

Greetings to all of you You have made the Strike a grand success

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Â We convey our greetings and congratulations to all our unions and entire membership of AIBEA for making todayâ€™s Strike a grand success. Reports have been received by us from various State Federations and base unions about the enthusiastic participation of our members in the strike. In most of the places the normal banking operations were affected.

Â Demands of the Trade Union Movement: As everyone is aware the strike call was given by AIBEA in support of the Declaration of National Convention of Workers organized by the 10 Central Trade Unions on the 7 point charter of demands viz. 1. Cash transfer of Rs 7,500 per month for all non-income tax paying families, 2. 10 kg free ration per person per month to all needy, 3. Expansion of MGNREGA to provide 200 daysâ€™ work in a year in rural areas at enhanced wages; extension of employment guarantee to urban areas 4. Withdraw all anti farmer laws and anti-worker labour codes, 5. Stop privatisation of public sector including the financial sector and stop corporatisation of Govt run manufacturing and service entities like Railways, Ordinance Factories, Ports etc. 6. Withdraw the draconian circular on forced premature retirement of Government & PSU Employees and 7. Provide Pension to all, scrap NPS and restore earlier Pension, improve EPS-95. **Workers are the creators of wealth.** But workers are being attacked and deprived but those who exploit the workers are being given velvet treatment. Hence this massive protest action to defend the rights of working class. In a most undemocratic manner, labour laws have been adversely changed. Govt. talks of 12 hours working in factories. Even minimum wage is not being guaranteed. Workers in the informal and unorganised sector are badly exploited. Women workers are being exploited. Job losses are rampant instead of job creation.

Demands in Banking Sector: In this Strike we also focused our important demands like Stop moves of privatisation of Banks, Strengthen public sector Banks, Take tough action against loan defaulters, Recover the huge corporate NPAs, Increase interest rate on Bank Deposits , Stop outsourcing of regular banking jobs, Make adequate recruitments in Banks, Scrap of New Pension Scheme for bank employees, DA linked Pension for all bank employees including Co-op. Bank employees, and Revitalise and strengthen Co-op. Banks and RRBs.

In the Banking Sector, besides AIBEA other Bank Unions viz AIBOA, BEFI, INBEF, AIRBEA, AIRBWF, Unions in RRBs, Unions in Co-op. Banks also joined the strike and the strike was a good success all over the country. AIBOC, NCBE and INBOC extend their solidarity and moral support to our strike. Unions in LIC and GIC also joined the strike. In the banking sector, we find that the Governmentâ€™s policy is privatisation and unwarranted merger of Banks despite our vehement protests. On the other hand, the main issue of recovery of corporate bad loans is being ignored and concessions are being given to the corporates while service charges are increased for the common people. **Strengthen Public Sector Banks â€“ Do not privatise :** Banks today have about Rs. 140 lac crores of Deposits which represents the hard earned savings of the common people. Public Sector Banks should be further strengthened to safeguard this precious savings of the people kept in the Banks as Deposits. But Government wants to implement their banking reform policies aimed at privatisation of Banks and deregulation of rules in favour of the corporates. If Banks are privatised, there is risk for peopleâ€™s money as private corporate owners will use this money for their own business purpose and not for national development. **Allowing Corporate Houses to promote Banks** is most retrograde: Recent recommendation of RBI Working Group to allow big Corporate Houses and Business Houses to promote Banks is unwise, undesirable and unwarranted. The past history is very bitter. Govt. should not play with the savings of the people. We oppose this RBI recommendation. **Donation of LVB to DBS Bank, Singapore:** Instead of taking action on those responsible for the losses incurred by Lakshmi Vilas Bank and fixing the accountability of RBI in this debacle, the Cabinet has taken the decision to donate this Indian private Bank to a small Foreign Bank. This is indicative of Governmentâ€™s policy to encourage foreign capital in Indian banking sector. In peopleâ€™s interest, this decision should be reviewed and withdrawn. **Our Strike â€“ a Warning Signal:** Todayâ€™s strike by more than 250 million workers of our country is a clear warning signal to the Government that their anti-people economic policies, and anti-worker labour policies are not acceptable to the working class. Todayâ€™s strike by bank employees is an expression of total solidarity and identification of bank employees with the common cause of the workers of this country. This working class solidarity is a fundamental principle of AIBEA and we are proud that we have once again manifested

our faith and commitment to the basic philosophy of AIBEA and our conviction that bank employees are an inseparable part of the working class. Dear comrades, while we congratulate all of you for the success of our strike, we hope that the Government will understand the massive resentment of the trade unions and workers and change their policies.