

Resolution on Price Rise of essential commodities

This meeting of the CEC of BSNLEU views with serious concern, the unprecedented spiraling of prices of essential commodities.

The prices of vegetables, cereals, pulses, sugar, milk, etc. are sky rocketing at every passing day. The condition of the working masses has become very miserable due to the drastic rise in the prices of these articles. The UPA government remains as a mute spectator and has totally failed to check the price rise.

According to official figures, the inflation based on Whole Sale Price Index has touched 7.31% in December 2009 itself. The inflation of food articles has become as high as 17.94% at the end of January, 2010.

It is true that many parts of the country received insufficient rains in the last monsoon. But that alone is not the reason for the present alarming price conditions. ***The major contributor in this respect is the wrong policies of the Central Government.***

For instance is the price of sugar which has touched Rs.50/ per kg. The government recklessly encouraged the export of sugar by giving incentives. This helped mill owners and big traders earn hefty profits, while leaving the entire nation reel under severe rise in sugar price.

Another reason for the price rise is the systematic weakening of the Public Distribution System by the Central Government. While it is having buffer stocks of food grains, it has drastically cut allocations of the same to the states and also increased the prices for supply through PDS. Now it is contemplating to decontrol the prices of petrol and diesel and link them to international prices, as well as to raise the price of LPG by Rs.100 per cylinder. These steps are sure to further increase the price rise.

The trade union movement cannot remain as a silent spectator to the sufferings of the working people and other down-trodden sections of the society. Even the dearness allowance that the organized workers get for price rise, gets washed away by the spiraling price rise and thus making the system of payment of dearness allowance a mockery. Hence this meeting of CEC calls upon the BSNL employees to join hands with other democratic forces of our country in the struggles against price rise.

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