

Title: Need to incorporate 'Right to Strike' as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (MADRAS NORTH): Sir, 'Right to Strike' is a sacred right enshrined in the Directive Principles of State Policy in the form of safeguarding workers interests. When the teachers and State Government employees of Tamil Nadu Government went on strike, the case went to the Supreme Court. The Court held that the Government employees had no legal right to resort to strike. To mitigate the effect of this ruling, various trade union organisations have been agitating for incorporating the 'Right to Strike' by workers/employees for their genuine demands as Fundamental Right guaranteed in the Constitution of India. India being a party and signatory to ILO Convention on Right to Strike, the Government should come forward to take steps. It has also been mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme of UPA and our Leader Dr. Kalaignar has also written to the Prime Minister for passing legislation guaranteeing the workers' right to strike.

I, therefore, urge upon the Prime Minister and the Labour Minister to bring a Constitution (Amendment) Bill to incorporate 'Right to Strike' as one of the Fundamental Rights.