

Geneva, 4 August 2021

Mr. Narendra Modi
Honourable Prime Minister of India
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IndustriALL Global Union urges the government of India to stop the privatization of the RINL Visakhapatnam steel plant

Dear Mr. Narendra Modi

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](https://www.industrial-union.org), representing more than fifty million workers in the manufacturing, mining and energy sectors, including the steel industry, in 140 countries, including India, to urge your government to stop the privatization of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)'s Visakhapatnam steel plant (VSP).

As you may be aware, the Visakhapatnam steel plant as a public sector enterprise has played an important role in the social and economic development of Visakhapatnam city, Andhra Pradesh state and India's progress. We are informed by our trade union affiliates in the steel plant that your government has not given due consideration to the views of workers and non-manual employees in the decision to privatize RINL / VSP, along with its subsidiaries and joint ventures.

Despite the ongoing pandemic situation, VSP trade unions and political parties have launched a mass movement and are holding a series of public actions across Andhra Pradesh and in Delhi to protest against your government's decision to privatize VSP. Trade unions have made numerous proposals to ensure the profitable functioning of VSP. The views of VSP workers and employees should be heard by the government.

We are concerned that privatization will affect the social and economic development objectives pursued by the public sector enterprise and that private management will focus solely on profit. More importantly, privatization will harm VSP's effort in fulfilling the constitutional objective of pursuing social justice through affirmative action in its recruitment practices. VSP employees fear great job losses and implications for workers' rights due to the privatization.

I urge your government to immediately stop the privatization of VSP and hold consultations with trade unions and employee associations. Upholding democratic values, the government of India should conduct informed public consultation, discuss the issue in parliament and proceed only after building greater consensus on the issue.

We anticipate your swift action and response.

Yours sincerely,



Valter Sanches, General Secretary