



To
All Zonal/Divisional/State/Regional Units
Dear Comrades,

AIIEA EXTENDS SUPPORT TO FARMERS' AGITATION

The farmers are on agitation. Tens and thousands of them are camping at the borders of Delhi. They have been demanding the repeal of three Farm Acts passed in the last session of the parliament. They are also opposing the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020. The government made all efforts to thwart the farmers marching from Punjab, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan to reach Delhi. Brutal methods were adopted to push back the march of farmers. Lathi charge, teargas shells, water cannons and digging of trenches could not succeed in preventing the march of farmers. They have now been camping at seven entry places at Delhi border braving the biting cold and other adverse conditions. The two rounds of talks the government was forced to hold with the farmers have not yielded any result and the third round is scheduled on 9th December. In the meantime, the farmers have called for Bharat Bandh on 8th December. The AIIEA expresses full support to this call and extend its solidarity with the struggle of the farmers. The demonstrations planned on 8th by the Joint Front on the demands of LIC employees could also be utilised to highlight the view points of the farmers and the necessity of the working class to extend support to their struggle.



Handing over a cheque to Punjab AIKS



The government first adopted the ordinance route to bring what it calls reforms in agriculture. Thereafter the three Farm Bills were pushed through the Parliament without any discussion. In the Rajya Sabha, the demand for vote on these bills through division was rejected and the Bills were passed by a voice vote. This is totally against the parliamentary procedures. The legislations impacting overwhelming sections of the Indian people were pushed through in haste rejecting demands for greater scrutiny by the parliamentary committee and consultation with the stakeholders. Even the States were not consulted on an issue as important as agriculture totally undermining federalism.

The farmers believe that these three legislations will tremendously harm their interests. These legislations will create uncertainty about their income and ultimately will result into reduction of their incomes. The corporatisation of agriculture will kill the small and marginal farmers. They are convinced that



Handing over a cheque to Haryana AIKS



Demonstrations in Madurai

corporatisation and privatisation of agriculture will ultimately lead to the death of Minimum Support Price regime. They are, therefore, demanding the repeal of these legislations. They are also opposing the privatisation of power through Electricity Amendment Bill as it would hurt their interests. It may be noted that huge protests and strike actions have taken place against this Bill by the Electricity workers. Unfortunately instead of addressing these genuine apprehensions of the farmers, the government resorted to actions to suppress the struggle. The important functionaries in the government and hired pen pushers in the media not to speak of the vested interests in social media branded the agitating farmers as Khalistanis and anti-national. But these dirty tricks could not help the government and today increasing section of the Indian society is identifying itself with the cause of the farmers.

The AIIEA units across the country have held spontaneous demonstrations to express solidarity with the farmers. The units of Northern Zone Insurance Employees' Association uniformly held demonstrations on 4th December 2020 in front of all offices in the Zone. The Jalandhar, Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Amritsar units collected funds from employees to support farmers struggle. A delegation comprising of Coms Surjit Ram, Amarjeet Singh and Pankaj Bharadwaj met Shri Balbir Singh Jadia of All India Kisan Sabha at Singhu Border and handed over a cheque of Rs.275000/- to express our support and solidarity to the struggle of the farmers. Similarly Coms Harish Nagpal and Pawan Malik, President and General Secretary of Rohtak met Com Sumit, Secretary, All India Kisan Sabha, Haryana and handed over a cheque of Rs. 1 lakh.

The struggle of the farmers is not just their struggle alone. It is a struggle against the entire gamut of the economic policies of the government. These policies are pauperising the workers and peasants and are helping further amassing of wealth by the crony capitalists. It must be noted that at a time when Indian economy is in recession; millions of workers have lost jobs and incomes of ordinary Indians have come under tremendous pressure, the income and wealth of India's billionaires increased by around 33% in just three months from April to July 2020. Coming just after the successful industrial strike by the workers on 26th November, the farmers struggle is yet another challenge to the neoliberal regime and the interests of the crony capitalists this regime represents. Therefore, this struggle must be fully and enthusiastically supported.

Long live workers and peasants unity. Victory to the farmers struggle.

With greetings,

Comradely yours,
Shreekanth Mishra
Shreekanth Mishra
General Secretary