



## STATE BANK OF HYDERABAD STAFF ASSOCIATION

Central Office: Gunfoundry, Hyderabad-500 001 ( Regn. No.269)  
Phone: 040-23387262, 300, 396, 217, 23387696 040-66661941 Fax: 040-66661941  
e mail [sbhsahyd@gmail.com](mailto:sbhsahyd@gmail.com) – website – [www.sbhsa.org](http://www.sbhsa.org)

**CIR. NO. SA-CO/50/2014**

**DATE: 25.03.2014**


**ALL THE MEMBERS:**

**Dear Comrades,**

**We reproduce hereunder the CIRCULAR NO. 27/57/2014/13, dated: 21<sup>st</sup> March , 2014, issued by our National Organization – AIBEA, for your information.**

**With Greetings,**

Yours Comradely,

  
**(JAGDISH M BHAVTHANKAR)**  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**

Dear Comrades,

### **General Elections – Challenges and tasks**

Once again the biggest democracy in the world will witness another massive process of elections to elect 543 Members of Parliament. The Schedule for the General Elections to elect the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha has been announced by the Election Commission. It will commence on 7<sup>th</sup> April and end on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 and polling will be held on 9 dates in different dates. About **81 crores ( 814 million ) of people** will be eligible to cast their vote this time – 10 crores ( 100 million ) voters more than of 2009 elections. **2.3 crores ( 23 million ) young people in the age group of 18-19 will be eligible to cast their vote for the first time.** Election Commission is proposing to set up **9,30,000 Polling Stations** and electronic voting machines will be made available in all the booths. The election process will cost the Government around **Rs. 4,000 crores.**

**Election Schedule:**

<b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Assam, Tripura
<b>9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	West Bengal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh,
<b>10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Delhi, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Andaman
<b>12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Assam, Sikkim, Tripura
<b>17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Bihar, Goa, Odisha, UP, Rajasthan
<b>24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Assam, Bihar, UP, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Pondicherry
<b>30<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, UP, Gujarat
<b>7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, UP, Uttaranchal, West Bengal
<b>12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Bihar, UP, West Bengal.

While the political parties are busy in finalising their election manifestos and looking for new alliances and combinations to retain power or to wrest power, Mr. Common Man who is at the cross-roads is also making up his mind for whom to cast his golden vote. Suddenly this Mr. Common Man has become so important that everyone is trying to assure that everything will be done for him if they continue or come to power. After all this is nothing new nor the country is going to polls for the first time. Mr. Common Man has given his vote in the past also. He has brought someone to power or he has thrown someone out of power. Every time he gives his vote based on his experience, expectations and convictions.

In the last elections in 2009, more than 6000 candidates from various national political parties, regional parties and including more than 2000 independent candidates contested the elections. This time too, the scenario will be no different. Everyone will claim that they want to serve the people. Everyone will swear that they will work for the welfare of the people. But what do we feel about it? As employees, as workers, as trade unions, as conscious citizens, shall we simply go by what they say, shall we be mute spectators, silent observers or vote according to whims or ignore the whole process. Where do we stand?

Our Indian Constitution says that we the people of India shall constitute a '**Sovereign, Socialist, Secular Democratic Republic**' in order to secure to all citizens, **Justice** - social economic and political, **Liberty** – of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship, **Equality** – of status and opportunity and to promote **Fraternity** assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation. But our experience is that people who do not work for these aims or people who work against these objectives will be in the fray. Money and muscle would be in full-play as in the past. People with unacceptable reputation and questionable credibility will contest the elections. People whose companies are bank loan defaulters may also be candidates. Hence AIBEA has demanded that bank loan defaulters should be debarred from contesting the elections. Even candidates with criminal background are not ruled out. People who do not support our cause will be there in the elections. People who are inimical to our class interest will be busy to get elected to the Parliament. But there is a silver lining – **we have the choice not to elect such persons or to elect the persons of our choice who shall stand by us.**

## **The situation as it exists**

The Indian political situation is really complex, rather critical. It appears that the Corporates have almost taken over the political system. They are dictating the policies, even to the extent of interfering in the choice of Ministers. There have been numerable instances of collusion between the Government and the Corporates which ultimately benefits the corporate. It is no secret today that the Corporates are also financing the elections.

In the economy front, things are very bad. Production, both industrial and agriculture, is on the decline. Prices of all essential commodities are hitting the roof top and the UPA Government has thoroughly failed in controlling inflation and price rise. Slowdown in the economy has affected the livelihood of the working people. The living conditions of those workers who are on contract and belong to unorganised sector, constituting the largest segment of the working people, are miserable. Unemployment is alarmingly high. The young and the educated youth do not get decent and safe jobs. Working women are special targets of underpayments and denial of basic rights.

Labour law violation is all around. Low salary and long working hours are deeply affecting the workers. On the one hand, job creation has fallen miserably, while on the other, miserable service condition, low wage and long working hours are the striking significant features. The condition of the agricultural workers is deplorable. Unorganised section is severely affected. Another significant feature is sharp decline of permanent jobs and all around contractualisation as never before. Contract workers are not being paid minimum wage and forced to work nearly for twelve hours a day. Poverty and unemployment has created a dreadful condition of slavery in working place.

In the last more than 20 years, because the successive Governments have pursued economic policies of liberalization, this has on the one hand enabled few people to accumulate huge wealth to become multi-billionaires while bulk of the masses are struggling for even minimum livelihood.

As of last year, the total wealth of top 100 rich people of India was Rs.16 lacs crores. This is more than the Annual Budget Outlay of the Central Government for the entire country.

Top 25 corporate Executives were paid a total annual salary of Rs. 650 crores ranging from Rs. 13 crores to Rs. 70 crores individually.

In contrast to this, even as per Government's own Committee Reports, 75% of our people are very poor and do not have capacity to spend more than Rs. 20 per day.

Thus, the Government's economic policies have resulted in increasing economic inequalities and income disparities. These inequalities are bound to result in social inequities and social tensions. Social tensions will affect social harmony and amity amongst the people.

The Government has been slowly withdrawing its role from sectors which mattered for the poor people such as water, sanitation, electricity, education, health care, etc. These sectors are being privatized and these services are becoming very costly.

There have been huge cuts in development and welfare spending.

Subsidies to the poor including for public distribution system have been reduced over the years while richer sections have been given more and more concessions.

Public Sector is being attacked and diluted and privatization has become the main policy of the Government.

While the Government boasts of so many rich Indians in the list of billionaires of the world, India ranked 126 in Human Development Index and 94 in Global Hunger Index.

**In the banking sector**, the Government policy is privatising public sector banks and hand them over to private corporates, amalgamation and merger of public sector banks and push them into unwarranted global competition, remove ceiling on voting rights of foreign investors in banking sector and thus pave way for foreign takeover of our banks, allowing license to business and corporate houses to have their own Banks, wholesale outsourcing of all permanent and perennial jobs of bank employees thus endangering our jobs and job security.

The legitimate demands of the bank employees for wage revision are pending without amicable solution. On the other hand, the Government is bringing new conditions to frustrate the bank employees. While workload in the Banks have increased, adequate recruitment is not being made. Even compassionate ground appointment scheme is not released by the Government.

We have seen how the present UPA Government has been eager to push their banking reforms agenda. With the help and collusion of the main opposition party, many retrograde amendments have been carried through in the Parliament in the Banking Regulations Act. We also cannot forget how in the year 2000, when the NDA was in power, they introduced the Bill to privatize the Banks by reducing the Government's Equity to 33%. This could be stopped by going on strike and subsequently the NDA losing their power at the centre. So all of us know what are the policies of either UPA or NDA in regard to banking reforms.

Hence, when any candidate will approach us for our votes, we should ask them whether they will support our demands – Our demand to make banking a fundamental right of the people, our demand to expand public sector banking, our demand to stop outsourcing the permanent jobs, our demand to take stringent measures to recover bad loans, etc.

Thus, there are attacks on our jobs, job security, on our reasonable demands, on our trade unions and our rights, on our banking sector and on public sector banking. If today our Banks remain in public sector, if today our banks are insulated from global crisis, if today priority sector credit continues, if today our jobs are secure and job security is not affected, it is because of our united struggles and the total support of the Left, democratic and progressive forces inside the Parliament. They have been a strong supporters of our cause.

Hence trade unions and the working class should be clear. There will be many Members of Parliament to take care of the class interests of the employers, industrial houses and corporate business. But who can take care of the class interest of the workers and masses. We want people in the Parliament who will champion our cause. We want people in the Parliament who will support our demands. We want people in the Parliament who would stand by the trade unions. We want people in the Parliament who will be the voice of the suffering masses. We want people who will fight inside the Parliament against the anti-people economic policies and anti-worker labour reforms.

Will this happen on its own or should we work for it ? Yes, we must campaign and work for it. Let us help to elect people who will support us. Let us support candidates who are secular, progressive and supportive of our cause. Let us oppose candidates who do not support our cause.

The working class of India constitutes nearly one third of the electorate. Hence the workers and trade unions not only have their solid striking power but also substantial voting power. But the question is how we shall utilize this voting power. What should be our consideration and approach in the present situation ?

**LET US CAMPAIGN, CANVAS AND VOTE FOR CANDIDATES:**

1. **Who will oppose anti-people Banking Reforms.**
2. **Who will oppose privatisation of Banks.**
3. **Who will support our demand for bringing all private banks to public sector.**
4. **Who will demand stringent actions to recover corporate bad loans.**
5. **Who will support public sector banks and their expansion.**
6. **Who will oppose anti-worker labour law amendments.**
7. **Who will support our demand of Bonus for all.**
8. **Who will support our demand of maternity leave benefits to all women workers**
9. **Who will support our demand for more jobs & job security.**
10. **Who will oppose policies that enrich the rich & impoverish the poor and oppose fundamentalism, communalism, extremism and obscurantism.**

**OUR SLOGAN IS, VOTE FOR THE VICTORY OF THE CANDIDATES WHO ARE FRIENDLY TO THE WORKING PEOPLE AND THEIR INTEREST.**

**Our vote is precious. Let us use it.  
Our task is onerous. But important - Let us do it.**

With greetings

Yours Comradely,



**C.H. VENKATACHALAM  
GENERAL SECRETARY**