

**ALL INDIA DEFENCE EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION**  
**INDIAN NATIONAL DEFENCE WORKERS' FEDERATION**  
**BHARTIYA PRATIRAKSHA MAZDOOR SANGH**  
(RECOGNIZED FEDERATIONS OF DEFENCE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES)

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Joint Circular No. : 41/2020

Date : 14.08.2020

To,

**All the affiliated Unions of  
AIDEF, INDWF, BPMS**

**Federations appeals to the Defence Minister to Stall malicious articles being published in the print media against the Ordnance Factories and its employees especially by the Retired Army officers**

You are aware that after the announcement by the Finance Minister on 16/05/2020 about the Corporatisation of Ordnance Factories, series of Articles abusing the Ordnance Factories its employees and Trade Unions are being published regularly. Many of these Articles are written by Retired Army officers. The contents of these Articles are highly objectionable, since these articles are written with ulterior motives to tarnish the image of Ordnance Factories and its employees. The three Federations have now jointly written to the Defence Minister requesting him to intervene in the matter and issue necessary order, that the authorities in the MoD may initiate legal action against the people who are writing these types of unsubstantiated articles against DDP as well as Ordnance Factories and its employees with ulterior motive. A copy of the joint letter of the three Federations dated 13/08/2020 is enclosed as **Annexure-I** of this Joint Circular.

**Joint letter issued to AIRF and NFIR requesting to extend support and participate in the indefinite strike against Corporatisation and privatisation.**

As decided in the joint meeting of the Federations held on 10/08/2020 letters have been issued to the General Secretaries of AIRF & NFIR, requesting both the Organisations to extend support to our struggle and also to participate in the Indefinite strike action, since the Government is ruthlessly privatising the Railways and also to Corporatise the Railway production units. A copy of the joint letters dated 13/08/2020 addressed to AIRF & NFIR is enclosed as **Annexure-II** of this Joint Circular.

**RM's Statement in the Press Release of MoD issued on 13/08/2020**

You are aware that the Defence Minister while launching 15 products developed by DPSUs and OFB have stated about the steps being initiated by the Government to Corporatise the OFB. In this regard, a detailed representations against the statement made by him is under preparation and the same will be forwarded to him.



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Copy also to :

**The General Secretaries**

CDRA, NPDEF, AIBDEF,  
DGOH HQ. Employees Associations & IOFSA

} For your kind information please

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Ref. No. : 23/AIDEF/INDWF/BPMS/20

Date : 14.08.2020

To,

**Shri. Rajnath Singhji**

Hon'ble Defence Minister

Government of India,

South Block, New Delhi – 110 001.

**SUBJECT : REQUEST TO STALL MALICIOUS ARTICLES BEING  
PUBLISHED IN THE PRINT MEDIA AGAINST THE  
ORDNANCE FACTORIES AND ITS EMPLOYEES, ESPECIALLY  
BY THE RETIRED ARMY OFFICERS**

Respected Sir,

We are pained to bring to your kind notice that after the announcement of the Hon'ble Finance Minister on 16/05/2020 about the Government's policy decision to convert the status of 219 yrs, old Departmentally run Indian Ordnance Factories in to a Corporation/PSU, a seamier campaign with biased Articles are being carried out through Journals and leading National dailies maligning the image of this great organisation which is the fourth force Defence of our country. It has now become a fashion for some of the Retired Senior Army officers to join Defence related private Industries and to serve their own interest starts hurling unsubstantiated accusations on the Ordnance Factories and its workforce. Recently an Article titled "Burden of OFB: Liability at Armed Forces cost" written by one Lt. Gen. J K Sharma(Retd.) was published in Bharat Shakthi Journal. In the preface, this Journal has made a statement made in the name of Editor Note which is given below verbatim,

***"Over 80,000 employees attuned to an easy life with no accountability what so ever are up in Arms".***

This atrocious and misleading remark is highly condemnable, since it has insulted the entire workforce of the Ordnance Factories who work day and night for the defence preparedness of our country. In the same article there are unsubstantiated criticisms against the performance of the various Ordnance Factories which are totally false, baseless, unfounded and malicious

In another Article written in the name of Director General of Manohar Parikkar IDSA, which was published in The Economic Times, on Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> 2020, the author has made the following statements without any supporting data.



*"With its products ranging from tanks, artillery guns, armoured vehicles, small arms & ammunition, uniforms, boots & Tents accounted for by a captive market among the defence and security forces, the behemoth has lapsed in to a complacency the Nation can illafford".*

*"plagued by a poor record of adherence to delivery schedules, a high rate of rejection due to quality issues, costly and entrenched supply chains and redundant inventories, there is little to suggest that OFB was the top supplier to India's Armed Forces four decades ago".*

*"neither the top management nor the mammoth labour force of 82,000 workers are sufficiently motivated, or trained to achieve their true potential".*

*"of course, OFB will no longer be able to take customers for granted through the archaic cost plus profit pricing".*

In one more Article which was published in The New Indian Express on 11/08/2020, written by Lt. Gen. P R Shankar(Retd.), he was baselessly critical about the Ordnance Factories, its devoted and committed workforce and has gone to the extent of branding the responsible and constructive Trade Unions of the employees of Ordnance Factories as anti National. Some of his malicious statements are given below

*"the armed forces have never been satisfied with the output of the OFB. Very specifically the ammunition produced by it often unreliable, unsafe and has lower than specified shelf lives..... it adversely affects operational readiness. National security is jeopardised".*

*"past government committees even recommended full privatisation"*

*"the government should ban such strike at this time. Are the workers being instigated by party politics or forces inimical to the nation ? Is there a China hand behind the strike? There is obviously more to it than meets the eye"*

It is very unfortunate that none of these Articles were rebutted by the DDP who owns the Ordnance Factories. All the above false, fabricated, malicious and unfounded statements are though pointed to Ordnance Factories and its employees, but it equally reflects on the performance of the Ministry of Defence, which is at present under your able leadership. This creates a doubt in our mind that somebody from the DDP also is directly involved in all these sponsored Articles written with selective amnesia. If it is a fact then serious intervention and action needs to be taken against the erring officials under the Conduct Rules applicable for them.

In a meeting convened by the Secretary(DP) on 28/07/2020 to discuss about our strike demands, we have categorically assured the Government that **"we will stop all strike in case of National Security and would work day and night whole heartedly"**. The employees of Ordnance Factories do not require anybodies certificate for their patriotism and their commitment towards the nation as responsible Defence Civilian employees. It is the Ordnance Factory Employees who have worked day and night during all the Wars which India has won after Independence including the Kargil crisis. It is the Ordnance Factories and its workers who once again came to the rescue

of the country to manufacture all types of PPEs required for the Frontline warriors for fighting the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Ordnance Factory employees are very much pained about the silence of the DDP in not issuing any rebuttal to such malicious articles questioning their integrity. These articles not only tarnish the image of Ordnance Factories, but also the Government as a whole. Therefore it is high time that your honour may kindly intervene in the matter and issue necessary order that the authorities in the MoD may initiate legal action against the people who are writing these unsubstantiated articles against DDP as well as Ordnance Factories and its employees with ulterior motive. We are also in consultation with our lawyer for taking appropriate legal action in this regard.

With kindest regards,



**(S.N.PATHAK)**  
President / AIDEF

Yours Sincerely,

**S/d**  
**(ASHOK SINGH)**  
President/INDWF

**S/d**  
**(G.THIRUKUMAR)**  
President/BPMS



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Copy to :

- 1) **The Defence Secretary**  
Ministry of Defence,  
South Block, New Delhi.
- 2) **The Secretary (DP)**  
Department of Defence Production,  
South Block, New Delhi.
- 3) **Chief of Defence Staff**  
& Secretary Department of Military Affairs  
South Block, New Delhi.
- 4) **The DGOF & Chairman**  
Ordnance Factory Board  
10-A, S.K.Bose Road,  
Kolkatta, 700 001.

For kind information and  
favourable action please.



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**INDIAN NATIONAL DEFENCE WORKERS' FEDERATION**  
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Ref. No. : 23/AIDEF/INDWF/BPMS/20

Date : 14.08.2020

To,

**Comrade Shiva Gopal Mishra Ji,**

General Secretary/ AIRF

And

Convener/NJCA

Dear Comrade,

Your are aware that in the guise of Atmanirbar Bharat and taking advantage of the extraordinary situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the present Government has embarked upon sweeping Privatisation drive across the sectors. No Government Sector is spared by the present Government. The following policy decisions are already announced by the Government.

- 1) Privatisation of 109 Railway Routes.
- 2) Corporatization of Railway production Units.
- 3) Handing over of a large number of Railway Stations to private Sector.
- 4) Corporatization of Ordnance Factories.
- 5) Privatisation of all the Public Sector Undertakings
- 6) Disinvestment process of LIC.

Your will appreciate that all these measures of Government is plain anti people and anti national as the government sector and public sector are the backbone of self reliant economy of our country. We the three Federations after the announcement of the Finance Minister on 16/05/2020 about converting the Ordnance Factories in to a Corporation/PSUs have taken a decision to fight back against the policy decision of the Government. Accordingly continuous agitations are going on in all the Ordnance Factories inspite of the odd situation of COVID-19 lockdown. On 04/08/2020, we have jointly served strike notice on the Government and we are preparing to commence Indefinite Strike from 12/10/2020.

Being the Trade Union Organisation of the major workforce of the Central Government Employees, and yourself being the convener of the NJCA, and also considering the heavy attack on the Indian Railways by handing over the Railways to the Private Sector, we request the AIRF to kindly take a decision to support our movement against Corporatisation/Privatisation in all possible methods including an Indefinite strike, so that an united movement of the Central Government employees may be forged to fight back against the retrograde policies of the Government of India. Hope you will consider our request positively and take an historical decision to save the Railways and Defence. In case we fail to do so, we will be doing a grave injustice to the serving younger generation and those Trade Apprentices who are waiting for a Government job.

A favourable response is solicited.

With greetings,

Yours Sincerely,



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Ref. No. : 23/AIDEF/INDWF/BPMS/20

Date : 14.08.2020

To,

**Comrade M.Raghavaiah Ji,**

General Secretary/NFIR

And

Chairman/NJCA

Dear Comrade,

Your are aware that in the guise of Atmanirbar Bharat and taking advantage of the extraordinary situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the present Government has embarked upon sweeping Privatisation drive across the sectors. No Government Sector is spared by the present Government. The following policy decisions are already announced by the Government.

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Being the Trade Union Organisation of the major workforce of the Central Government Employees, and yourself being the Chairman of the NJCA, and also considering the heavy attack on the Indian Railways by handing over the Railways to the Private Sector, we request the NFIR to kindly take a decision to support our movement against Corporatisation/Privatisation in all possible methods including an Indefinite strike, so that an united movement of the Central Government employees may be forged to fight back against the retrograde policies of the Government of India. Hope you will consider our request positively and take an historical decision to save the Railways and Defence. In case we fail to do so, we will be doing a grave injustice to the serving younger generation and those Trade Apprentices who are waiting for a Government job.

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With greetings,

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