

# **INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE, ILO, 2011**

SPEECH DELIVERED BY

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Respected chair, distinguished dignitaries and delegates to this historic 100<sup>th</sup> session of International Labour Conference, I extend my greetings to all. I extend hearty greetings to the Director General of ILO for his excellent report. I thank ILO for taking up timely measures in mending the global labour situation. We all feel proud and happy in meeting together and taking active part in this meeting. ILO has proven its skills in handling the tough global situation.

We all agree that we believe in peace and prosperity of all. Happiness is not centered only in economics. Its real and permanent place is in meeting of heart to heart. Unfortunately Globalisation moved in the wrong direction, resulting in widening of gap between the rich and the poor. It is good that ILO has recognized this phenomenon and as such pleaded for FAIR GLOBALISATION, Social Protection and Decent Work. This is a welcome move. However, yet it could not be adopted in greater part of the world because exploitation, freezing of wages, curtailment of achieved benefits and reducing of social protection and social securities in most of the developing and least developed countries are still continuing. Unfortunately, development process has been increasing corruption

and exploitation in some countries. We require EMPLOYMENT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT. In such a situation, the selection of four issues by ILO for consideration of this conference- 1. Social protection, 2. Domestic workers, 3. Labour Administration & inspection, 4. Application of standards, is most justified. We welcome this.

Active role of ILO in the world has been immensely handy in retaining the critical balance in the era of the faulty global financing system. Issues of global policy making and programmes like distortions in the international currency rates, skewed trade and tariffs, policies of WB/IMF on Govt. spending, intra-national hostilities, battle against terrorism etc. are some issues of concern for the world of labour. Forward trading in food market has caused the food prices to grow in Indian markets at the highest rate within the region, despite satisfactory harvesting resulting labour to suffer.

The labour at large has been presently hit badly as the prices are shooting up. In countries of south of globe, employment is becoming rarer and cheaper. Labour is without gain in terms of decent work or better wages and working conditions. The WAGE DISPARITY is growing and ACCUMULATION OF WEALTH is unprecedented. In India the consultative mechanism is highly inadequate. The provincial level has non-responsive mechanism on implementation of Labour laws. However, the consolidated trade union movement is keeping vigil on the deteriorating situation. In order to reduce exploitation, CAPITAL AND LABOUR SHOULD BE EQUALLY VALUED AND GAINS SHOULD BE EQUALLY SHARED.

On the front of domestic workers, the world of labour is full of woes. A survey conducted recently by trade unions in India demonstrates clearly that the down trodden lot of domestic workers is even deprived of almost all the social security protection net. Their participation rate is less than 1%. Hence labour deserves protection through trade unions. So importance of trade unions should not get lost in preferring NGOs. Let world remember that NEITHER LABOUR IS A COMMODITY NOR THE LABOUR MARKET could exist. Labour is a responsible and important social partner. We appreciate the timely effort of ILO in raising issue of right of labour on work premises. We feel this to be the right time to go ahead with ratification of the convention on the right to organize for getting a right place in the social structure.

However, we are confident that the world would take cue from the synergy generated in this historic 100<sup>th</sup> session of ILC and make this world a better place for labour to live in. We believe in the philosophy that WORKERS CAN UNITE THE WORLD. It is good that ILO is going ahead with this mission. We wish all success. Thank you all.

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