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**Press Statement****18<sup>th</sup> August 2016****Central Trade Unions Reiterate countrywide General Strike on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept**

The Meeting of the leaders of the Central Trade Unions held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at INTUC office at New Delhi reviewed the preparatory campaign being jointly carried on throughout the country for the joint call of countrywide general strike on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016 against the anti-worker, anti-people policies of the Govt of India and also to press for the 12 point charter of demands jointly formulated by all the central trade unions of the country. The CTUOs expressed dismay over utterly negative attitude of the Govt towards basic demands of the workers on minimum wages as per consensus formulation of the Indian Labour Conference, on universal social security including pension for all workers including those in unorganised sector, against mass scale contractorisation of permanent and perennial work, against onslaught on basic rights of the workers through so called labour-law-reforms through various state governments and also by the centre in the background of large scale violation of labour laws being promoted by both the central govt and also many state govts, desperate move for privatisation/disinvestment of strategic and sensitive public sector units, and promoting limitless FDI in sensitive sectors like Defence, Railways, Banks, Insurance, and Retail, etc.

The CTUOs made it clear that the desperate bid of the Govt for changing the labour laws both through central and many state govts is basically designed to throw even the overwhelming majority of the organised sector workers out of the coverage and purview of all basic labour laws which would render all other rights and benefits of the working people virtually meaningless. Such retrograde move of the Govts aimed at imposing slavery on the working people have to be combated resolutely by the united movement of the workers, it being the central issue before them.

CTUOs expressed satisfaction over the increasing response by the workers throughout the country to the call for united countrywide action in the campaign stage itself. The call for joint mass satyagraha on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016 received magnificent response from the workers throughout the country which reached up to the district level in most of the states reflecting firm determination to make the call for countrywide strike on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016 a massive success.

**It is unfortunate that during the past one year, the Group of Ministers appointed for discussion with the CTUOs on 12 point charter has not convened even a single meeting but has been only talking to BMS which has not joined the strike call.**

**The CTUOs condemn the move of the central govt to divide the workers in the face of ongoing strike campaign and create confusion through making misleading statements on its so called positive attitude on workers' demands both directly and through their various agencies and allies.**

While expressing confidence that such dubious ploy to mislead, confuse and divide the workers by the Govt is destined to fail, the CTUOs reiterate its clarion call and appeal to the working people of the country irrespective of affiliations to further widen their unity and unitedly combat the anti-worker, anti-people policies of the Govt through making the call for countrywide general strike on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016 a total success.

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