



PUNJAB BANK EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION

(Affiliated with All India Bank Employees' Association AIBEA)

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PBEF CIRCULAR NO.03/2021

Dated: 07/01/2021

FOR ALL UNITS,

Dear Comrades,

We reproduce here below Circular No.28/278/2021/2 dated 6th January, 2021 issued by Com. C.H. Venkatachalam, General Secretary, AIBEA, for the information of our units. We advise all our local units of PBEF to participate in the local level programs in support of farmers.

With Greetings,
Yours Comradely,

(S.K.Gautam)
General Secretary

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- **Farmers continue their struggle as Government remains negative**
 - **Let us step up our support to the struggle of the farmers**

All of us are observing that the Government is remaining adamant to the demands of the farmers and hence the struggle of the farmers continues. Even in the latest round of negotiations with the farmers' representatives, the Government has shown their inflexible approach. Hence the farmers have decided to intensify their agitation.

It is amazing that despite the various machinations, maneuvers, and propaganda to weaken and divide their protests, the farmers are remaining united and keeping their cool. They are not getting provoked but are getting more determined, they are not getting frustrated but are getting more courageous, they are not wavering or vacillating but are getting more resolute.

There are reports that about 50 to 60 agitators have lost their lives during this period of struggle but this does not deter the farmers to continue. This has not dampened their spirits and guts to fight.

As well all know, that the weather conditions around Delhi is extremely unfavourable. Despite that, the farmers are braving the climatic hurdles and are fighting with full conviction and enthusiasm.

All of us would appreciate that the demands of their struggle is not their demands alone but are in fact the demands of the entire people. If farmers face problem, it would affect the farm sector. If farm sector is facing difficulty, it would have impact on the economy. If economy is affected, all of us are affected. Hence the demands of the farmers are the demands of all of us. If the 3 farm legislations are allowed to be implemented, it will have serious implications.

Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 : This Act means to bypass the state-level APMC Acts and can hence be referred to as the APMC Bypass Act. This Act limits APMC's jurisdiction to the APMC 'market yard'. Outside of the market yard, entities are free to transact in agricultural produce. So the market will go out of the control of the farmers.

Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 : This Act provides that the stocking limits are not prescribed except when prices go up 100%. Hence big businesses can pile up huge stocks without any restrictions and manipulate the market as well as the price. Already there are reports that some favourites of the Government have built up very huge godowns to stock.

Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 : This Act enables contract farming to the detriment of marginal farmers and there is every danger that the corporates will grab the lands of the farmers.

Hence the apprehensions of the farmers are genuine and their demand for repeal of the Acts is justified. If these Acts are beneficial to the farmers, the Government could have had a detailed discussions in the Parliament and convinced everyone. Why in such a naked hurry, why negating all democratic principles, the Bills were made into Acts ?

- 1. Hence we extend our full support to the struggle of the farmers. We call upon all our unions to participate in the local programmes that are being arranged by the Local Struggle Committees of the farmers and trade unions.**
- 2. We have contacted our Delhi State Bank Employees Federation to plan and arrange some solidarity programmes at the venues of the agitation of the farmers. We will co-ordinate with the neighboring States in these programmes.**
- 3. AIBEA will also shortly meet and decide further solidarity programmes.**

We reproduce herein the Joint Statement issued by the Central Trade Unions today in support of the agitation by farmers.

Yours comradely,



**C.H. VENKATACHALAM
GENERAL SECRETARY**

6th January, 2021

Joint Statement

JOINT PLATFORM OF CENTRAL TRADE UNIONS AND INDEPENDENT FEDERATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS REITERATES ACTIVE SOLIDARITY TO ONGOING DETERMINED STRUGGLES BY THE FARMERS

The Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions and Independent Federations/ Associations while continuing to extend their active solidarity to the ongoing farmers' struggle countrywide, conveys hearty congratulations to the farmers and their organizations for

their determined struggles and more than a month long continuous stay-in demonstration by lakhs of farmers around the borders of Delhi braving cold, rains and inclement weather and also confronting police atrocities in certain areas.

The Joint Platform also conveys their homage of respects to those brothers and sisters who lost their lives while participating in the struggle and embraced martyrdom.

The Joint Platform of CTUs and Federations/Associations also denounces the central government for their utterly negative and egoistic approach in the matter of repealing the draconian farm laws, the Electricity Bill (which is not even a law) and also ensuring a legal guarantee for MSP for all crops along with government procurement.

The Joint Platform also condemns the vilification campaign against the struggling farmers and their organizations by the Govt. branding them as Khalistanis, terrorists etc using the godi media and their paid Troll Army.

It is heartening that such lie-campaign by the Govt. had no impact at all and everyday more and more people from all over the country are joining the farmers' stay-in brigades around the borders of Delhi and simultaneously solidarity agitations are taking place in all the states countrywide. The workers are playing a frontline role in such solidarity actions.

The United Platform of Farmers' Organisations have now decided to intensify the struggle and spread it countrywide. The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee has decided a series of programmes of grass-root level campaign converging in three days' mahapadav in all the state capitals on 23-25 January 2021 and a parallel republic day parade on 26th January 2021 after the official parade is over.

The AIKSCC, while acknowledging the continuing solidarity support by the workers and trade unions in their struggle, has requested the Central Trade Unions and Federations to extend their active support to the agitation programmes adopted by them vide their communication to all Central Trade Unions dated 4th January 2021.

The Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions and Independent Federations/Associations calls upon the working class and their unions countrywide to extend active solidarity support while asserting their own demands to scrap the Labour Codes, stall privatization etc., to all the programmes taken up by AIKSCC in all the states and join in thousands to the three days Mahapadav in the state capitals on 23-25 January 2021 and the Farmers Republic Day on 26th January converting it to workers-peasants assertion against the destructive, anti-people and anti-national policies of the Modi Govt. and in stout defence of the national interests as well as the rights and livelihood of the toiling people.

The Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions and Independent Federations/Associations demands that the Central Government take cognizance of their own allies deserting them over these laws, instead of sticking to false arguments and delaying tactics in the hope of tiring out the toiling masses, accept the just demands of the Farmers graciously at once.

**INTUC AITUC HMS CITU AIUTUC TUCC. SEWA AICTU LPF. UTUC
And Independent Federations/Associations**
