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NEW DELHI

## AN APPEAL TO PEOPLE

4/25

Much has been told and propagated by the Government through Radio, newspapers and other means to keep the people aloof from railwaymen who are the part and parcels of the people, only to conceal its (own Government) defects and to deprive the railwaymen from their legitimate and legal demands and finding no other means, in order to crash the movement of railwaymen, Shrimati Indira Gandhi the Prime Minister having no rational argument against our legitimate and legal demands began to bring rupture in the public and railwaymen saying that if Railway strike is materialised there would be inflation and increase of taxes on the people. She went so far, to characterise the action of Railwaymen as ANTI-NATIONAL. These are nothing but the outcome of her unbalanced mind, lack of rational argument and failure of all round political and economical policies and for this she wants to make responsible the people and railwaymen. She also bureaucratically thinking of dictatorship and challenging the people either to accept her INDIRA-Brand-Democracy which is full of corruption nepotism and favouritism or face the Dictatorship.

Srimati Indira Gandhi said that the Railwaymen strike if materialised the movement of food grains will be stopped and the people will face starvation and this will be the act of Anti nationalism. Her Government has cancelled 450 trains and the drivers and Firemen are idling. The people of Gujrat, Behar, U.P and other parts of India are facing starvation and death. Will countrymen not say that the cancellation of trains and throwing the people in the jaws of death is anti national and sabotage of the Indian economy is the act of Fifth Columnist? Whatsoever may be, we the railwaymen leave it to the people to judge.

The Indian Railwaymen has decided to launch Indefinite general strike from 6 A. M. of 8, May 1974 and people has right to know why their bretheren in Railway are going to launch the Indefinite General Strike in Railway System which is the nerve of Indian Nation and we the Railwaymen feel obligatory to put forward the explanation to the countrymen so that they may not be the pray of false propaganda of Railway Ministry and Government of India

That our country achieved independence in 1947 and was declared Sovereign Democratic Republic, by the people of India to achieve Justice, social economical and political liberty, of thought, expression, belief faith and worship, equality of status opportunity and fraternity. Article 36 to 51 of the holy constitution of India deals with the Directive Principles of state policy. Article 43 envisages that state shall try to secure by suitable legislation or economic organisation or in any other way to all workers agricultural, industrial, or otherwise, work, living wages condition of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full engagement of lisure and social and agricultural opportunities in particular. The state shall try to promote cottage industry on individual or Co-operative basis in rural area.

The people of India after independence entrusted to implement the policies of the constitution and certain people elected from amongst them to work but they to whom such work were given to do, failed miserably and instead they became dictator in evry state of affairs. They in collaboration with the capitalist misdirected the Indian economy. Due to which the capitalist class derived good luck and workers suffered badly. The agriculturist were also badly exploited and the remuneration was not given to them for their production. The Government of India took the production at cheaper rate but failed to supply the other daily needed essenstial commodities to the farmers. The cloths, sugar, mustard oil were given to farmers at higher rate, sequal to which farmeres became poorer. The national programme for housing to the poor people of villages alos failed and on the contrary police station, official buildings were made in palacial manner While the people and children are not getting breads, the dogs of big officiales and business men are being freely given milk and biscuits in front to our children.

per And other means to keep the people aloof from railwaymen who are the part and parcels of the people, only to conceal its (own Government) defects and to deprive the railwaymen from their legitimate and legal demands and finding no other means, in order to crash the movement of railwaymen, Shrimati Indira Gandhi the Prime Minister having no rational argument against our legitimate and legal demands began to bring rupture in the public and railwaymen saying that if Railway strike is materialised there would be inflation and increase of taxes on the people. She went so far, to characterise the action of Railwaymen as ANTI-NATIONAL. These are nothing but the outcome of her unbalanced mind, lack of rational argument and failure of all round political and economical policies and for this she wants to make responsible the people and railwaymen. She also bureaucratically thinking of dictatorship and challenging the people either to accept her INDIRA-Brand-Democracy which is full of corruption nepotism and favouritism or face the Dictatorship.

While the employees of Cement industries, Life insurances will get minimum Rs 300/- and 367/- p m respectively. The 3rd pay commission of Government of India shamelessly and motivatedly in with connivance with the Finance Minister has fixed 196/- only a retrograde minimum pay for the Central Government employees. It is an established truth that the Government of India has treated the central govt employees as her step sons and therefore, treats us as slave.

When the workers of other country are fighting for living wage, fair wage and higher wages, we the Indian Railwaymen ask the minimum wage although our constitution the Government of India committed it self to provide us living wage which never materialised in 26 years of independence. Our demands are not for luxury and pomp but to maintain the soul of mine and the members of the family.

Our main argument with Government is that either Government should provide all the essential commodities within the scope which the Government of India is paying to us, if not, then give us, pay to compensate the soaring prices of the essential commodities.

Right from 1959 till date the Railway fares and freights increased 17 times but the pay of Railwaymen has increased for once except the unreasonable increase in dearness allowance. The increase in dearness allowance always been retrograde, Therefore there has always been a deep decline in the income of the working class—Railwaymen.

We adopted every peaceful and constitutional means in the form of repeated memorandums, demonstrations, processions and negotiations but the authorities violate the constitutional remained adamant and refuted our demands.

We ask advise from countrymen whether we should keep silent, die of hunger and commit suicide or we should resort strike for our existence.

Our Demands :—

- (a) All railwaymen be treated as industrial workers with full trade union right including the right to negotiate.  
(b) The working hours of Railwaymen shall not exceed eight per day.  
(c) There shall be job evaluation of all railwaymen through a scientific system to be followed by their reclassification and regradation with the need based minimum wage as the wage for the lowest paid workers.  
(d) Pending the completion of the job evaluation and reclassification, immediate parity in wages with those of workers in the central Government under taking Viz. HMT, BHEL, HSL and HAL etc
- Dearness allowance linked to the cost of the living index with full neutralisation for every rise of four points in a six month period.
- Bonus at the rate of one month wages for the years 1971/72 and 1972/73.
- Decasualisation of all casual railwaymen and their confirmation in service with all benefits given to them with retrospective effect.
- Adequate and subsidised food grains and other essential commodities through

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

CALLS UPON RAILWAYMEN

TO GO ON AN

INDEFINITE GENERAL STRIKE

FROM 6 HOURS ON MAY 8, 1974

IN SUPPORT OF

THE 6-POINT CHARTER OF DEMANDS

- \*\*\*\*\*  
\* 1. Job Evaluation 4. Confirmation of \*  
\* Casual Labour \*  
\* 2. Parity with Public Sector 5. Bonus \*  
\* in Wages, D.A., Bonus. \*  
\* 3. 8-Hour Working Day 6. End Victimisation \*  
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Issued by \_\_\_\_\_

(Union/Association's Name to be printed here).