



# ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

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## **TO ALL UNITS AND MEMBERS:**

Dear Comrades,

- **Greetings & Red Salutes to Ordnance Factory employees**
- **1,20,000 employees commence their strike**
- **One month strike began today against corporatization**
- **Heroic struggle against privatisation**
- **AIBEA conveys its solidarity to their struggle**

As 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 dawned this morning, all industrial, non-industrial (Clerical, office staff), Junior Officers, Charge Hands have walked out of all the 41 Ordnance Factories (OF) against Government's plans to corporatize and then to privatise them.

82,000 permanent employees and 40,000 Contract employees are on agitation and strike from today.

All India Defence Employees Federation, Indian National Defence Workers Federation and Bharatiya Pratiraksha Mazdoor Sangh (of BMS) have jointly given this call for one month strike.

The 218 years old Indian Ordnance Factories under the Ordnance Factory Board are all Government Department now. The present Government has arbitrarily decided to convert these Factories into Corporation.

In the past also there were attempts and various Committees have recommended for the conversion of the Ordnance Factories into Corporation. However, these factories being war reserve and solely dependent upon the Armed Forces cannot function as a commercially viable or profitable units. These factories cater to the needs of the Defence forces. Therefore many Defence Ministers in the past like George Fernandes, Pranab Mukherjee, A.K Antony, Manohar Parikkar have rejected the recommendations and had assured that these Factories would continue as Department of the Government under the Ministry of Defence.

But the present Government has brought this as an agenda in its 100 days programme and has decided to corporatize the Ordnance Factories. The idea is the first corporatize these Factories and then privatise them through disinvestments, etc. This move of the Government will put national security at risk and hence is against national interest.

This move will also totally alter the status of the employees depriving them of all their existing benefits and rights.

The Unions have been pleading with the Government not to proceed with their agenda of corporatization but the Government has decided to go ahead.

Hence the Unions gave the strike Notice three weeks ago and have commenced the strike today.

The Government wants these 41 Indian Ordnance Factories to produce Rs. 30,000 Crores worth of goods by 2024. The Unions have accepted the challenge, but they want the government to assure them that the plans to corporatize the ordnance factories will be shelved. But the Government refused.

The workmen in essential services like fire-fighting, water and electric supply, hospitals in the OF colonies have also struck work, but are back manning those services voluntarily, foregoing the salaries for the days of strikes. We salute them for their sense of duty and commitment to the call of the Union.

The strike has been a total success in Tamilnadu, Telangana, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrahakand, Bihar, Chandigarh where the Ordinance Factories are located as well as at the Ordinance Factory Board Headquarters in Kolkata. Because of the total success of the strike, the production level has come down to zero level in the factories. The call is for strike for 30 days from 20<sup>th</sup> August to 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

**We the bank employees under the banner of All India Bank Employees Association greet these fighting comrades of Ordnance Factories and express our total solidarity with their justified struggle.**

We call upon all our units and members in the concerned States to participate in the solidarity programmes and demonstrations organised locally.

With greetings,

Yours comradely,



**C.H.VENKATACHALAM  
GENERAL SECRETARY**