Mass Rally &
Picketing before Parliament
4th April 2013, New Delhi
The Context

Backdrop

The Government of India amended the Constitution in 2002 through 86th amendment and made right to education a Fundamental Right. It incorporated in the Constitution Article 21A. It stipulates “The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 6-14 years in such manner as the state may, by law, determine”. Article 45 was also modified. It reads as the state shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.

This was the outcome of the relentless efforts made by the All India Primary Teachers’ Federation over the years. It had organised Yatras from four places in the country – one from the North, second from the West and the third and the fourth from East and South respectively. In these Yatras, thousands of persons – Teachers, Parents, Social Activists, Politicians, social reformers, educationists, Members of the State Legislative Assemblies and the Parliament, Minister of Education and the Chief Ministers participated for the cause of education of the children. The purpose of these Yatras was generate an awareness among the masses about the need and importance of quality education for all.
The AIPTF organised a Mass Rally in 2007 and picketed before Parliament. In this Mass Rally, thousands of teachers from all over the country gathered at Ramlila Maidan and marched from Ramlila Maidan to Parliament House and picketed before it for two days on 26th and 27th February 2007. The picketing programme was a grand success as most of the demands of the AIPTF were met by the Government of India.

**Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education**

Due to relentless pressure exerted by the All India Primary Teachers' Federation, the Government of India enacted in 2009 the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act. It became operative from 1st April 2010. Under this act, every child of the age of six to fourteen shall have a right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school till completion of elementary education. Though the Act has been in operation since 1st April 2010, its implementation is quite tardy.

Clause 25 of the Act provides that within six months from the date of commencement of this Act, the appropriate Government and the local authority shall ensure that the Pupil-teacher Ratio, as specified in the Schedule, is maintained in each school. Further clause 26 of the Act lays down that the appropriate government shall ensure that the vacancy of teacher in a school under its control shall not exceed ten per cent of the total sanctioned strength. The state governments are hardly taking suitable steps to fill-up vacant positions.

**Conditions Responsible for Picketing Programme before Parliament House**

The AIPTF has been persistently requesting the Government of India to consider favourably its demands for achieving education for all and for the welfare teaching workforce in the country. It has been raising its voice to abolish the policy of Public Private Partnership in School Education.

Entrepreneurs are being encouraged to open schools under this scheme – Public Private Partnership in School Education (PPP). Further private entrepreneurs would not open schools in rural and remote areas because these schools in these areas will not be economically viable proposition for them.
Actually it is conspiracy of the Government of India to crush the government school system. The Government should instead implement Common School System to provide quality education to all – rich and poor too.

Executive Committee Decision
The AIPTF in its Executive Committee meeting held at Ranchi, Jharkhand on 11th December 2011, deliberated at length the consequences of the PPP - anti-poor people policy. The Executive Committee has decided that the AIPTF should resort to direct action to oppose this policy vigorously by organizing Dharna at Janter Manter to draw the attention of Govt. of India for scraping this anti-poor people policy. It also decided that the AIPTF should organize picketing programme before the Parliament.

Dharna at Jantar Mantar
The AIPTF organized a Dharna at Jantar Mantor on 16th March 2012. About one thousand five hundred teachers including general secretary and president of all state affiliates participated in this Dharna. All the top leaders of the constituents units of the National Coliation for Education such as – Mr. D.V. Pandit, Secretary General, AIFTO, Mr. Ambrish Rai, National Convener, RTE Forum, Mr. R. K. Rai, Convener, NCE and many others addressed the teachers and supported AIPTF for fulfillment of its demands.

After Dharna at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi all the state affiliates of the AIPTF sent an appeal to the Honourable President of India and the Prime Minister, Union Minister for Human Resource Development urging them to scrap anti-poor policy of Public Private Partnership in School Education and fulfillment of other demands for the cause of quality education of the poor too and the welfare of teachers.
The All India Primary Teachers' Federation (AIPTF) requested repeatedly the Honorable President of India, Prime Minister and Union Minister for Human Resource Development to address the demands of teachers. The Government of India did not pay any heed to the demands of the AIPTF except acknowledging one or two letters. The Federation was left with no alternative but to resort to direct action for drawing attention of the Government of India to its demands. The Government therefore, created conditions to force teachers to come to the road.

In the light of the above situation, the All India Primary Teachers’ Federation (AIPTF), as per decision of the Executive Committee decided to picket before Parliament on 4th April 2013, New Delhi.

**Planning for Agitation**

The planning for the agitation is an enormous task. It involves booking a suitable place for the rally, arrangements of lodging facilities for teachers from different states of India, development, printing and distribution of posters and handbills, informing the Govt. of India about the rally and picketing before Parliament, seeking permission from police authorities for rally and picketing before Parliament, making arrangements for drinking water, toilets, medical facilities, distribution of flags, contacting political leaders and extending invitation to them for addressing the rally, food arrangements, contacting media personnel for coverage of the event, setting up information centre etc.

**Mass Rally and Picketing before Parliament House**

Teachers from all over the country started reaching from 2nd April 2013. However, most of the teachers came on 3rd April 2013. By 10:00 am on 4th April 2013, about 72 thousand teachers had assembled in the Ramlila Maidan, New Delhi.
From 10:30 am onwards teachers were addressed for about two hours by State General Secretary and President of different affiliates and MLAs – Shri Davender Pratap Singh, Shr. Tej Narayan Singh, Shri Raj Bahadur Chandramani, Prof. Bhim Singh, President, Panthair Party-J&K. These politicians supported vehemently demands of the AIPTF.

S. Eswaran, Secretary General, AIPTF and Vice-President, EI, Sh. Ram Pal Singh, President-AIPTF also addressed the teachers. The General Secretary of All India Secondary Teachers’ Federation and Convenor of National Coalition of Education also supported the cause of AIPTF and participated in the rally.

**March towards Parliament House**

At 12:30 pm Sh. Ram Pal Singh, President-AIPTF give a call to teachers to march towards the Parliament House in a disciplined manner. The rally was led by S/Shri Ram Pal Singh and S. Eswaran. General Secretary of each state affiliate led teachers from his state in the march.
While marching to the Parliament house, teachers raised the slogans with the following demands:

- Implement RTE within the prescribed time-frame. Each primary/upper primary school should have Head-teacher irrespective of the number of students in the school.

- Abolish the policy of Public Private Partnership in School Education and implement Common School System.

- Abolish the Teacher Eligibility Test.

- The recommendations of VI Pay Commission should be made applicable immediately to all the states. The entry scale for teachers should be Rs. 6,500×1.86+4,200 = 16,290/- instead of Rs. 13,500/- to remove the anomaly of the VI Pay Commission.

- Bring the existing contract/para teachers to the mainstream after providing them professional training.

- Restoration of previous pension scheme and the gratuity.

- If a teacher dies in service, appoint a dependent of the family in Government Service on compassionate grounds.

The rally reached the Parliament House at about 01:30 pm. Near Parliament house, the police authorities erected barricades to stop the protesters from proceeding further. Protestors broke the barricades. They were arrested by police authorities. Teachers went on protesting for about two hours.
Mr. S. Eswaran, Secretary General addressed the mass rally about the success of the picketing before Parliament. He also pressurized the Government of India to accept the demands of the AIPTF and issue orders in this regard. He thanks to all the participants for making it a grand success.

Thereafter Sh. Ram Pal Singh addressed the teachers and informed them that the Government had accepted one demand of the AIPTF. He mentioned that last evening i.e. 3rd April 2013 Shri MM Pallamraju, Hon’ble Union Minister for Education declared that the deadline for completion of facilities in the government run schools will not be extended at all. Shri Ram Pal Singh highlighted that this achievement is because of all of you and the unity all of you have displayed in pressuring the Government for acceptance of their demands. He also informed the teachers that a delegation has submitted a memorandum to the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India and the Union Minister for Human Resource Development. He thanked all the teachers coming from different parts of the country to picket before Parliament House at the call of the All India Primary Teachers’ Federation. He concluded that rally was quite successful.

A Call from Dr. M. Mangapati Pallam Raju, Minister of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India for Meeting the Representatives of the AIPTF

On 4th April 2013, Shri Ram Pal Singh, President-AIPTF received a call from the office of the Union Minister for Human Resource Development inviting the representatives of AIPTF for discussion of their demands at 10:00 am on 5th April 2013. This call from the Ministry was a quite indicator of the success of the
picketing before Parliament House. The meeting took place at 10 am in Minister’s residence.

The Minister gave an extremely patient hearing to the demands of the AIPTF. He promised that he would hold discussion with top officials of Ministry regarding demands of the AIPTF. He mentioned that he would convene another meeting with the representatives of the AIPTF for taking final decision with regard to its demands. The meeting lasted for about 45 minutes.

**Coverage of the Event in Electronic and Print Media**

The rally and picketing before Parliament House were covered in the leading Newspapers and news channels. Cuttings from the newspapers are placed in the appendix.
Teachers seek fulfilment of demands
“Implement RTE, Sixth Pay Commission in all States; abolish Teacher Eligibility Test and more...”

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: A large number of primary school teachers held a demonstration at Jantar Mantar here on Thursday to protest against the non-fulfilment of their long-pending demands.

Coming together under the aegis of the All-India Primary Teachers’ Federation, the protesters, who were led by Federation president Ram das Singh, marched from Ram lalla Maidan to Parliament street where they were addressed by leaders of different teachers’ associations.

The Federation, which aims to represent nearly 23 lakh primary and upper primary teachers, has been demanding among other things implementation of the Right to Education Act within the prescribed time-frame.

It has demanded that each primary and upper primary school should have a head master irrespective of the number of students. The Federation has also called for phasing out the policy of non-participation in school education and implementation of the Common School System.

Apart from this it has asked for abolishing the Teacher Eligibility Test; implementation of the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission in all the States; bringing the existing contract para-teachers to the mainstream after providing them professional training; restoration of previous pension scheme and gratuity; and appointment of a dependent of the family in government service on compassionate death of a teacher in service.

The protesters also sought arrest of the Education Minister who was pelted by the Delhi Police from proceeding to the venue.
प्रायोगिक शिक्षकों ने मांगों को लेकर दी गिरफ्तारी

शिक्षकों ने रखी ये मांगे
- शिक्षा अभियान कार्य के लिए नियुक्ति
- सूचित सूची के पास नहीं, तो लाइसेंस
- शिक्षकों के लिए विशेष विद्यालयों में नियुक्ति
- शिक्षकों के लिए नियुक्ति के लिए अनुमति
- शिक्षकों के लिए विद्यालयों में नियुक्ति

लेटली ने लगाया जमाना

दैनिक महाकर

अध्यापकों ने किया संसद के सामने प्रदर्शन
राहुल गांधी, राष्ट्रीय संविधान समिति का संस्थापक, मुख्यमंत्री और विद्यालयों के ग्रामीणों को देशभर के विभिन्न मंत्रालयों के लिए एक संध्याकालीन राजनीतिक मंच पर कहा गया था. वह सभी शिक्षकों और विद्यार्थियों को स्वतंत्रता के लिए योगदान देने के लिए उपयुक्त किया गया था।

शिक्षकों के लिए यह महत्वपूर्ण था कि वे अपने भाषणों में संचालन के लिए सहयोग कर सकें और अपने रूप में गुणवत्ता से उत्साहित रहें।