Dear Comrades & Colleagues

Congratulations! The Nation wide call of 48 Hours Boycott duties was a grand success due to wholehearted efforts of all members & office bearers of Constituent Associations. The agitation sent a clear message to the management that a united Federation can raise positive issues for the welfare of the Public Service Broadcasters & employees and also sustain the agitation which had a tremendous impact all over India. Almost all the front line Media papers and channels carried extensive news on the breakdown to the National Broadcaster.

The journey from a Dharna at Akashvani Bhawan on 18th March 2004 to the agreement dated 14th December 2010 with MIB & Prasar Bharati was not an easy path. We were stripped off our facilities of Central Govt employees since November 1997, the appointed day of Prasar Bharati Act 1990. We were not much bothered about the salaries and other allowances, even though the funding system was changed from 1st April 2000. The employees started to sense the trouble only after the disturbances in GPF & Pension contributions for disbursement of salary in 2004 & 2005. The parliament Marches and demonstrations throughout the country resulted in meetings of Federation representatives with Hon’ble Prime Minister of India on 16th December 2004 & 12th August 2005, in the presence of Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, General Secretary AITUC & Late Shri Chittabrato Majumdar, the then General Secretary CITU respectively. The outcome of these meetings was the constitution of Hon’ble Group of Ministers to look into the working of Prasar Bharati.

The call for Mass Casual Leave on 28th September 2007 compelled the Govt of India to restore all the facilities of Central Govt employees such as General pool Accommodation, CGHS, Admission of wards in Central School etc along with inclusion of AIR & DD employees under the purview of 6th Central Pay Commission. Today we are enjoying all these facilities due to the concrete efforts of all employees & representatives of the constituent Associations of NFADE.

Since all these facilities were temporary solutions, we have been continuing our efforts till today for a final settlement. Our aim, from the day one due to the experience that Prasar Bharati cannot protect the interest of the employees, is that “Since we have joined as Central Govt employees it should be ensured that we should be retired as Central Govt employees whenever it may be.” We have different slogans such as repeal PB Act 1990, follow the models of Supreme Court, Election Commission, UPSC, SSC etc or even Railway Model. When there were objections to compare with these models, we demanded a new model by retaining the employees & assets with Govt of India while granting autonomy in policy decisions to PB Board.

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Meanwhile the Govt has introduced the PB amendment Bill 2010 in the Hon’ble Rajyasabha on 31st August 2010 proposing to retain the employees joined upto 05/10/2007 on deemed deputation with all facilities of Central Govt employees while handing over the employees joined after 05/10/2007 to PB. A number of other sub sections were not in the interest of the employees.

Accordingly we have strengthened our agitation and called for 24 hours boycott of duties on 14/15 Sept 2010, 48 hrs boycott of duties from 23rd to 25th Nov 2010 & 72 hrs boycott of duties from 13th to 16th December 2010. We have decided to avoid the 24hrs boycott of duties, in the National interest, in the light of delay in preparation of the Commonwealth Game, which was widely appreciated by the political 7 intellectual leaders.

Govt& PB perhaps never imagined the strength unity of employees till facing the 48 hours boycott of duties. Ministry was adamant on 22nd Nov 2010 that they cannot accept any major amendments in the PB Amendment Bill introduced in the Parliament. It was learnt that the then CEO PB directed the DGs on the first day of of boycott of duties to start disciplinary action against the officers and leaders of the NFADE. NFADE conveyed in clear terms to the management that disciplinary action against any member, irrespective of the cadre, of the constituent associations of NFADE will be dealt very seriously and that will be counter productive.

Though the PB&MIB not intervened for discussions, the Regional Labour Commissioner intervened, on behalf the Cabinet Secretary & PMO, with a number of rounds of discussion along with the senior representatives of Govt & Prasar Bharati.

The final outcome of the discussions are open to everybody that the Ministry, in the meeting held on 11th December 2010, agreed for comprehensive amendments in PB Act in consultations with NFADE and Prasar Bharati agreed to constitute a committee under the chairmanship of Member (Personnel) with both DGs as members along with five representatives of NFADE as its members to propose amendments in PB Act. It was also agreed that while discussing these proposals in PB Board, NFADE will present the amendments in PB Board. It was also agreed that there will not be any disciplinary action against the employees on the basis of their participation in the boycott of duties. The importance of these achievements will be clear only if we compare it with the agitations of employees for the last 5-6 years in the country. A large number of senior trade union leaders of the country appreciated the Federation for these achievements.

The committee to propose the amendments in PB Act had two meetings in which we presented amendments in certain sections of the Act to retain the employees and assets with Govt of India, if it is not possible to Repeal the PB Act 1990.

What every we achieved till today are due to the unity of the members, irrespective of their cadre& discipline, of constituent Associations of NFADE. We are aware that we have reached only in the middle of our struggle and miles to go to reach our destiny.

We appeal each and every member of constituent Associations to maintain unity, by forgetting the differences if any, to achieve our goal.

All are aware that financial support is also a must for any such a huge movements are we were managing from the contributions from the major Associations. The financial condition of NFADE is very poor as on today and we need immediate support from our members/employees in this regard. We request all members of constituent associations to kindly contribute Rs.100/- per head from members belong to Group B &Group A cadres and Rs.50/- per head from members belong to Group C (including former Group D) cadres to the account of NFADE. Kindly deposit the amount in our Bank Account: National Federation of Akashvani & Doordarshan Employees (NFADE), A/C No.601610110000035, Bank Of India, Parliament Street Branch, New Delhi - 110001, or send to the Demand Draft, payable to National Federation of Akashvani & Doordarshan Employees (NFADE) and send to Room No.333, Akashvani Bhavan, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001.

Keep the Unity at any cost!

Kulbhushan Bhatia
Secretary General

P.N.Bhakta
Vice Chairman

Sanjay Kumar
Vice Chairman

V.N.Jha
Vice Chairman

(Anilkumar S) Chairman

NFADE Zindabad
Unity of Employees Zindabad