**Report of Joint meeting of Central Trade Unions to observe “Defend the Right to Strike Day” on 18th February 2015 at New Delhi**

On the call from International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) to observe 18th February 2015 as “Defend the Right to Strike Day”. General Secretary Hind Mazdoor Sabha Com.Harbhajan Singh Sidhu convened a meeting of all Central Trade Unions on 18th February at T.N.Bajpai Memorial Hall, NRMU Office Complex, 12-Chelmsford Road, New Delhi, which was attended by senior leaders of all Central Trade Unions along with their active supporters in large number.

The meeting was conducted by Com.Harbhajan Singh Sidhu who in his keynote address explained the historic background of the recent Development. Com.Sidhu said that ILO Convention 87 which pertains to right of association was adopted by International Labour Organisation in 1948. ILO has considered freedom of Association together with Industrial action since 1924. Committee of Experts on Conventions and recommendation is a part of ILO supervisory system and has played an important role with full support of tripartite constituents for decades. It was only in 2012 that Employer’s Group challenged the existence of a right to strike protected by ILO Convention 87. In 2013 and 2014 the Employer’s Group challenged the Committee of Expert’s on Conventions and Recommendations. Attempts were made to obtain consensus but failed. Ultimately in November, 2014 Governing Body discussed the issue of reference of dispute to International Court of Justice but employers group did not agree even to this proposal. He appealed the house to go through a draft resolution on the issue which was prepared after due consultations with other Central Trade Unions.

Prominent speaker in the meeting included Shri Baijnath Rai, President, BMS, Shri Raghavaiah, Vice President, INTUC, Shri R.K.Dhar, Secretary, AITUC, Harbhajan Singh Sidhu, General Secretary, HMS, Shri Amitab Guha, Working Committee Member CITU, Shri R.K.Sharma, AIUTUC, Shri Santosh Rai of AICCTU, Shri S.M.Jaiswal, TUCC and others.

In his concluding remarks Com.Sidhu thanked all the Central Trade Unions for their active participation in the meeting. It was also decided to participate in maximum number in the “Joint Satyagraha” on 26th February, 2015. The meeting also decided to take time from Labour Minister to discuss the issue.

The Hon’ble Minister of State (I/C) Labour and Employment, Govt., of India has agreed to meet the leaders of Central Trade Unions on 19th February, 2015 at 6 P.M.