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Press Note

Most of the formal jobs in the country have been contractualised or made fixed term jobs. Job security, as it had always been envisaged has been compromised and workers always run the risk of being thrown out/replaced. Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh strongly opposes the contractualisation, and casualisation of jobs and demands that all contract, fixed-term, casual, daily-wage, temporary workers should be regularised/absorbed in permanent employment. It is necessary to create a sense of belongingness with industry among workers. This is bound to result in increased productivity. We demand that all scheme workers working in Aanganwadi, Aasha, PDS, Midday Meal, NHM etc. schemes should be conferred the title of government servants as they work for the schemes of the government. These people work just as hard as other government employees and hence deserve to be treated equally as other employees.

Government must stop disinvestment, strategic sale, corporatization and privatization of Public Sector undertakings. The PSUs are the backbone of the Indian industrial structure and government must stop policy driven Disinvestment/privatization of the same. FDI must be stopped. FDI/corporatization of Defence sector is a matter of national security. Corporatisation of railways, which is an essential service and lifeline of Indian cities, must be stopped.

We appreciate government's efforts towards codification of labour laws into 4 codes. But in the mean time we see that a number of provisions in the codes are effectively anti-labour/hurt the general interest of workers. Anti -labour Provisions in the labour codes must be removed. . We have already submitted our comments with the concerned ministry regarding the same. The bureaucratic set up of the country in a nexus with industries/industrialists has in the pretext of various laws and rules has always tried to downgrade the bargaining power and other rights of workers.

The existing labour laws must be implemented and enforced in totality including minimum wages of workers. Laws have existed for long time and the intent of policy makers has been clear but the laws have not been able to change the practices on ground due to loose enforcement. A number of accidents in workplace could have been prevented with proper

implementation of existing laws. Recently we have witnessed the case of fire in Delhi mandi. It is the non-implementation of the laws that often drives the trade unions to confrontations.

Threshold of income-tax limit should be raised from 5 lakhs of 8 lakhs.

A universal social security code must be put into place. It is the duty of the government, as the guardian of the countrymen to ensure minimum social security to all. The basic amenities like nutrition, residence, medical facilities, education etc. are investments government must make in formation of human capital and this should not be seen merely as a debit from national accounts. At least the 9 basic means as identified by ILO must be ensured for all. Welfare boards must be made/made functional in all sectors including handloom, agriculture, construction, fishery etc. Workers in the informal sector, which comprises of almost 93 percent of India's total workforce are also the most vulnerable and must be protected by law. Restore C.C. S. pension. Scrap NPS. The old pension scheme was much better and effective. EPS pension should be raised to 5,000 rupees for all.

Autonomous/municipal bodies are running acutely short of funds. Government must ensure that adequate fund is supplied and made available to these bodies for their free and fair functioning. Funds should be dispensed to/under proper heads as the earlier practices were. Political appropriation of funds needs to be checked.

Various welfare schemes run by the government have now been digitized. This has become a major headache for the workers. Various problems like illiteracy/ digital illiteracy, fees to be paid for filling forms from different centers, inadequate interface for users, internet connection problems etc. have made the life of target profiteers of the schemes tough. We demand that manual methods (as existing earlier) be reinstated and digitization be achieved gradually. Digitization is a purely urban dream in the predominantly rural Country. Rising Prices must be controlled.

We will hold nationwide protest at all district head quarters throughout the country on 3rd of January 2020 to awaken the Government.

We will also hold a protest demonstration at Jantar-Mantar in New Delhi on the 3rd of January 2020



(Virjesh Upadhyay)
General Secretary

BMS Charter of Demands includes:

- 1) Provision and payment of equal pay and other services, as applicable to permanent employees to all workers as directed by the hon'ble Supreme Court of India and instructions issued by Government of India.
- 2) Abolish Contract labour as well as 'fixed term employment' and absorb all workers into permanent employment including casual workers, daily wage workers, outsourced workers etc.
- 3) Privatisation, corporatization, strategic sale and Disinvestment of Public Sector Enterprises must be stopped. Our concerns include
 - A) Proposed corporatisation of Railways, Defence and Postal sector should be immediately dropped.
 - B) Privatisation of state transport sector and electricity boards must be stopped.
- 4) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) should be stopped.
- 5) Provisions of the industrial Relations code and other codes that discriminate against the workers in favour of industries must be removed.
- 6) The code on Wages- 2019 should be implemented as soon as possible and payment of minimum wages across the country be ensured.
- 7) Threshold income to be counted as a taxpayer should be increased from 5 lakh Rupees to 8 lakh Rupees.
- 8) Welfare organizations should be made for all other sectors in line with Construction sector
- 9) A) AANGANWARI, AASHA, MID DAY MEAL and other scheme workers should be declared Government Employees.
 - B) Rural Postal Workers should also be declared Government Employees.
- 10) Remaining wage negotiations of Public Sectors should be completed as soon as possible.
- 11) The previous pension scheme should be reenacted.
- 12) Minimum pension amount should be ensured at 5000 Rupees.
- 13) Share of revenue from autonomously administered institutions should be fixed.
- 14) Rules of government run welfare schemes should be made easier and accessible.
- 15) Inflation must be checked.
- 16) Unemployment should be eradicated.

17) Social Security should be available for all.

18) Misuse of National Employment Enhancement Mission must be stopped.

19) Minimum Support Price should be implemented in Plantation sector. ESI hospital facility should be provided.

20) Pictorial warning on Bidi should be reduced from 95 percent. All Bidi companies should be brought under the ambit of **Goods and Services Tax, Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance.**

21) Payment of Pending Wages.