Authority of India and Manganese Ore. The Government has been reiterating their resolve to achieve its target of raising Rs.40,000.00 crore from disinvestment proceeds in the current fiscal.

How the Government is playing at the hands of big business both from within the country and abroad in dismantling the profit making public sector enterprises by turning blind eye at the continuously excelling performances by public sector as testified from the record of performance of PSUs as a whole as reported in the Public Enterprises Survey 2009 as under:

**Profit of profit making CPSEs stood at Rs.98, 652.00 crore during 2008-09 compared to Rs. 91,571.00 crore in 2007-08, showing a growth of 7.73%.**

**Reserve & Surplus of all CPSEs went up from Rs.4,85,540.00 crore in 2007-08 to Rs.5,35,840.00 crore in 2008-09, showing an increase by 10.36%.**


**Net worth of all CPSEs went up from Rs. 5,20,968.00 crore in 2007-08 to Rs.5,88,217.00 crore in 2008-09 registering a growth of 12.91%.**

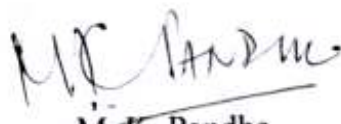
**Contribution of CPSEs to Central Exchequer by way of excise duty, customs duty, corporate tax, interest on Central Government loans, dividend and other duties and taxes was Rs.1,51,728.00 crore in 2008-09.**

From the above features and figures it is authenticated that on PSUs account the Government gets huge financial support under different nomenclatures. It is, therefore, clear that by dismantling the public sector enterprises through various anti-public sector steps the Government is killing the goose that lays golden eggs. The public sector workers' trade union movement must not remain silent spectator to this dangerous game of the Government.

Apart from specific issues of public sector workers, the 7<sup>th</sup> September strike is directed to oppose the retrograde policies of the Government allowing 100 percent FDI in Retail Trade, Free Trade Agreement with European Unions etc on the one hand and trying to impose drastic curtailment on Trade Union Rights and Social Security Rights of the workers through anti-worker changes in labour laws, privatization of pension etc on the other which is going to have severe negative impact on the national economy and directly impact upon the life and livelihood of the mass of the working people.

In such a background, the Core Group of CPSTU firmly believes that the call for General Strike on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010 by the trade union movement of the country is a most important step towards heightening the united movement of the working class for a determined resistance struggles against the neo-liberal policy regime. The Core Group of the CPSTU appeals to all public sector workers irrespective of affiliations to participate in the All India General Strike on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010 and make it a resounding success.

  
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