



भारतीय प्रतिरक्षा मजदूर संघ Bharatiya Pratiraksha Mazdoor Sangh

(AN ALL INDIA FEDERATION OF DEFENCE WORKERS)

(AN INDUSTRIAL UNIT OF B.M.S.)

(RECOGNISED BY MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, GOVT. OF INDIA)

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REF: BPMS/ Cir/ 18th TC/ 15

Dated: 17.08.2019

To,

The Office Bearers & CEC Members

Bharatiya Pratiraksha Mazdoor Sangh

&

The Presidents/ General Secretaries

Unions affiliated to this federation

Subject: Joint Press Statement Issued by the Federations against the misleading Press Release issued by MoD on 16.08.2019.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Joint Circular No. 13/2019 dated 17.08.2019 is enclosed for your kind information and necessary perusal. It is for your kind information that-

- 1) A Press Statement has been issued in PIB on 16.08.2019 wherein it is mentioned that **“rumours being spread that OFB is being privatized are misleading and with the intent to mislead the workers. Corporatization of OFB will bring OFB at par with other DPSUs of MoD”**.
- 2) The above statement of MoD is misleading as MoD has already categorised 275 products being manufactured in the Ordnance Factories as non-core and decided to hand over the same to private sector.

&

Govt of India has established **“Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd”** in which OFB and Russian Company Kalashnikov are partners.

These above decisions are nothing but privatization of Ordnance Factories.

- 3) The Federations are opposing the decision of the Govt. to convert the Govt. owned Ordnance Factories into a DPSU. After conversion of OFB into a DPSU, it has to compete with the private sector in getting the workload from the Armed Forces.

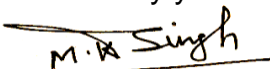
- 4) The decision of Corporatization (Not Privatization) of Ordnance Factories will have cascading effect on the establishment as well as the employees and lead to privatization of Ordnance Factories eventually.
- 5) The Federations demand to the Govt regarding OFB that it should be functioned as a Departmental Organization like Indian Railways, ISRO and Department of Atomic Energy etc.

Further, Unions may approach the Contractors/ Unions of Contract Workers requesting them to extend all support and cooperation by not attending the Factory as a solidarity action.

With regards,



Brotherly yours



(MUKESH SINGH)

General Secretary

Copy to:

1. The General Secretary
Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, New Delhi
2. The In-Charge, BPMS, Pune
3. The Secretary General, GENC, Kanpur

ALL INDIA DEFENCE EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION
INDIAN NATIONAL DEFENCE WORKERS' FEDERATION
BHARTIYA PRATI RAKSHA MAZDOOR SANGH
(RECOGNIZED FEDERATIONS OF DEFENCE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES)

Joint Circular No. : 13/2019

Date : 17.08.2019

To,

**All the affiliated Unions of
AI DEF, INDWF, BPMS
Copy also to CDRA & IOFSA**

**JOINT PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE FEDERATIONS AGAINST THE MISLEADING
PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY MOD ON 16/08/2019.**

We have already informed you about our decision to proceed with the one month strike commencing from 20th Aug. 2019, since the MoD is not prepared to reach a settlement. Subsequent to our 2nd round of discussion with the Committee chaired by Addl. Secretary/DP, the Ministry of Defence issued a press release in the late evening of 16/08/2019 giving misleading information to the public. Therefore it has been decided to issue a Joint Press Release clarifying the factual position. Accordingly we have issued a joint press statement today. All the Unions are requested to issue the press release in their respective areas, so that the local press give the necessary coverage. A copy of Press Statement is enclosed as **Annexure-I** of this Joint Circular.

Joint letter issued to the Defence Minister conveying our decision to proceed with the one month strike.

Since no agreement was reached with the Ministry of Defence on our strike demand, we have decided to convey our decision to proceed with the One month strike to the Hon'ble Defence Minister. Accordingly a Joint letter was issued today to the RM. A copy of the same is enclosed as **Annexure-II** of this Joint circular.

Forwarding of the Joint Letter written to the Chief Minister of West Bengal

The three Federations vide letter dated 12/08/2019 have written a letter to the Chief Minister of West Bengal Ms.Mamata Banerjee, requesting her to further support the strike and also to use her good office once again to not Corporatise the Ordnance Factories. A copy of the same is enclosed as **Annexure-III** of this Joint Circular.

Ordnance Factory Unions may approach the Contractor and the Unions of Contract Workers to extend support to our strike.

Unions may approach the Contractors/Unions of Contract Workers requesting them to extend all support and cooperation by not attending the Factory as a solidarity action.



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Date : 17.08.2019

PRESS RELEASE
FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

Misleading press statement issued by Ministry of Defence on the One Month Strike of 41 Ordnance Factories Employees.

The 41 Ordnance Factories under the Ordnance Factory Board is a Departmental organization of the Ministry of Defence. The 218 years old Organisation is playing a very important role for the Defence of our country by manufacturing and providing all equipments required for the Armed Forces. However the Govt. of India has arbitrarily taken a decision to convert the 41 Ordnance Factories into a Corporation/Public Sector, with the ultimate intention of privatizing these Factories by disinvestment etc., as being happening in the other Public Sector undertaken. Against this decision of the Ministry of Defence the three recognized Federations namely, All India Defence Employees Federation, Indian National Defence Workers Federation, Bharathiya Prathiraksha Mazdoor Sangh, supported by the Confederation of Defence Recognised Association and other Unions have decided to go for a One month strike commencing from 20th of Aug. 2019 , since the Govt. is not ready to withdraw its decision. In this situation the Hon'ble Defence Minister shri.Rajnath singh, constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of the Addl. Secretary/DP to discuss with the Federations. Accordingly two meetings were held on 14/08/2019 & 16/08/2019, in which the senior leaders participated. In the meeting the Govt. was only pleading to withdraw the strike and was not prepared to consider the demand of the Federations and CDRA not to corporatize the Ordnance Factories and the alternative proposals given by the Federations to improve the functioning of Ordnance Factories within the existing structure. Since the Govt. is not prepared to reconsider its decision, the Federations and CDRA have decided to proceed with the strike.

In this situation on 16/08/2019, the Ministry of Defence issued a Press Statement in which it is mentioned that "rumours being spread that OFB is being privatized are misleading and with the intent to mislead the workers. Corporatization of OFB will bring OFB at par with other DPSUs of MoD". This statement of MOD is

misleading, since the Ministry of Defence have already withdrawn 275 products being manufactured in the Ordnance Factories and have decided to hand over the same to private sector. Similarly Govt. of India has established "**Indo- Russian Rifles Private Ltd.**", in which OFB and Russian Company Kalashnikov are partners. These decisions are privatization only.

The Federations are opposing the decision of the Govt. to convert the Govt. owned Ordnance Factories in to a DPSU, since the entire workforce of Ordnance Factories are aware that after it become DPSU, it has to compete with the private sector in getting the workload from the Army. Being a DPSU the new entity will not be able to compete with the private sector, so far as the cost aspect is concerned, since private sector get the work done through contract workers by giving less wages, which is a known fact. Once the order book of the new OFB Corporation is empty then the Govt. declare it as a sick industry and subsequently like any other PSU, it will be disinvested, resulting in privatization.

The Federations and the CDRA once again urges upon the Govt. of India to reconsider its decision to corporatize the Ordnance Factories and to come forward to implement the alternative suggestions given by the Federations and CDRA, so that OFB can function effectively as a Departmental organization like Indian Railways, ISRO and Department of Atomic Energy etc.



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ALL INDIA DEFENCE EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION
INDIAN NATIONAL DEFENCE WORKERS' FEDERATION
BHARTIYA PRATIRAKSHA MAZDOOR SANGH
(RECOGNIZED FEDERATIONS OF DEFENCE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES)

Ref: No.13/AIDEF/INDWF/BPMS/CDRA/19

Date : 17.08.2019

To,

Shri.Rajnath Singh Ji
 Hon'ble Defence Minister
 Government of India
 South Block, New Delhi.

Subject : Request to withdraw the decision taken to corporatize the 41 Ordnance Factories.

Reference : 1) Joint Strike Notice Dt: 01/08/2019 issued to the MoD by the Federations.
2) Discussion held with the Committee chaired by Addl. Secretary/DP on 14/08/2019 & 16/08/2019.

Respected Sir,

The Government of India have decided to convert the 41 Ordnance Factories into a Corporatisation/PSU. This decision of the Government is a clear violation of the previous assurances given to the Federations by the Government of India. The Government has assured in the past have not discussed the matter with the Federations before taking a decision. However, since our repeated representations addressed to your honour was not given any cognizance by the authorities, we were forced to issue a strike notice on 01/08/2019. Since the entire work force of the Ordnance Factories are against corporatization, as it will not only change their entire service conditions and status, but also the proposed corporation will become sick, since it will not be able to compete with the private sector and get the workload from the Armed Forces. Already the Government have declared 275 products of Ordnance Factories as Non-core and these items are handed over to Private Sector. Therefore more than 99% of the workforce voted in favour of the one month strike commencing from 20/08/2019.

In this situation a committee constituted by your honour under Chairmanship of Addl. Secretary/DP called us for discussions on 14/08/2019 & 16/08/2019. On 14/08/2019 we have submitted a detailed note in writing to the Addl. Secretary/DP for the consideration of MoD. Subsequently when we were called for the 2nd round of discussion on 16/08/2019, we were expecting that the MoD must have considered our proposals and discussion may take on those proposals. However it is most unfortunate

that the committee instead of discussing on the proposals suggestions given by us was repeatedly pleading for withdrawal of the strike, without any settlement. Immediately after the meeting held on 16/08/2019, the Federations and CDRA met separately and after considering the unhelpful attitude we have decided to go ahead with the proposed one month strike commencing from 20/08/2019.

You will appreciate that the decision taken by the MoD to corporatize the Ordnance Factories, have completely demoralized the entire work force of OFB, since they are very much worried about their future and their status as Defence Civilian Employees. We are confident that you will recognize the feelings of the more than 82 thousand employees and issue the following directions for implementation to the authorities in the interest of Production, productivity and harmonious industrial relations.

- 1) To withdraw the decision to convert the Ordnance Factories in to a Corporation/DPSU.
- 2) To allot workload to the tune of Rs.30,000 Crores in a phased manner starting from 2020-2021 to 2024 – 2025 and extend all support to achieve the same in the present structure of OFB.
- 3) As already agreed by the Government, the salary expenditure may be allotted separately and the same should not be added to the cost of the product, so as to enable Army to procure all its requirement from the Armed Forces.
- 4) If any expert/experts can guide/assist for the effective functioning of OFB, such experts may be posted to OFB.
- 5) The performance of the OFB can be monitored by the Ministry of Defence after the above mentioned proposals are implemented.

Sir, it is pertinent to mention here that the above proposals were also proposed before your honour when a delegation of BPMS met you in your residence on 17.08.2019.

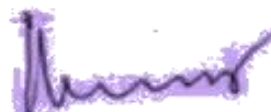
Sir, the work force of Ordnance Factories are highly competitive and technically sound personnel. They are ready to extend full support and cooperation for improving the efficiency of the OFB further. We therefore request you to kindly intervene in the matter and ensure an amicable settlement, so that the workforce of the Ordnance Factories can peacefully perform their National task.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,



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Ref.No. 11 /AIDF/INDWF/BPMS/19

Date : 12.08.2019

To,

Honourable Mamata Banerjee
Chief Minister
 Government of West Bengal.
 Nabanna, West Bengal Secretariat,
 Howrah - 711 102.

Subject : NDA Government's decision to corporatize 41 Ordnance Factories and 1 month strike by the 82,000 employees of Ordnance Factories demanding to withdraw the above decision - Requesting the support of the Hon'ble CM.

Respected Madam,

At the outset we are grateful to your honour for immediately responding against the decision of the NDA Government to convert the 41 Ordnance Factories into a corporation. Your letter dated 23rd July 2019 was circulated by us to all our affiliated Unions functioning in the 41 Ordnance Factories throughout the country. The entire workforce of Ordnance Factories are encouraged by your immediate action. All the Unions held a strike ballot on 30-7-2019 to go for a one month strike in all the Ordnance Factories commencing from 20-8-2019 demanding for withdrawal of the above decision by the Government of India. More than 99% of the workforce voted in favor of the one month strike and accordingly we have served strike notice on the Government on 1-8-2019.

The 3 Federations recognized by the Government of India are Trade Unions of Defence Civilian Employees and there is no political affiliation. In the state of West Bengal along with our Affiliated Unions the Trade Unions / Associations Affiliated to INTTUC have joined in the Joint Struggle Committees and are actively preparing for the strike. Hon'ble MP Ms. Dola Sen have also raised the issue in the Parliament.

You are aware that in Kolkata itself there are 4 Ordnance Factories including the 1st Ordnance Factory, Gun and Shell Factory Cossipore (Established in 1802) and also the OFB Headquarters, wherein more than 12,000 permanent employees and 6000 contract workers are deployed. We appeal to your honour to support the employees of these factories and OFB Headquarters for a National cause which they are fighting for. We also request that you may kindly advise your constituents also to support the strike which is to be commenced from 20.08.2019. We also request you to further use your good office once again to impress upon the Honourable Prime Minister to not corporatize the Ordnance Factories and to allow to function as a Government Department in the interest of Defence preparedness of our Country.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,



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