

# STOP HPCL PRIVATISATION

**Dear Friends !**

Our Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Sri Dharmendra Pradhan, has given a statement in the Economic Times, on 14th October 2019. According to this, the ONGC is free to sell off its stake in HPCL to any outside party. This news spread like wildfire among all HPCL employees, making them panic and disturbed. CITU strongly condemns this decision, which is not only against the interests of employees but also against the national interests.

In January, 2018 Government of India has compelled the ONGC to buy the 51.11% stake of Government in HPCL, for Rs.36,915 crores, though the ONGC has not enough money; It was forced to borrow funds for the deal. Our employees felt a bit of relief for being under the ownership of another CPSU. Suddenly the Petroleum Minister's statement of Privatisation of HPCL, has shattered the minds of all. Smelling this threat very early, our union has been participating in the nationwide strikes against Privatisation. For that, the Management has been threatening us not only by cutting wages, but also by penal wage cuts. Despite this we have been participating in the strikes. It is very unfortunate that no other union in our Corporation, except ours, is joining in this struggle, and this is the only reason for this ill fated situation.

In 2003, the then BJP government had tried to handover HPCL to Reliance, but that proposal was scrapped because of the resistance from workmen, Officers and the Supreme courts' judgement against the move. In a clandestine move in 2016, the BJP government scrapped the ESSO Act 1974, the Burma Shell Act 1976, which were mandating the parliament approval for Privatisation of HPCL and BPCL. This has paved the way for the Privatisation of HPCL and BPCL without any hurdles. Now from various news sources, it is evident that bids are being called for selling out BPCL and HPCL to corporate giants. Agitations are already started by workers and public, against the Privatisation of BPCL.

Government of India has boasted that the takeover of HPCL, by the ONGC, is going to be a game changer in oil sector, which will result in the formation of a great oil giant with the upstream and downstream integration the new entity formed, will compete with global oil giants, etc. But now the government is telling that the process could not be done properly, and it didn't fetch any benefits to ONGC. At this juncture as per the news, ONGC is directed by the oil ministry that the HPCL has to be sold to a strategic partner, or if needed, it has to be sold as piece meal. According to this, it is evident that all the narration about the amalgamation and synergy of oil sector PSU'S is nothing but a cock and bull story.

The government is questioning why the loss making companies like BSNL, Air India, MTNL, should be continued. Then can it answer why the profit making "MAHARATNA" PSUs like, HPCL, BPCL, NTPC, be privatised? No. It can't, because the secret agenda is just to sell off these profit making PSU to corporate giants at a throw away price. It was stated by our PM himself that "the PSUs are born to die " We can expect nothing else from these people, but brutal attempts to kill these organisations. They can do nothing else either. At this juncture, CITU requests all employees to unite and fight against the Privatisation to protect not only our future, coming generations' future and also our nation's future.