



Unity is our strength

Struggle is Our weapon

ALL INDIA ROAD TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION



News Letter - November-2023

The following struggles have taken place in the recent period.

Bihar: The Auto and E Rickshaw Drivers of Patna went on strike from 01st September to 05th September against the decision of the authorities to lift away the Auto Stand abruptly in the name of Metro Construction. Police harassed and arrested the workers and leaders including Com. Rajkumar Jha, Secretary AIRTWF. On 05th September Patna Bund was observed successfully. Finally, the authorities were compelled to negotiate with the Union leadership and arrived at a settlement to continue the existing Auto stand till alternative arrangements are made duly consulting the Union. This is a big victory of the struggle.



Rajasthan: Rajasthan RTC workers were not getting salaries in time. Pensioners are also facing the same. Some other problems are there. A Joint Action Committee was formed and agitations were organized in a phased manner and strike call was given. On 03-09-2023 the JAC reached into an agreement with the Government and the proposed strike was withdrawn.

JCTSL bus Workers- Jaipur: The workers under the leadership of CITU went on strike for two days on 04 & 05th September demanding to take back on duty the retrenched workers and enhancement of salary etc. Finally, on 06th September the management entered in to an agreement with the union and agreed take back the retrenched workers on duty and to increase the salary of Rs. Every year. The rest of the demands which are pending Labour Department will be settled later. It was agreed to pay the salaries on time, Drivers will be given two sets of Uniform. The strike was called off with the agreement.

Cab Drivers strike in Chennai: The Cab Drivers in Chennai city have stopped the vehicles from 16th October demanding reduction of commission, unilateral

withdrawal of names of the Drivers by the Company etc. Our Union intervened and mobilized all the other groups of drivers in the Cabs. Finally, it was agreed by the Government to discuss with the Union on 20-10-2023 in the presence of the Home Secretary. With this assurance, the strike was called off on 18-10-2023.



Chennai Metro Rail Worker: The four dismissed employees of Chennai Metro Rail Corporation have joined service on 27-09-2023 with 50% back wages and without any break in service at the direction of the Honorable High Court Order. The management of Chennai Metro Rail dismissed 8 Office Bearers for forming a union affiliated to CITU and demanding for the redressal of the demands. 4 of the dismissed have surrendered to the management. But the remaining four have chosen to fight legally with the guidance of the Union and with the support of the workers. Finally, after 58 months, the dismissed workers have been reinstated. This is a big victory.



Maharashtra: on 31st July 23, Mr. Khajurkar, employee of Mulund depot working on wet-lease bus, along with his wife/children and some employees started hunger strike. Some political parties supported the hunger strike and made emotional speeches. On 1st August Mulund, 2nd August Mulund and Ghatkopar depots were closed. Therefore, on 3rd August, The AIRTWF affiliated Union called a meeting of the committee members, discussed and decided to join the movement. On 4th August, 100% wet-lease workers went on strike, and protested at Wadala BEST depot. About 700 workers participated in it. In another program on 5th August, 1,000 workers participated. On 8 August, the protestors called off the strike stating that the Government has agreed the demands. But there was no such agreement. Due to large scale publicity in the media that the demands were accepted, 80% workers reported for duty.

The above Maharashtra struggle proves two things. One is that the prevailing unrest among the workers and the failure of the responsible Trade Union movement in taking up the issues of the workers intime. This led to the strike starting at one depot and spread to all the depots 100% participation of the workers in the strike. The second thing is that how the opportunist elements enter in to the Working Class struggles by making emotional speeches and suppress the movement in connivance with the ruling dispensation without any achievement to the workers.



PUN BUS Workers strike: The transport contractual workers working in Punjab Roadways/Punbus and Pepsu Road Transport Corporation numbering more than 6 thousand went on lightning strike

on 20th September for implementation of already agreed demands and for withdrawal of victimizations. Strike was 92 %. The workers who were on long routes in other adjoining state and some regular employees who are at the verge of retirement were not in the strike. All threats given by administration and political heads became futile. Ultimately at 2 p.m the Transport Minister arranged a meeting with the sole union namely Punjab Roadways /Punbus/P.R.T.C. contract workers Union (CITU). It was agreed to implement annual increment of 5% w.e. from 1st September 2023. All the 500 discharged workers from duty due to alleged deficiency in their documents will be taken on duty with immediate effect and all the 157 suspended workers on minor/filthy charges were also taken back on duty with continuity in service. The amount of increment is already added with the disbursed salary for September month paid on 10th October. This whole development enhanced the prestige of the CITU led union. In this govt. CITU has become a major force in public sector transport in the state. The negotiation is going on for the remaining demand.

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