

## **Press Release**

The following statement was issued today 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2021 by the Platform of Central Trade Unions and independent sectoral Federations/Associations

### **India Put on Sale by the ruling regime at the Centre It is the task of the Working Class to Save India!**

The so called 'National Monetisation Pipeline' (NMP) was announced by the Union Finance Minister on 23 August 2021, to raise Rs 6 lakh crore over the next 4 years. The plan envisages leasing out various Government assets such as 26,700 Kms highways worth Rs.1.6 Lakh (L) Crore (Cr); - 400 Railway stations and 150 trains (Rs.1.5 L.Cr); - 42,300 Circuit Kms of Power Transmission Lines (Rs.0.67 L.Cr); - 5,000 MW Hydro, Solar and Wind Power Generation assets (Rs.0.32 L.Cr); - 8,000 Kms of National Gas Pipelines (Rs.0.24 L.Cr); - 4,000 Kms Pipelines of IOC and HPCL (Rs.0.22 L.Cr); BSNL and MTNL Towers (Rs.0.39 L.Cr); - 21 Airports and 31 Ports (Rs.0.34 L.Cr); 160 Coal Mining projects (Rs.0.32 L.Cr); and 2 Sport Stadiums (Rs.0.11 L.Cr) etc. for various durations of lease. It is claimed that the funds so generated will be invested in expanding infrastructure. This is nothing but a nefarious design to hand over all infrastructural assets to private hands virtually free for revenue generation by them without any obligation of capital cost and share a small part of that huge revenue with the Govt.

That is why this plan is being criticized roundly as free-privatisation (rather doling out) of national assets built with tax-payers' money. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, the FM, is defending this decision saying the ownership of the assets will remain with the Government and therefore it is not outright privatisation. Nobody is convinced with this justification.

While this debate is going on, further advisories went out from the Government to all the *Gram Panchayats*, to monetize their assets such as common lands, water bodies, common buildings etc. to add to their finances. The diabolic effect this will have on village society can only be guessed.

Commonsense will tell you that the immediate effect of this latest Government move will be price-rise for the common man for all the infrastructural services being leased out to private players. Because the private operators, as per the official NMP document, have been empowered to increase the user/service charges of all those infrastructures and make windfall profit at the cost of common people.

Contrary to the argument by the government, that jobs would be created, thousands of workers will lose their jobs worsening the already alarming unemployment situation. Quality of jobs would further deteriorate. The SC/ ST sections would be among the worst affected, as there is no reservation in jobs in the private sector.

Add to this the Government's announcement to sell 100 profit making PSUs. This means that the profit flowing into Government coffers will stop and start flowing into private corporate's

coffers. Again It does not require deep economic knowledge to know that Government's ability to provide Social Security to people will be curtailed due to these steps.

It also does not require deep economic knowledge to know that Government can fill its coffers by taxing the rich and super-rich in India. But the Government refuses to tax their friends, rather their masters-- the rich and the super-rich.

Why is the Government embarking on such policies, obviously detrimental to the interests of the common man? The blunt answer is because they are in the interest of the Corporates, who finance the party in power.

What should the common man then do?

The Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions, Independent Federations and Associations and the Samyukta Kisan Morcha are showing the way: throw the perpetrators in the governance committing this heinous crime on the national economy and the toiling people out of power in every available opportunity, while simultaneously building determined resistance unitedly throughout the country.

Let us, the working class take up the cause as "MISSION INDIA" to defend our national assets, nation as a whole and also the lives and livelihood of the toiling people by developing determined resistance struggle against this direly anti-national policy regime of the present Govt. in power as the toiling people are bearing the brunt of the destructive policy regime in the form of incessant price rise of everything, continuous loss of jobs and livelihood, sky-rocketing unemployment, aggravating hunger and impoverishment and atrocious attack on the rights of the toiling people along with manifestation of obscene inequality through huge increase in wealth of handful rich and super-rich among the corporate/big-business class.

Let us spread among the mass of the common people much broader awareness through intensive campaign against this anti-people, anti-national regime and the crime being committed by them on the national interests and lives and livelihood of the people. Let us expose the real anti-people and anti-national ugly face of the ruling class sought to be camouflaged through their captive-media-backed propaganda.

We therefore have to counter this propaganda with facts, which are there for all to see: the PRICE-RISE.

So take part in the signature campaign to reach out to every neighbor. Let us make it "MISSION INDIA".

The Joint platform of CTUs thus decided the following roadmap of heightening decisive struggle of resistance against the anti-national destructive projects of the ruling regime at the centre:

1. All round collective initiative for extensive continuous campaign among the mass of the common people against this destructive policy regime and its grievous impact on the lives and livelihood of the common people from all walks of lives.
2. Countrywide National Protest Day through massive joint demonstration/agitation/mobilizations at least up to district level on 07<sup>th</sup> October 2021.
3. National Convention of Workers at New Delhi against the anti-national, anti-people policies of the Govt. with a focus on latest exercise of loot and plunder on people-the NMP on a date after Dussera and before Diwali to decide on future course of action/agitation in preparation to multiple days of strike action at appropriate time.
4. Support sectoral actions including strikes in the sectors directly and immediately affected by NMP.

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