

MARCH 8, 2022 – INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The day of struggle for the rights of 8 hours work, fair wages and voting right by the women workers around a hundred and ten years ago, who won their demands by their brave fight, is observed as International Women's Day, all over the world.

Despite their hard work during day and night, millions of women workers still struggle to run a decent life, facing the cruel exploitation of capitalism and various miseries at workplaces. Though women are one third of total work force worldwide, their income works out to be only one fifth of the total income of the work force. Gender equality is not fully won. During pandemic, the job loss, income loss, income cut, unemployment and poverty of women workers have severely increased, according to the data of International Labour Organization. The women who have the responsibility to feed the family are also affected by the severe price rise. On the other side, sexual harassments, domestic violence, attacks in the name of caste and religion take place in large numbers. In Karnataka, girl students wearing hijab are attacked which has become a big challenge to their education. In such a society where education, employment, health, self-reliance and political power are not ensured, there is no use in raising the marriage age alone in papers.

Therefore, to address the gender issues at workplaces, the job security and salary issues of thousands of women contract workers in BSNL, to take severe action in the sexual harassment complaint cases in Punjab, to ensure safety of young women workers, we have to mobilize our strength and observe March 8th, 2022 as International Women Action Day in a befitting manner. Let us organize the women who are held up in their domestic responsibilities and bring them to struggle path to win over the basic rights of women ! Let us pledge, renew our targets and march forward towards a bright future !

Long live the inspiring International Women's Day!

- P. INDIRA –

**Convenor, All India Committee,
BSNL Working Women Coordination Committee.**