



# THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

## Comrade Monoranjan Roy

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions expresses its profound grief at the passing away of Comrade Monoranjan Roy, one of the outstanding leaders of the working class movement of the country and a veteran Communist leader on 13th June 1992 after suffering from massive heart attack while addressing a meeting at the CITU office at Calcutta. He was 83 years old. Com. Roy was the Vice President of CITU and President of its West Bengal State Committee. He was a member of the Central Committee of CPI (M) and Secretariat Member of its West Bengal State Committee.

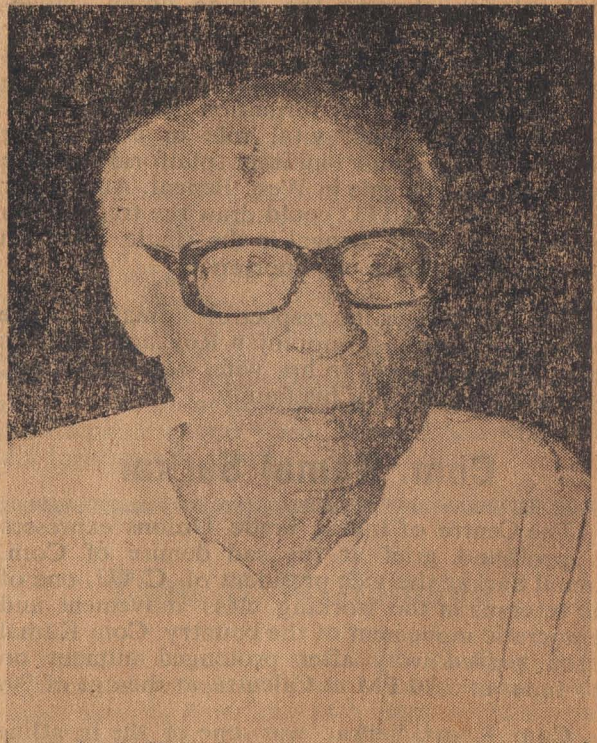
Com. Monoranjan Roy was born in October 1909 in the Faridpur district now in Bangladesh and had his studies at Chattogram, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Dacca and Calcutta.

He joined the freedom movement at his boyhood and in the course of it he came in contact with the Jugantar group of freedom fighters. He was imprisoned in 1930 for eight years. While in Jail he was attracted towards Marxism-Leninism and studied Marxist-Leninist literature and on being released from jail in 1938 he joined the Communist movement and became a member of the then CPI.

He came to the lime light of trade union movement mainly from 1945. In 1947 he became the Assistant Secretary of the West Bengal State Committee of AITUC and in 1960 he became the General Secretary of BPTUC. In 1948 he devoted a considerable period in organising trade union movement in tea plantation in North Bengal, basing at Siliguri. His contribution in this regard will always be remembered. The leader of many working class struggles Com. Roy's militant trade union life will always be source of inspiration for trade union movement of the country.

A firm believer in Marxism-Leninism, Comrade Monoranjan Roy stood with those who fought

revisionism and played active role in the formation of CPI (M) in West Bengal. He was elected as a member of the Secretariat of the West Bengal State Committee of CPI (M) in 1977 and to the Central Committee of the party in 1978.



In the formation of CITU he played an important role and when the CITU was formed in 1970 he was elected as secretary and later on Vice President of the all India Committee. He was the General Secretary of the West Bengal State Committee of CITU since its inception till the last state conference. He has made immense contribution both at state and national level in shaping the CITU organisation in its present position. A tested leader of the working class movement he

acquired the knowledge and skill to guide to trade union struggles always with his characteristic grasp of objective reality of the situation.

He was elected to the West Bengal Assembly in 1962 and became member of the Rajya Sabha in 1969. During his tenure as MP, Com. Roy could make his present felt as a powerful voice of the working class in the Parliament. In the course of his active participation in various political struggles he was imprisoned many times for a total period of 12 years during the thirties, fifties and sixties.

Com. Monoranjan Roy's eventful life had been a symbol of dedication to the cause of the toiling people mingled with outstanding organisational acumen, which, through almost seven decades of his activities left memorable impression in the democratic movement of the country and will be remembered by all. He was in the frontline in organising many big struggles of working class since the forties and played the most vital role in shaping the trade union movement toward the direction of building up broader unity in the movement on the one hand and fighting class collaborationist policies on the other. Particularly after formation of CITU. Com. Roy played the most vital role in establishing CITU as a premier militant platform of the working class struggle in West Bengal. And under his stewardship CITU could draw the trade union movement in West Bengal in the single platform on many vital issues of importance.

The CITU pays its respectful homage to the memory of Com. Monoranjan Roy and sends its heartfelt condolences to his wife, son, daughters, and other members of his family.

## Com. Kamal Sarkar

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions expresses its profound grief at the sad demise of Com. Kamal Sarkar the vice president of CITU, one of the veterans in the working class movement and democratic movement of the country. Com Kamal Sarkar passed away after prolonged ailment on 9th June at 5.30 PM at Calcutta at the age of 79.

Com. Kamal Sarkar was one of the frontline leaders of the working class movement in India, particularly in Bengal. Whole of his life symbolises dedication of the cause of oppressed humanity.

Born in 1913 at Calcutta Com. Sarkar got associated with radical and progressive movement since his student days. He got associated with Labour Party and embraced socialist ideals in his

teens and started taking active role in organised trade union struggles. He was only twenty one when he took the leading role alongwith others in organising strike struggle in Calcutta Port in 1934 which had been participated by 14,000 workers. As a leading organiser of Labour Party he took active role in organising trade unions in Peshawar, united provinces and wide areas of upper India. In 1936 he joined Communist party alongwith other Labour Party members and got plunged in building up working class organisation in the industrial areas of Calcutta and 24 Parganas. And since then Com. Sarkar left permanent impression of his outstanding organisational acumen in building up movements and organisation amongst Engineering and Jute mill workers of Bengal.

Com. Kamal Sarkar's life is a testimony of struggle and sacrifice for the cause of toiling people. His life style exemplifies unimmitable simplicity of a born and uncompromising crusader and builder of the working class struggles. From the fifties he started living in Commune till the end of his life. He got elected in Provincial Committee of CPI in 1938. He remained State Committee member of CPI (M) till 1991 when he withdrew himself from State Committee due to failing health.

Com. Sarkar's eventful life as an active organiser of trade union movement and Communist party spread over almost six decades led him to face repression and imprisonment both during British rule and in post independent period. He was jailed during 1934 port strike, in 1938 May-Day movement. In 1949 during the Railway workers strike and in 1963 under Defence of India Act.

Most illustrious events of his trade union life is his leadership in the struggles of the industrial workers of Calcutta and 24 Parganas. He was most popular amongst workers of jute, engineering and textile industries. Particularly his outstanding contribution in the trade union movement of the jute workers and their powerful consolidation under the banner of Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union and All India Jute Workers Federation shall always remain unforgettable. Despite his serious illness he played active role in the recent historic strike of the jute workers.

Besides being an outstandig organiser of working class movement, Com. Kamal Sarkar was also proficient writer in both Bengali and English. For about a decade from 1952 to 1962 Com. Kamal Sarkar was in charge of the Labour desk of the daily organ of CPI, Swadhinata. He wrote many articles on different problems of the trade union

movement, on both ideological and organisational issues which were published in Ganashakti and other periodicals till recent days.

Com. Kamal Sarkar's demise, is a irreparable loss to the democratic movement and the working class movement. The vacuum thus created is difficult to fill up and has to be filled up with collective efforts. Com. Sarkar's struggling life, exemplary simplicity and unflinching dedication would continue to be source of inspiration of all. The CITU dips its flag in respect of the memory of the veteran leader and conveys its heartfelt condolence to his bereaved family and the comrades.

## **CITU Condolled Death of Com. Manoranjan Roy and Com. Kamal Sarkar**

The CITU condole the death of the outstanding leaders of the working class movement Com. Manoranjan Roy and Com. Kamal Sarkar in a meeting held on 20.6.92 at the CITU head quarter at New Delhi.

The lawn of the CITU central office was full with workers from the industrial areas of Delhi and the suburb when the meeting began. The meeting was presided over by Com. E. Balanandan, President CITU and was addressed by the leaders of different trade union centres and the leaders of the different mass organisations and trade unions.

Com. Jibon Roy, Secretary CITU placed the condolence resolutions on both Com. Manoranjan Roy and Com. Kamal Sarkar, the eminent working class leaders of our country and the founder leaders of CITU who expired on 10.6.92 and 13.6.92 respectively at Calcutta. The condolence resolution depicted a moving account of the eventful struggling lives of both the leaders right from the freedom movement till date spread over more than six decades.

Com. E. Balanandan, President CITU while paying homage to the departed leaders mentioned that the irreparable loss suffered by the trade union movement and the CITU in particular owing to death of two great leaders have to be filled up by collective efforts by all and working selflessly to fulfil the unfulfilled dream of these great leaders for emancipation of people from exploitation and this

would be the best manner of paying respect to the departed leaders.

Com. M. K. Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU while paying homage to the memories of great leaders reminisced his long association with Com. Roy and Com. Sarkar since the early stage of trade union movement in the country and asserted that the lives of these two great leaders are the eternal source of lessons for the entire movement.

Com. T N Siddhantha, the AITUC leader also reminisced his long association with Com. Roy and Com. Sarkar since 1950's and said that death of Com. Roy and Com. Sarkar are not only a loss to CITU alone but to the entire trade union and the democratic movement as a whole.

Com. Ramlal Thakkar of INTUC while paying homage to the memory of Com. Roy and Com. Sarkar said that taking a pledge to fulfil the great task undertaken by these two great leaders to unite the entire trade union movement would be the best way of paying real respect to the memory of the departed leaders.

Com. Vireshwar Tyagi of HMS also paid homage to Com. Roy and Sarkar and said that entire trade union movement and the working class have suffered a great loss by demise of both the leaders.

Among others who spoke in the meeting were Com. R K Sharma of UTUC (LS), Com. Sunit Chopra (All India Agricultural Workers Union) Com. P K Tandon (All India Kisan Sabha) Com. Brinda Karat (All India Democratic Women's Association) Com. Mani Bose (Confederation of Central Govt Employees) and Com. Saroj Chowdhury (All India Insurance Employees, Association).

## **Com. B. N. Rajhans**

The CITU mourns the death of Com. B.N. Rajhans, a prominent trade union leader who passed away in Pune on 14th May 1992 at the age of 72. A freedom fighter of eminence, he was long associated with HMS in his trade union life. He was the General Secretary of Hind Khet Mazdoor Sabha, and for some time headed the Maharashtra State HMS besides being the Secretary of HMS. He was an important activist in the Samyukt Maharashtra Movement. As the General Secretary of the Anganwadi Karmachari Sabha, he shared leadership of the united movement of Anganwadi workers with other central trade unions including the CITU.

# Magnificent Response to General Strike on 16 June

M.K. Pandhe

Notwithstanding false propaganda by the official media and statements made by the Union Labour Minister P. A. Sangma, the working class all over the country responded magnificently to the call of general strike given by the Sponsoring Committee of Indian Trade Unions. The sweep of the strike was much wider than the last general strike on 29th November 1991 with more and more sections joining the strike action on 16th June.

The defense industries did not join the last strike but on 16th June all over India defence installations, ammunition factories showed firm resolve all over the country as the strike was near total in these establishments.

A million bank employees and officers throughout the country downed their pens and banking services were totally paralyzed in the country. Nowhere bank transactions have been reported and the strike breakers could not make their impact felt in the industry. In the insurance sector the strike was complete in all the states both in LIC and GIC.

For the first time, the airlines showed such a powerful strike action. Apart from the airlines staff who attend to traffic, cargo and commercial transactions, the technical staff also went on strike. Even the employees of the National Airport Authorities who attend the controlling tower went on strike while the workers attending to oil installations at the airport did not report for duty. The Air India had to cancel several flights while others had to be rescheduled leading to delay of 11 hours in some cases.

During the 29th November strike the Central Govt employees observed only an hour strike. However, on 16th June the employees of P&T, RMS, Income Tax, Audit Deptt gave strike notices and observed strikes in several parts of the country. For the first time about 30 percent of the Central Government employees joined the strike action.

According to the All India State Government Employees Federation over 3 million state govt employees joined the strike. Their strike was complete in West Bengal, Kerala, Bihar, Assam, Andhra, Rajasthan, while in M.P and Tamilnadu-overwhelming majority of the employees joined the action. In Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa and Gujarat there were demonstrations all over the state though strikes could not be organised. In other state the strike is reported to be partial.

In Fertilizer industry over 30,000 workers and officers in all the 5 public sector units located in 8 states and 12 plants observed complete strike.

In Coal mines, complete strike was observed in ECL while it was over 70 per cent in BCCL and CCL, Singareni collieries in Andhra reported all 1.25 lakh workers joined the strike. In this industry the INTUC gave a notice for strike on 8th June on similar demands but had to withdraw it without achieving the demands. The agitated coal miners responded well to the strike call by the Sponsoring Committee. Successful strikes have been reported in SECL, WCL and Talchar coal complex.

Strike in steel industry was also a good success. Durgapur, Alloy Steel Plant, IISCO Burnpur reports complete strike while strikes in Salem and Visakhapatnam were successful. Nearly 50 per cent workers in Bokaro observed strike while 30% regular employees and 95% contract workers in Rourkela went on strike. Most of the public sector iron ore mines in Orissa went on strike. 500 workers were arrested in Rourkela steel plant while picketing before the steel plant.

According to the reports received by the CITU centre from different states the success of the strike was as follows;

**West Bengal :** West Bengal observed total Bandh in support of the all India general strike and life came to a standstill through out the state. All sections of workers, unorganised and organised responded to the call of the strike splendidly. In several units the INTUC supporters also joined the strike. All the vehicular traffic in Calcutta metropolis and the district came to a grinding halt while all shops had their shutters down. All industrial areas in Durgapur, Asansol, Barrackpore, Howrah, Hooghly and industrial areas in and around Calcutta were completely closed down. No railway movement was reported throughout Bengal while no flight took off from Calcutta airport. Public sector industries reported complete stoppage.

While the Bandh passed off peacefully, due to gangsterism by the Congress party hoodlums in some parts there was violence. In Birpara of Jalpaiguri dist the anti-social elements attacked the tea garden workers who were on strike killing one CITU activist. In Bijonbari of Darjeeling dist GNLF elements fired at a rally of strikers injuring one worker. In Burnpur the CISF personnel lathi charged the workers who had to apologize later for their criminal act. In North 24 Parganas Congress (I) attacked a police station by pretending to be organizing a demonstration.

Com. Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal and Shailen Das Gupta, Chairman Left Front congratulated the working class and people of West Bengal for the successful bandh action.

**Assam :** All the Central Govt employees, defence employees, Income Tax, P&T employees state govt. employees observed total strike. The Banks, Financial Institutions, Insurance Companies observed complete strike. Angered by the successful action the Assam Police lathi charged workers in front of LIC office at Guwahati and arrested 100 activists including Achyut Deka Convenor of Joint Council of Trade Unions (JCTU).

All the plywood factories observed the strike in the state while 100 tea plantations were closed on the day. The oil installations and petro chemical complexes were on complete strike. All the mini bus and private transport workers throughout the state observed successful strike. Guwahati Municipal workers also struck work. The INTUC leadership and management supporters tried to oppose the strike but could not cut much ice.

**Bihar :** Complete bandh was observed in several district of Bihar. The railway traffic was disrupted throughout the state. The coal belt was fully under the influence of strike. CISF resorted to firing on BCCL warkers in one colliery while it lathi charged workers at Lohna colliery. Heavy Engineering Corporation reported 50 per cent of the workers on strike while 90 per cent of the workers in Barauni oil refineries observed strike. Small scale units, stone-quarries and unorganised sector was completely closed. Public and transport throughout the state was paralyzed. All commercial establishment including banks and insurance were closed while airlines did not operate any flight. All the state govt employees and Income Tax P&T and telecom employees observed complete strike. Thermal Power Station workers of Barauni observed strike while industrial areas in Ranchi and Small Scale units in Singhbhoom district struck work. Hindustan Copper workers did not report for duty on the day of the strike.

**Kerala :** The Strike in Banks and Insurance was nearly total. In P&T 80 to 85 percent employees struck work. 3500 post offices, 100 telephone exchanges and most of the telegraphic offices completely paralysed. AG's office, Income Tax, ISRO, PF, CPCRI, Defence Accounts and Defence civilian employees reported 70 to 75 per cent strike. There was no flight to and from Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode, 75 teachers joined the strike which was more effective in urban areas. 80% state government employees struck work. In the Thiruvananthapuram secretariat only 20 per cent employees reported for duties. In State Road Transport 80 per cent workers struck work. In their workshop only 22 persons out of 1400 employees reported for work. The corporation tried to recruit 1200 blacklegs to substitute workers but could run only few vehicles with heavy police escort but few passengers. In Kerala State Electricity Board nearly 85 per cent workers observed strike.

In traditional sector such as cashewnut, handloom, fisheries, artisans, the strike was nearly total. Headload workers observed complete strike. Strike in plantations was 65%, cooperative sector 65%, textile 50%.

Only 270 workers out of 2700 reported for duty in Kochi shipyard. All officers upto DGM level participated in the strike. Supervisory staff belonging to INTUC unlon joined the strike despite the leadership withdrew the strike only 2 days earlier.

In Kochi port 50 percent workers joined duty but no work could be done. Attendance in most of the leading undertakings was poor. The figures of attendance was as follows :

Name of Undcrtaking	Attendance	Total Employees
HIL	85	860
FACT	1794	5195
FACT (Kochi)	153	953
TCM	10	495
TCC	251	1200
Airlines	123	1220
Rare Earth	181	674
HMT	1500	3200

In some units even the INTUC unions served strike notices.

In Kollam, Alleppy, Kozhikode and Kannur district most of the industrial units observed good strike.

All the trains were running inordinately late due to strikers squatting on the track. 13000 strikers were forcibly removed by the police from the railway tracks. Thousands of workers and active cadres were taken into custody by the police on 15th June itself. In some parts the INTUC and BMS unions actively worked against the strike. In Mannanthala in Trivandrum dist the police opened fire to disperse the bandh supporters but nobody was injured. In Kochi RSS hoodlums attacked the CITU workers injuring some of them. Despite large scale deployment of police the Kerala workers observed successful strike throughout the state under the leadership of the state Sponsoring Committee.

Most of the shops, business establishments and markets were closed on the day resulting in Bandh in the state. Demonstrations were held in all the major industrial centers. In Kannur district prohibitory orders were issued against the demonstrations. By and larger the strike was much bigger than the 29th November strike.

**Temilnadu :** Industrial strike in and around Madras city was complete. Simpson, Madras Rubber Factory, Ashok Leyland, Avadi Tank factory, BEST and Crompton. English Electricals, Hindustan Teleprinters, B&C Mills, Indian Tobacco, Union Carbide, Enfield, Metal Box, Tata Oil, WIMCO,

Indian Organic Chemicals, IOC, Balmer Lawrie, Andrew Yule were also closed due to complete strike. Small scale industries in Industrial estates Ambattur, Guindy, Vikram Sarabhai observed complete strike. Tannery workers in Pallavaram and rice mill workers at Red Hill were on complete strike. Most of the public sector units were closed due to strike action. Business in all banking and insurance companies was at standstill.

Bus transport workers picketed throughout and about 10,000 workers were arrested and bus transport were partially operating all over the state. In Tanjore district the road transport was totally paralyzed. The govt announced Rs. 15 for those who sleep in bus depots. Rs. 60 to those who would work on the day of strike in addition to the wages on the strike day and compensatory off.

Over one and a half lakh state govt employees joined the strike resulting several govt offices wearing a deserted look. Major section of the primary school teachers also joined the strike. About 80 per cent of the electricity workers in the state observed strike. The post and telegraph workers observed complete strike. Ninety percent of other telephone employees including 21500 women went on strike. 75 percent of the Central Government employees in the state were on strike. In Bidi, Handloom, tannery and salt pane workers observed strike.

In Coimbatore, 80 percent of the textile and engineering workers went on strike. In Trirupur town Hosiery and textile units struck work. 90% workers in Karur mills. 70% paper board Ltd and 10,000 Mosquito net workers went on strike. In Pondicherry strike was 50 percent in Rowdier Mills while it was complete in Bharati and Swadhesi Mills. 80 percent Madura coats workers were on strike. Partial hartal was observed in Madurai, Dindigul, Tuticorin and other cities while it was complete in Pondicherry, Coimbatore and Tirupur cities. Ten thousand workers in small scale industries in Periyar joined the strike. Poompuhar shipping corporation workers observed complete strike while Tuticorin port reported partial strike.

Over 25,000 activists were arrested by the Tamilnadu Government but failed to cow down the workers. In Coimbatore picketing road transport workers were lathi charged while in Trirupur LFP leader Murugesan died in police custody. In Madras city DSP along with AIDMK MLA entered the CPI(M) office and arrested all the present activists.

The Airlines in the state observed complete strike paralysing the air traffic totally.

**Delhi :** The banking and Insurance industry observed complete strike. Indira Gandhi International Airport came to a standstill due to strike of all sections of employees. Indian oil Corporation, EPI, Scope Complex were affected by the strike action

Complete strike was observed by the 4 textile mills in the city while IATM reported only 10% attendance. Hotels, confectionary, ice cream industry observed complete strike.

The entire industrial belt of Ghaziabad remained closed due to the strike. About 95% of establishments in NDIDA were closed and big processions were taken out in the area by the workers. A procession of about 500 workers was lathi charged by the police in which Sadanand Bhatti a CITU activist was seriously injured alongwith others.

In Sahibabad industrial complex the strike was 90 percent successful. A procession was attacked by anti-social elements in connivance with police in which Sant Ram and Kamlesh Tyagi were injured.

DTC buses were stopped near Shyamlal College Chowk by the striking workers. In South Delhi area the 75% workers in industrial area went on strike while in East and North Delhi area it was 80 percent successful. In West Delhi area it was 90% successful. The strike was complete in G T Karnal Road, Wazirpur, Rajasthan Udyog Nagar, Nirankari Colony and Badli areas.

**Orissa :** In Bhubaneshwar industrial area several units were closed down. Over 200 persons were arrested on the day of strike which included Shivaji Patnaik, MP President of Orissa State Committee of Loknath Mishra M. P.

In Rajgangpur industrial complex all the units including the cement factory observed complete strike. In Burhampore and Balsa the train services were disrupted due to squatting by the striking workers. The strike in Rourkela steel plant was CITU and partial.

**Andhra Pradesh :** The industrial belt of Hyderabad and Secunderabad observed successful strike. Several public sector units were closed. In Visakhapatnam, most of the public sector units observed the strike. Hindusthan shipyard strike was 60% the Tivag steel strike majority workers joined the strike. The Naval Dockyard workers observed complete strike. In Vizag, in all 450 workers were arrested during the strike among them 70 were from the steel plant. In Vizag port 90 per cent workers went on strike despite arrest of several workers including AITUC leader Rama Rao. Both the Jute mills in the state observed complete strike. The strike in Singareni collieries was complete. Bandh calls were successful in Vijaywade, Guntur, Eluru, Kuirnul etc. The State Government employees strike was complete while several central government offices and P&T offices observed strike. The Air Services were totally disrupted.

**Karnataka :** The strike in the industrial belt in Bangalore and Mysore was complete. Except in HMT strike in all the public sector units was successful. The officers also participated in the strike. In

BEL however due to opposition of BMS union it was partial. Kolar Gold Fields and BEML workers observed complete strike. MICO, ITC, ESCORT, Mysore Lamp workers observed successful strikes. In South Kanara district the Bandh was observed in a successful manner. The banking and Insurance services came to a standstill. While Indian Airlines strike was total in the state. A section of the Central Government employees observed strike in the state.

**Maharashtra :** A large number of industrial units in Bombay were closed down on 16th June. Strikes were organised in Solapur, Pune, Nasik, Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur, Aurangabad and other industrial areas. The coal mine workers observed the strike in WCL areas. The Maharashtra State Electricity Board workers went on strikes affecting the power supply in the state. The Indian Airlines could operate only 2 out of 40 flights from Bombay. The strike in the banking and insurance sector was near total paralysing all the financial transactions.

About 1000 activists of Kamgar Aghadi led by Dr Dutta Samant were arrested while launching Rasta Roko agitation on the strike day. More than 400 CITU activists were also arrested in Bombay during the day of strike. Strike was observed in some central govt offices while state govt employees organised a demonstration condemning the economic policies of the Government of India.

**Rajasthan :** Industrial belt in Jaipur observed near total strike. 80% of the workers in Khetri Copper Complex went on strike. Textile mills at Kishangarh, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Beawar, Pali, Bhawani Mandi observed complete strike. Small scale industrial units in Kota, Udaipur, Ajmer and Beawar organised complete strike in the state.

The banks, insurance and airlines and the state govt. employees observed complete strike in the state. In some centers the Central Govt employees also observed successful strike.

#### **Punjab :**

16th June Strike in Punjab and Chandigarh was unprecendently successful. More than 8 lakh workers and employees participated in this strike. Despite the threats and misleading propaganda by the govt. the strike was complete in transport, Electricity, construction works, Paper industry, Textile, Hoseiry forging, Punjab State Civil supplies corp, Tubewell corporation, loading and unloading operations in all food agencies, Banks, LIC & GIC, Postal, Telegraph, A. G. Offices, MES, etc. and near 100% in Engineering, Electronic, Chemical factories. Even the factories having no affiliated unions like Escort at Patiala and many more also observed complete strike. Where the govt. employees could not go to strike there too they observed two hours strike and held rallies and Dharnas against the retrograde policies. Strike was supported in many factories

and operations by INTUC and BMS workers too despite the fact that INTUC leadership opposed it and BMS tried its best to divert the attention of its members two days earlier by courting arrests on Swedeshi Issue which flopped badly and instead demoralised its ranks. INTUC and BMS unions alongwith local leadership joined the strike in NTC, BMS in Shri Bhiwani Cotton Mill Abohar. At other places too the local leadership of these organisations could not oppose the strike.

The gatherings of strikers first were organised at the mill gates and then joint rallies and demonstrations. Round about 60 demonstrations were organised by Industrial workers throughout the state whereas the rallies at Chandigarh, Sangrur, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar and at Thien Dam etc. were largely attended. The rally at Thien Dam was attended by more than 10 thousand workers after strikeing the work. These were despite the scorching heat. The strike itself and the main thrust in speeches of leaders was against the bowing down of the govt. before imperialists. The working class unity in action in Punjab further instilled and steeled the confidence that the working class can not be divided on communal lines easily.

The consistant campaign by CITU stepped up from 23rd March with two state level Jathas which covered the whole state for a week and addressed 60 rallies at all industrial centres big or small, 2nd April state level rally at Chandighr in this connection and then district level conventions by the Trade Unions coordination committee formed for this purpose helped a lot.

**UP :** According to reports in Kanpur more than 2 lakh workers participated in the strike. The textile mills, engineering units, IEL, small scale industries were all closed on the day. In an ordinance factory near Kanpur, BMS leaders alongwith Bajrangdal hooligans attacked the workers while they were picketing and the UP police were looking as a silent spectator. About 20 workers were seriously injured and had to be hospitalised. In Lucknow, the workers and officers in Scooters India Ltd observed complete bandh while in Hindusthan Aeronautics the BMS and Bajrangdal workers tried gangsterism to break the strike. However the workers observed complete strike despite these gangster attacks. The central government employees also observed strike and all post offices in Lucknow were closed down. The strike of the State Govt employees, banks and insurance companies in UP was complete. Singrauli coal workers also went on strike.

**Haryana :** More than 70,000 workers in Faridabad industrial belt struck work and took out joint procession condemning the economic policies of the govt of India.

**Madhya Pradesh :** The State Govt employees strike in the state was near total. The banks and

insurance strike was complete. In SECL mining belt a large number of coal workers went on strike. In Bhilai, while picketing at the gate of the steel plant 50 workers were arrested. However, large number of workers abstained from duty on the day of strike.

**Gujarat :** The 16th June strike call found better response than was expected. At Bhavnagar it was a total 'bandh' with new addition of all the port and dock workers totally closing the port activities and small traders and all shop-keepers closing all bazars. As to the industrial area, G.I.D.C. area of small industries, all public sector units, Banks, LIC, Audit Accounts etc. observed full strike. Although the Railwaymen did not join in the strike, they participated in demonstrations. The postal Union Class IV staff participated in the strike. Thousand of workers and members of mass organisations joined massive demonstrations at different places.

The Sidpur city in the district of Mehsana observed total bandh. All the cement factories situated in Shamsherpura in Deesa area remained closed. Junagadh city observed almost bandh with more than 2000 workers from all over the district gharoed the Collectorate. The fishery workers in Veraval observed full strike. Strike was observed by Air-line staff, Banks, LIC etc. in the city of Rajkot. The Baroda city almost observed bandh. A huge rally of workers took place. At Ahmedabad, Banks, LIC, Govt. employees participated in the strike.

These reports are not complete. However, they clearly indicate that the working class gave a massive response to the call for strike and expressed their firm opposition to the govt of India's economic and industrial policies.

Union Minister of Labour of P A Sangma reported in the press conference that the impact of the strike was not felt outside Bengal and Kerala. However, details given by the press have clearly indicated that the strike was much bigger than that the last strike.

The participation of other mass organisations of Kisans, agricultural workers, students, youth and women in several parts of country shows a real character of the peoples movement against the sell out of the country by the Narasimha Rao Govt.

The second phase of the working class struggle is over. But the govt of India is going ahead with the some policies due to the pressure of the IMF and the World Bank.

The Sponsoring Committee of Indian Trade Unions will meet and chalk out further programme of action.

More than one crore and fifty lakh workers who have participated in the strike will carry forward their struggle with more determination till th policies are reversed.

## Let Private Sector be Privatised First

The Government of India under its new Industrial Policy has undertaken a mad drive to privatise the public sector. Already 25% equity of key profit making public sector units has been disinvested and move is on to go for further disinvestment with the permission to foreign multinational companies to enter into the country's PSUs. It has been declared that total 49% equity of PSUs will be disinvested. Moreover, the Boards of Directors of the PSUs are being packed with the representatives of private sector.

In this connection the question which is most pertinent is how much private is the private sector of the country ?

From the following list showing the pattern of equity shareholding in some leading private sector companies confirms that the share of private promoters is quite negligent and distinctly minority compared to that of the government-owned Financial Institutions and despite that the companies are controlled by the private promoters.

Why not the government privatise the private sector first instead of privatising the public sector ?

### Pattern of Equity Shareholding in Some Leading Private Sector Companies

Name of Company	Group	Promoters Share (%)	FIs Share (%)
ACC	Tata	11.96	40.70
TISCO	"	10.85	44.93
TELCO	"	19.26	40.73
Mysore Cement	Birla	20.66	48.07
VXL	"	18.54	35.12
Mahindra&Mahindra	Mahindra	8.35	46.35
Mahindra UGINE	"	23.73	64.11
Kirloskar Pneumatic	Kirloskar	23.53	60.63
Best & Crompton	Mallya	18.38	55.78
Modi Rubber	Modi	26.49	51.68
Calcutta Electric	Goenka	12.19	48.49
Kamani Engineering	"	32.00	41.00
Dunlop	Chhabria	5.39	34.69
Ashok Leyland	Hinduja	3.46	38.68
Larsen & Toubro	—	—	41.04
S.I. Shipping	Essar	26.43	56.51
Usha Rectifier	Raj	24.63	66.30
SPIC	MA Chidambaram	14.36	46.81
Escorts	Nanda	14.39	44.54
Bharat Gears	Raunak Singh	14.82	42.18
TVS Electronics	TVS	12.14	58.69
India Cements	Sankar	11.65	50.46
SFR	CCM	1.3	58.57
Lakshmi Machines	Lakshmi	20.75	44.49
Premier Tyres	Desai	19.34	51.73

# National Press Nails Down Official Propaganda Against 16 June Strike

M K Pandhe

P A Sangma, Minister of state for Coal and Labour has repeatedly given the statements to the press belittling to 16th June strike by observing that the working class in India except in west Bengal had ignored the call for the general strike. According to his claim only 10 percent of the workers participated in the strike. The All India Radio and Doordarshan faithfully reproduced these statements to create an impression that the strike was a total failure. He even went to the extent of claiming that by and large the working class of India approved the Narasimha Rao Government's economic policies.

By making such blatant statements Sangma denigrated himself before the eyes of even the press which generally was not in favour of strike action against economic policies of the Government.

There was a general disbelief of Sangma's statement that the Indian Airlines and Air India operated the flights according to reschedule of operation on the day of strike. *Hindustan Times* and *Times of India* published photographs of Flight Information Board at Delhi Airport stating that only one flight to Leh was operated on the day of strike while all the flights had been cancelled due to strike. *Telegraph* of Calcutta reported that not a single flight from Calcutta operated on the day of strike. The same reports have been published from Madras, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Cochin. *Hindu* published photograph of a huge stockpile of trolleys lying in front of Delhi airport. Admittedly, Union Labour minister was wrongly briefed by his officers.

Similarly, television announced the names of 8 bank "organisations" who opposed the strike and Sangma immediately told the press that bank strike would be symbolic. However, all papers reported complete strike in Bank, even the officers did not report for duty. "Banking sector badly hit" was the title given by statesman. *Financial Express* headline noted "strike paralyses banking and insurance sector". Even the State Bank at New Delhi where NCBC is supposed to control the organisation the strike was total and *Indian Express* published a photograph of police guarding the bank without a single customer seen in the picture.

Some banner headlines of national dailies have highlighted the success of the strike. "Industrial strike near total" said *Hindustan Times*. "General Strike peaceful" was the *Statesman* headline. "Life Thrown out of Gear—Big success in public sector" was the banner line of *Patriot*. "Strike Hits Industrial Activity" was the caption of *Hindu* report.

"Strike cripples Delhi area was the report of *Patriot* from the capital metropolis. Though "Observer" *Financial Express* called the strike partial they admitted its impact was widespread. The Bengali *Ananda Bazar Patrika* also gave the headline that the industrial strike was near total. Its reporter who visited Faridabad noted that the city was looking just like Barrackpore during the Bangla Bandh.

The impact of the strike was felt in the far flung areas of eastern India where the T U movement is generally weak. However, PTI reported successful strikes in these areas too.

According to the report, "The industrial strike paralysed postal and banking services in Manipur. All the banks and post and telegraph departments in the state remained closed in response to the strike." It further reported that in Mizoram "banks and financial institutions in the public sector remained closed."

*Telegraph* of Calcutta reported that the life in Arunachal and Meghalaya was seriously affected due to industrial strike with banks, insurance companies, postal services and central and state government employees]playing a leading role.

While P A Sangma told the reporters that "situation all over the country was near normal but right in Delhi *Economic Times* reported "industrial establishments in and around Delhi including Okhla, Wazirpur industrial area were closed. The industrial units in Haryana, Ghaziabad, Noida and Meerut also remain closed."

*Free Press Journal* of Bombay gave report of stoppage of industrial activity in several districts in Maharashtra as well as in the city of Bombay during the strike day. It only noted that BEST, ST, Municipal workers in Bombay and Port and Docks were not on strike due to non-participation of constituents of the Sponsoring Committee in the strike.

Despite Sangma's claim that Post and Telegraph were working normally except "West Bengal" and "some parts of Kerala" the press reported the strike in this sector was extremely widespread.

Regarding the arrest of about 25,000 activists in Tamilnadu, 1000 in Kerala and several hundreds in some other states the press reactions have not been favourable to the government. When P A Sangma was asked in the press conference after the strike about these arrests he had nothing to comment. As

reported by Hindu "Mr. Sangma could not confirm the reports of large scale arrests of industrial workers in some of the states as he said he did not have full details in the matters." He only parried questions on the plea that law and order was a state subject.

Press reactions on Sangma's threat that the cases of sick units which would go on strike would not be given preferential treatment by the Government were not good for him. It was a frontal attack on workers right to strike- **Business Standard** which was otherwise critical of trade unions for organising the strike editorially commented on the "ineptitude" of the government. "The politically novice central labour minister P A Sangma didn't improve matters by his statement that the government would give preferential treatment to employees of sick units if they didn't heed the call for the strike" (17th June 1992).

The **Times of India** editorially commented that the June 16 strike "far exceeded" the strength of the unions calling for the strike and further noted, "Remarkably, there was virtually no opposition to the industrial action from the Congress and BJP led unions, although they did not officially participate in it. On the contrary, there was sympathy, rooted in shared misgivings about the new economic policies and their likely effects on employment, growth, poverty and the fate of public enterprises."

The reaction of the **Indian Express** was more specific. It editorially commented, "After the left wing trade unions went on a day long strike on November 29, last year, one would have expected government to have become more sensitive to the concerns of the workers. Instead, the Government has been trying to confuse the workers by promising the international financial institutions one thing on the exit policy and painting quite another picture to them." The editorial continues, "The fact of the matter is that the government is giving the impression that it takes nobody seriously in this country. It only listens to the World Bank and IMF and their factotums who sit as advisers in all economic ministries and whose accountability to the nation is doubtful. How can one the blame the trade unions for taking on the government ? (18th June '92)

Birla's **The Hindusthan Times** however found that "the harm it has rendered to the national economy by way of disruption of work is considerable, the trade unions, therefore, cannot be complemented when they claim that the strike was a success. It only advocated for a dialogue between the government and the trade unions to settle the issues and further appealed to both sides to "realise the seriousness of the problems confronting the country."

The editorials of **Economic Times** and **Hindu** also criticised the strike action against the economic policies of the Congress Government and saw political motivation behind the strike. They characterised the strike as partial since some sections did not res-

pond to the call. They make these claim due to non-participation of railway employees and port and dock employees in certain states. These organisation announced earlier that they would not join the strike. The Sponsoring Committee is aware of the weak spots and is keen to overcome these shortcomings in order to build a still more powerful unity of the working class against these policies.

The meeting on 3rd June in which Sangma gave empty assurances to the workers representative without any concrete steps was noted by some papers. The observer editorially commented on the eve of the strike and attacked the dilatory tactics adopted by the government which was responsible for the growing discontent of the workers. The appointment of H N Ray Committee to delay the matters also came under sharp criticism by several papers.

The Indian press covered the 16th June strike more elaborately than 29th November strike. As a result of this wide publicity, the working class of India could see the fallacious character of the official propaganda blitz through the medias of television and AIR. However the Labour Minister may try to belittle the significance of the strike the working class of our country which participated in the mighty action on 16th June did not believe in the official propaganda. The people of our country who have seen the working class in action and who have read newspaper are also convinced that the 16th June General strike was a grand success.

## **CITU Condemns attack on Striking Himachal Govt. Employees**

The Secretariat of CITU has issued the following statement on 20.6.92:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions is greatly concerned at the wanton use of NSA & ESMA against the State Government Employees movement in Himachal Pradesh. The BJP Government in the State in their effort to suppress 11-day long Govt employees strike has taken refuge of these black laws and state terrorism. The Government has arrested 10 employees leader under NSA and ESMA and resorted to massive lathi charge yesterday (19th June) when the Government employees were in a dharna before the Chief Minister's house, injuring more than 50 which includes a number of women.

The CITU condemns these repressive measures and demands the release of all detained union leaders. It also demands of the government's immediate initiative for purposeful negotiation with the State Government Employees Union for resolving the disputes mutually.

## Professional Workers' Trade Union Centre

A Foundation meeting was held on 4th June, 1992 in New Delhi to form a Trade Union Centre for Professional workers (Professional Workers as defined by ILO, otherwise known as Managerial and Supervisory staff, Officers, Other Workers, etc.)

The following organisations have joined together and formed the "PROFESSIONAL WORKERS' TRADE UNION CENTRE".

- All Indian Bank Officers Confederation
- National Confederation of Officers Associations of Central Public Sector Undertakings
- National Confederation of Central Government Officers
- All India LIC Officers' Association
- National Confederation of General Insurance Corp. Officers Associations
- CSIR Scientific Workers Association

Together these organisations represent about 4.5 lakh Professional Workers.

The Centre would be open for affiliation to any organisation representing Professional Workers from Public, Private, Cooperative Sectors and from any profession. The Centre is envisaged to ultimately represent about 20 lakh professional workers serving in financial institutions, trade and services, industry, media, scientific, education and health establishments.

The Professional Workers' Trade Union Centre (PWTUC) would fulfil the long standing vacuum in the Trade Union Movement in India. PWTUC would also be the first and only organisation of its kind.

PWTUC would seek to bring about the following:

- Subordinate legislation for professional workers similar to legislation such as Industrial Disputes Act, etc.;
- Legislation for providing security of service for managerial and supervisory staff;
- Representation for Professional Workers in the Indian Labour Conference and all Tripartite bodies;
- Effective role in decision making in relation to

## Reconstitution of Board of Directors in Indian Airlines and Air India

The Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement to the press:

The reconstitution of the Board of Directors of Indian Airlines and Air India unveils the tricky process the government of India has undertaken in privatising these premier PSUs through backdoor take over. Followed by the decision to disinvest 40 percent of the shares of public sector units, the Govt of India started loading Board of Directors of PSUs with private industrialists and proteges of the ruling party.

A Government which torts for professionalism and competitiveness could not find any room for a single professional from the industry in any of these boards. Out of 15 nominated members in each of the boards, five top industrialists are taken in Indian Airlines and three in Air India. The remaining seats were filled up with five politicians in Indian Airlines and seven in Air India. While the AICC General Secretary and Political Secretary to the Prime Minister are appointed in the Board, not a single professional from the industry has found a place in it. A woman from film industry has been inducted while no consideration has been shown for those women who have several decades of experience in Aviation industry. No trade union representative has found place in these Boards.

The Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions demands repeal of the newly announced Boards and reconstitution of the same with representatives from professionals, trade union representatives, which will ensure adequate social control over the industry.

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all important policies such as economic, industrial, etc.

PWTUC would be apolitical and would not get affiliated to any political organisation.

PWTUC would establish a Research and Analysis wing to provide analysis on various subjects to the Trade Union Movement.

The First Congress of Professional Workers, where the PWTUC would be formally launched would be held in Bangalore on 27th September, 1992.

Shri R. N. Godbole and Shri K. Ashok Rao have been appointed as Convenors of the Ad-Hoc Committee.

## CITU Condemns Move to Freeze DA

The Secretariat of the CITU has issued the following statement to the press today: (26.5.92)

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) strongly denounces the remarks of the Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh at the meeting of the National Development Council indicating the intention to freeze the DA of the Govt and public sector employees in the name of curbing the Govt expenditure. When the prices are soaring as a direct result of the very policies pursued by the Government, it is atrocious to freeze the DA of the wage earners in the name of curbing administrative expenditure. The workers have already had enough experience of so called "incomes policy" being talked by the Minister which is used only to slash worker's real income while leaving super profits and black money untouched. It now stands confirmed that it is clearly with the freezing of DA in mind that the Public Sector DA Committee was deliberately frozen and

the Ray Committee has been set up backing out from the assurance given in the joint consultative machinery regarding the Central Govt DA issue.

The Ministers remarks echoes the voice of the IMF and World Bank whose conditionalities include compression of real income of Govt and Public Sector employees.

The CITU warns the Govt and urges it to desist from this disastrous path of vicious attack on workers standard of life. CITU calls upon the employers concerned to close up their rank to fight this attack and join the mainstream of working class struggle against the economic policies of which this is an offshoot. Participation in full strength in 16 June strike will be a fitting reply to this nefarious move of the Govt.

### Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers

(Base 1982 = 100)

Centre	Mar. 1992	Apr. 1992	Linking factor for Old base								
				Belgaum	234	236	—	Varanasi	251	249	5.12
				Hubli-Dharwar	237	238	—	Asansol	218	220	4.77
				Mercara	221	224	—	Calcutta	229	232	4.74
				Alwaye	210	214	5.19	Darjeeling	215	216	4.55
				Mundakayam	224	223	4.67	Durgapur	236	237	—
				Quilon	210	218	—	Haldia	239	242	—
				Trivandrum	232	236	—	Howrah	244	247	4.12
				Bhalghat	222	225	5.24	Jalpaiguri	217	216	4.16
				Bhilai	205	208	3.49	Raniganj	214	216	4.40
				Bhopal	237	238	5.46	Chandigarh	229	231	—
				Indore	245	246	5.18	Delhi	236	240	4.97
				Jabalpur	250	252	6.41	Pondicherry	244	242	—
				Bombay	242	245	5.12				
				Nagpur	242	246	4.99	<b>Additional Series of Labour Bureau</b>			
				Nasik	249	251	—	Kothagudem	233	232	3.25
				Pune	241	240	—	Himachal Pradesh	222	223	3.75
				Sholapur	243	252	5.03	Bhilwara	233	239	3.20
				Barbil	223	226	5.00	Chindwara	232	232	2.59
				Rourkela	205	212	3.59	Tripura	233	237	4.37
				Amritsar	214	215	5.19	Goa	247	250	3.40
				Ludhiana	215	214	—				
				Ajmer	235	241	5.01	<b>Other Series of Labour Bureau</b>			
				Jaipur	221	228	5.17				
				Coimbatore	222	222	5.35	Centre	Base	Mar. 1990	Apr. 1990
				Coonoor	236	238	4.80	Ammathi	1960	873	895
				Madras	231	231	5.05	Chickmagalur	1960	887	894
				Maduri	231	230	5.27	Kolar Gold Field	1960	910	914
				Salem	219	215	—	Gwalior	1960	1022	1025
				Tiruchirappally	229	230	—	Sambalpur	—	—	—
				Agra	222	223	—	Berhampur	—	—	—
				Ghaziabad	233	238	—	Cuttack	—	—	—
				Kanpur	240	237	4.69				
				Saharanpur	226	228	5.06				

Note: Figures on old base can be obtained by multiplying the Index Number on New Base by the linking factor given and rounding off the result to nearest whole number.

—Dash denotes new centres under 1982 series.

# From Human Development Report

## For Whom They Operate

Several international bodies right from UN, UNCTAD, UNDP, IDA on the one hand and World Bank, IMF etc on the other were least miser to record all tall commitments in their charter to improve the prospects of the poorest in the world, to ensure redistribution of wealth towards equity and justice. But the decades of their operation produces a dismal situation and impoverishment of the overwhelming majority, widening disparity and super-riches for the rest have become the new world order.

Prof. Jan Timbergen, the eminent NOBEL LAUREATE economist once hypothesised : No civilised society should tolerate income disparity more than 1 : 15 and the gap doubled over last three decades. Richest 20% of the world possesses 82.7% of world's income and the poorest 20%, could secure only 1.4%.

Disparities between the nations are no less revealing. The developed nations of the world have about 25% of the world's population and consume 70% of world's total energy-generation, 75% of its metals, 80% of its wood and 60% of its food.

## Developing countries—The Looting Ground IMF/World Bank—The Instrument

Fund-Bank are there to assist (?) the needy, but in reality they squeeze. They take much more than they give, and operate to design the economies of developing countries to suit the interest of the developed world.

During 1972-1982, net out flow of resources from the developing world to developed world by way of loan repayment, interest payment and others was \$ 231 billion. During 1983-1990, the same was \$ 172 billion.

During 1888—1990 and in 1991, IMF took out \$32 billion. \$4.2 respectively more than it gave to developing countries. In 1991 alone the World Bank took out \$500 million more from the developing world than what they have paid.

## Fund/Bank/Rich Nations Caucus Shylock Thy Name

While receiving annually \$ 52 billion gross as development assistance from the developed countries, the developing countries lose 500 billion dollar (10 times) a year to fulfil the conditionalities for such assistance (besides repayment obligation) such as restriction on exports, migration of labour, flow

of capital etc.

It is 'aid' only in name. Actually it is a mechanism of usurption, testimony of most barbaric usury, by the so called heads of the civilised world. They give aids to developing countries and in exchange they want to chain them to perpetuate permanency of their debtor status and surveillance to the creditor. Thus the prescription of globalisation to ensure assured market in the 3rd world for merchandise from G-7 countries. Thus the restriction on export and various discriminatory conditionalities compel developing world to make a kind of distress sale of their exportable products. And in the background of inflation and rising prices, prices of exportables of developing countries fall, squeezing their purse further and tagging them permanently with the developed countries as debtor. That is why price of cocoa, a 3rd world exportable fell to one-half during eighties. Net income of rubber growers in Malaysia fell by one third and that of oil-palm by one half between 1988-90. During the same period coffee export earning fell to half of their original level affecting Brazil and other coffee exporting nations.

## Shameless Discrimination

Interest rate for the same borrowing differentiates. And the differential does never commensurate with paying ability or the productivity of the borrowing. In the 1980's the developing countries had to pay for their borrowing a real interest rate four times the rate paid by the richer nations.

## Head I win tail you lose

Industrially advanced countries particularly US, as self-appointed monitor of the development of the 3rd world countries insist for removal of tariff protection in the 3rd world countries, although they themselves do the opposite, in respect of the imports to their country. Twenty out of twenty four industrial countries have been adopting were protectionist devices against imports to their countries over the last decade and the trend is still on. Effective rate of tariff these countries impose against exports from developing countries is considerably higher (besides quota system and other restrictions) than the rate of tariff against exports from these countries to developing countries. Yet they insist the developing countries to further strip off even the minimal tariff protection and go all naked.

# CITU Protests Against Partisan Role of TV

The Director General  
Doordarshan  
Akashvani Bhawan  
Parliament Street  
New Delhi-110001

Dear Sir,

We deeply regret to note the one side coverage by the Doordarshan regarding the one day General Strike on 16th June 1992. While the names of the organisation opposing the strike are elaborately mentioned those who have given the strike call do not find any mention. No press statement issued by the Sponsoring Committee of Indian Trade Unions were mentioned in news bulletins while those opposing the strike have been mentioned.

On the eve of the 29th November 1991 strike at least the TV covered the interviews of leaders supporting or opposing the strike but this time it was not done so.

Yesterday only Union Labour Minister's appeal and the statement of some bank unions opposing the strike were published.

Please note that Sponsoring Committee consists of 8 Central Trade Unions and 50 industrywise federations.

I think this is highly unfair and one sided. This attitude on the part of TV will only give credence to the complaint that Door Darshan is only acting as the spokesman of the Government of India.

Since the strike is taking place tomorrow I hope you would give reflections to the views of those who are supporting the strike.  
Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,  
(M. K. Pandhe)  
General Secretary

## Read CITU Publications

**The New Industrial Policy and its Impact on the Fertilizer Industry**  
Swadesh Dev Roye

**Dunkel Proposals**  
**A Death Knell for the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry**  
P. K. Ganguly

**India Towards De-Industrialisation—World Bank Dictates The Steel Policy**  
Jibon Roy, Tapan Sen

**The New Industrial Policy**  
**Vis-a-Vis**  
**The Oil and Petroleum Industry**  
Swadesh Dev Roye

**The New Situation and The Challenges Ahead**  
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# CITU Demands Adequate Safety and Pollution Control Measures in Steel Industry

Officials of steel plants and central trade unions met at Bangalore on 12th and 13th May to review safety and health of steel workers and environment in and around steel plants. Com. M. K. Pandhe, Com. A. Dakshi, Com. T. N. Singh, Com. P. K. Das and other 7 comrades participated on behalf of CITU.

In spite of some effective measures taken by steel authority at central level, there is a wide gap between action plan taken and implemented at shop floor. Fatal accidents in six integrated steel plants vary between 30 to 40 per year and average mandays lost is about 3 lakhs per year. Working condition of contractor labours are really miserable. Construction sites inside steel plants take 25 to 45 lives per year on spot and another 200-300 after hospitalisation, although contractor workers are only one sixth of total permanent workers.

CITU delegation categorically pointed out many lapses on the part of steel management. Indiscriminate purchase and use of wide body dumpers cause huge number of accidents. Overage of many equipments, gross maintenance failure, drastic reduction of manpower upto 40%; off loading of regular jobs to petty, sub-contractors; gross neglect of provisions of Factory Act; by-passing safety equipments for quicker production; huge scrups on floors, dilapidated condition of structures, railways, lifts, hoists etc are causing huge fatal and non-fatal accidents.

Construction sites are vulnerable to frequent accidents due to large number of sub-contracts, piece contracts, labour contract system along with corruption in executing departments. Down below contractors are so poorly paid that they have no means to provide safety measures for their casual workers. Often contractors hire workers without any gate pass or proper record so that cases of non-fatal accidents can be suppressed and get rid of any compensation formalities. Even public sector contractor like HSCL follow same practice.

In spite of much hue and cry on environment control, steel industry is one of the main offender to pollute the atmosphere both in and around steel plants.

There have been no study to assess victims of such pollution outside steel plants but a study conducted by steel authority among steel workers revealed that a large number of workers are suffering from minor to major diseases. Rate is as high as 84 percent

of employees examined. Groupwise distribution are as follows—unskilled—37.5 percent, skilled 66.1 percent, supervisors 93.9 percent, executives 79.1 percent and managers 78.5 percent.

High incidence of cancer, mental disbalance, heart and respiratory diseases, hearing power loss, gastrointestinal disorder are due to continuous exposure of various pollution in steel plants.

Pollution control measures are inadequate in almost all steel plants which needs immediate attention and investment.

## CGT Expresses Solidarity With Indian Working Class

*[The following message extending support to 16th June strike has been sent by CGT, France.]*

CITU  
6 Talkatora Road  
New Delhi-110001

French CGT Expresses full support to you on eve of countrywide general strike, against economic, social policy of Indian Government, in particular against structural adjustments dictated by IMF, Affecting severely workers conditions.

We wish full success in strike and assure you our unflinching solidarity in your present and future campaigns and struggles for defence workers interests.

Fraternally.

Jean-Pierre Page, head of the International dept.  
Montreuil, Le 15 June 1992.

## Meeting of the Sponsoring Committee of Indian Trade Unions

The full body meeting of the Sponsoring Committee of the Indian Trade Unions will be held on 17th July, 1992 at 4.00 p.m. at the AITUC office located at 24, Canning Lane, New Delhi. The meeting will review the historic all India General Strike observed on 16th June, 1992 and also consider the future course of action.

The constituent Central Trade Unions, Industrial Federations and Confederation/Federation of the government employees have been invited to attend the meeting.

## Victory Against Offloading in Visakhapatnam Naval Dockyard

After 50 days of intensive struggle by eight thousand workers of Visakhapatnam Naval Dockyard, the struggle ended with a settlement of 6th June 92 by arriving at a settlement signed at the Indefinite Fast Pandal between the Management and Union representatives.

As a part of the policy of the Government of India, the Management of Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, have offloaded the job of 'Baladev' tug to a Private Contractor P.S. & Co. on 10th April, after completion of part of the job by Dockyard workers. When the workers represented the issue, the Management put a deaf ear. When the Indian Navy Civil Employees Union (only Union and recognised) working President Sri S.M. Moulali, met and requested not to offload the job of 'Baladev', he was summarily suspended on 11th April '92 by the management.

The Union launched agitation and protested against Management for offloading the jobs to private Contractors and for lifting of illegal suspension of the Union Leader. During the struggle the workers made post card campaign with five thousand signatures, Badge wearing, Memorandum with signatures of more than 90 percent of workers, gate meetings, slogan shouting, Boycotting Canteen, Boycotting overtime, work or rule, relay hunger fast etc. Indefinite hunger fast was launched by Smt. Rajana Ramani (TNTUC), Sri K.B.R. Prasad (CITU), Sri B. Sarweswara Rao (AITUC). On the Fourth day of the Indefinite fast, a settlement was reached.

By arriving a settlement, the management agreed that they will adhere to the principles laid down in the mutually agreed norms of 1990, viz :

- (a) Off-loading can be done only when facility of work not available in Dockyard.
- (b) When adequate labour is not available
- (c) When there is no capacity in the Dockyard to do the work.
- (d) And only when there is necessity of manufacturing.

The Management also lifted the suspension orders against the Union Working President Sri S. M. Moulali and also assured not to resort any vindictive actions on any workmen for participating in the agitation. The agreement was read out in the general body meeting and was accepted unanimously by shouting slogans. It is a victory to the working class against the Policies of the Indian Government.

CITU District Committee, Visakhapatnam, congratulate the workers of Naval Dockyard, for their victorious struggle.

## Job Threats on NBCC

The National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd, a pioneer central public sector construction company employing 45,000 workforce is facing the machination of being dismantled by the govt of India.

The NBCC management has not taken a decision to drastically reduce the manpower by 1200, including employees, officers, engineers, by any means by end of the fiscal year 1992-93. And in order to achieve the target for the year, the management has let loose all kinds of unfair and uncalled for practices including drastic and unilateral curtailment of hard earned benefits of employees like travelling allowances, DA, medical facilities, leave encashment, LTC facilities, overtime allowance, wage freeze for two years etc, with the sole intention of creating panic among and psychological pressure on the employees so that they perform opt for the voluntary retirement scheme.

A decision has now been taken by the management that a subsidiary corporation in NBCC be opened for real estate work by recruiting some retired outside officers, in order to close down or privatise NBCC. It is deplorable as to how a major public sector construction company like NBCC which has set a performance record in building big multistoreyed housing projects, cooling towers, bridges, thermal plants, chimney works, etc is being sought to be liquidated by the government itself in order to open avenues for the monopoly sector and foreign companies. This is all the more condemnable in a developing country like India where construction work would continue to be a pressing need for long time to come.

An all out unity is now gradually developing among various employees and workers unions/associations, officers association in NBCC headquarters at New Delhi and at different sites at Delhi, Bombay, Dhanbad, Assam, Durgapur and others, cutting across union affiliations. They have condemned the move of the Government of India to close down NBCC and urged upon the government to respond to the gesture of all sections of employees, engineers and officers to improve the functional efficiency of taking a liquidationist stance.

### CITU Delegation to visit China

At the invitation of All China Federation of Trade Unions a four member delegation of CITU will visit China between 2nd September to 14th September, 1992. The delegation will consist of Com. K. K. Divakaran (Kerala), Com. A. Soundarajan (Tamilnadu), Com. Soumen Kundu (West Bengal) and Com. Roque Fernandes (Goa).

# Development for Whom !

Tapan Sen

A tripartite workshop was held on 10-11 December 1991 at New Delhi under the auspices of ILO on "Social Dimension of Structural Adjustment in India". Since the initiation of new economic and industrial policy in India in 1991 by the Government of India—as is being popularly called structural adjustment programme under prescription by World Bank & IMF, series of seminars and workshops are being organised by different forums on the same, with varied purposes. The purpose of this ILO sponsored workshop has been stated to be for "bringing together policy makers, social partner (representatives of employers and workers) as well as researchers and provide a forum for discussion on the employment and poverty implication of the structural adjustment policies being implemented in India."

In the workshop papers were presented by Dr. Sudipto Mundle of National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, Shri Ashoke Desai of National Council of Applied Economic Research and Dr. Ajit Dr. Ghosh, of Asian Regional Team for Employment Promotion (ILO) and the participants, consisted of reputed academicians, trade union leaders, employers representatives, from Chambers of Commerce & Industry, officials of Labour Ministry and Finance Ministry including the concerned Ministers and the ILO and ARTEP officials. The workshop was also addressed by Shri P A Sangma, Minister of State for Labour and Dr. Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister. The Asian Regional Team for Employment Promotion (ARTEP) published compilation of the papers presented in the workshop and the proceedings of discussion.

Whatever may be the purpose, the deliberation of the workshop including papers presented and ministerial addresses reflected divergent views and more divergent perceptions regarding the social impact of the structural adjustment programmes being presently pursued in our country. But amidst all such divergence, one hard fact could not be concealed inspite of the best effort of many of the deliberators including the Finance Minister as reflected in their endeavours to paint the policy drives with coinage of optimistic vocabularies, the structural adjustment programme is going to bring about increased burden of sufferings and in all probability such burdens are going to be borne by the mass of the people at the receiving end. The address of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister could not help mentioning "stabilisation and structural change have to go hand in hand...stabilisation necessarily involves tightening belts...it is absolutely essential that process of stabilisation should be just and equitable...All has to be done in such a manner that the

*cost of adjustment are not borne disproportionately by the poorest section of our society."* And in the same breath Dr. Manmohan Singh pleaded "In a society where income and wealth are unevenly distributed, let me be very honest, this is not an easy task...in a mixed society there is not built in mechanism to ensure that the adjustment burden would necessarily fall on the shoulders of those who are most able to bear the burden." What Dr. Singh has carefully skipped over is that whatever mechanism exists in the Indian economic structure being operated in the hands of the ruling polity is always heavily weighed against the people at the lowest rung of the ladder, who are being made to bear the burden of all austerity and crisis management drives.

This aspect which Dr. Singh did endeavour to evade have been more categorically projected by Dr. Ajit Kumar Ghosh when he commented "unless the reform programme specifically addresses these problems (i.e. employment generation and poverty alleviation) the burden of adjustment would inevitably be borne by the poor and under-employed. The viability of the programme would then be in doubt."

While analyzing the policy changes in the Indian context, Dr. Ghosh further added "The recent policy changes would affect employment and poverty unfavourably...yet the policy package does not include explicit employment and safety net policies...The probable adverse effects to the policies on poverty does not seem to have been recognized...The recent policy changes therefore ignore two important facts ; that a large percentage of Indians has a level of living below official poverty line and that desirability and viability of a restructuring programme which might add to the percentage can be legitimately doubted."

And such doubt regarding the desirability and viability of such structural reform programmes initiated by Indian rulers has gained its legitimacy from the projection made in the papers presented by both Dr. Ajit Kumar Ghosh of ARTEP and Dr. Sudipto Mundle of National Institute of Public finance.

Dr. Sudipto Mundle's paper despite suffering from many limitations regarding the choice of the alternative growth scenarios and the assumption on the workers of the organized sector to remain unaffected by structural reform, could project through empirical studies and analysis of the trend thereof, that the structural adjustment programmes would inevitably lead to rise in the rate of unemployment from the current 4 per cent to about 5 per cent in the event of high growth scenario and 7 per cent

in case of low economic growth rate. This would mean an additional repeat additional unemployment of 4 million and 10 million persons within next two years under the two respective growth probabilities. It is further contended by Dr. Mundle that only in the event of fully successful expenditure switching policies (from imports to domestic production) and structural adjustment policies (in reducing current account deficit) could the economy approximate high growth scenario, which no doubt is a most difficult proposition to assume. But notable is that, as Dr. Mundle's empirical analysis conclusively observed that even with high economic growth rate (3.9% in 1991-92, 3% in 1992-93 and 5.7% in 1993-94), which is no doubt sheer over optimism, the employment deceleration would take place pushing the rate of unemployment further upwards to as high as 5%. Added to this is the impact on the under employment prevalent in India economic scenario. As Dr. Mundle observed "the stabilisation programme could still result in extra under employment of about one half of one million to one million persons during next two years."

Dr Mundle also pointed out "It is quite obvious that certain problems, an increase in unemployment and under employment by 5 to 10 million persons would lead to a substantial increase in the incidence of poverty among the working population. The situation would get much worse if inflation rate is not brought down"

The observation of Dr Ajit Kumar Ghosh of ARTEP on the efficiency of the structural adjustment programme being presently pursued in India is all the more revealing. Dr. Ghosh was explicit in what should be the approach of any economic restructuring programme. Dr Ghosh spelt out unequivocally that "Any restructuring programme in order to be viable must have explicit employment and safety net policies as its integral component...a restructuring programme which pays no attention to these problems is unlikely to be socially and politically sustainable". And analysing from this basic premise only. Dr Ghosh made the observation that present policy package in India does not include explicit employment and safety net policies. It has further been observed that growth in GDP does not necessarily and always lead to growth of employment and reduction in poverty. Rather Indian experience particularly since 1980s projects a different picture altogether. The high GDP growth rate in 1980s is marked along with dramatic deceleration in employment growth rate and in the private sector manufacturing employment growth rate was actually negative. And this trend of decelerated employment growth rate tending a negative figure even in totality cannot be reversed unless specific employment generation programme is adopted consciously and made an integral part of total reform package. Present policy package, as has been observed by Dr Ghosh, having starved of such specific employment generation policy cannot even arrest this trend of deceleration of employment

generation rate, not to speak of reversing it, even in the event of a high GDP growth rate, since there is nothing in the policies which could induce growth of employment elasticities. And such a position would inevitably lead any sane person to the conclusion, that the economic policy package of the govt of India would add to unemployment at a more rapid rate and multiply the incidence of poverty. The cost of adjustment, whatever taller may be the demand of Dr Manmohan Singh would inevitably be passed on to the workers and common people-

Dr Manmohan Singh's address, as well as the policy package except repeated pronouncement of his so called commitment to equity and social justice did contain nothing to ensure even that the cost of the adjustment programme authored by him be borne by those who can bear. Rather his policy packages have rather added to the burden of already over burdened population, by his inflationary budget decisions, by way of increased Railway fares, excise duty and reduced subsidy on food grains etc on the one hand and reduced the obligation of the richer section by numerous concessional and deregulatory measures. While he sheds crocodile tears in his address mentioning about the poverty, lack of education, infant mortality, it does not enthuse him to explain as to why in his own budget proposals, allocation of funds for poverty alleviation, education, health and other aspects related to the life and living of the common people got substantially truncated.

As Dr. Ajit Kr. Ghosh observed, "It is a matter of concern that these safety nets have been shrinking in recent years. And if the budget proposal are any guide, the real expenditure on food subsidies will fall by about 7 per cent, that on IRDP will fall by more than 17 per cent and on rural employment schemes will fall by more than 13 per cent". There is little in the new policy package as will help augment agricultural production, particularly the food production which would mean no improvement in case of the agricultural population besides further inflationary push in the price level and consequent decline in real wage level for all. And yet Dr. Singh reiterates his firm commitment to save poor from bearing the main burden of adjustment programme. Can hypocrisy go further?

Dr. Singh was smart enough to suggest that greater emphasis on competition in our economy does not in any way amount to any anti-labour or anti-woker policies. Yet Dr. Singh's brand of competition, as per his own version would lead to closure of sick units leading to joblessness of lakhs of workers, and there is national renewal fund to offer some one time dole to them. And yet the same is not anti-labour. Dr. Singh's brand of competition would put the multinational firms at a position of advantage by way of massive reduction of tariff barriers and make their domestic counterparts compete with a costlier commodity by way of increased excise duties, as in the case of steel. And yet the same is pro-people. Dr. Singh's brand of competition

to disarm the workers by suitable amendments of industrial disputes Act and at the same time releasing the employer from their obligation to seek permission before retrenchment and thus generate a competition between the unarmed workers and the powerful employers in the background of vast unemployment scenario. And yet his brand of competition is not anti-worker and not opposed to social justice. Perhaps such is the logic he has learnt from his fund/bank masters.

Dr Singh argued in his address that the govt policy of stripping off domestic industries from protection would help evolving a more labour-intensive pattern of industrialisation. This statement of his runs compatible with his another statement in the same piece of speech when he says that one of objects of structural adjustment programme is to absorb assimilate and adopt with the rapid technological development in the production system. The intensification of competition with the multinationals faced by the domestic producers with a comparatively lower technological and labour intensive base will make it imperative for the latter either to quit the market or switch over to radical labour saving devices. Hence talk of labour intensive technology in this context is bound to be wishful thinking if not a delirium.

Dr Singh justified deregulation and delicensing as being compatible to social justice. He argued that deregulation would facilitate shift of resource allocation from non-productive to productive sector through operation of market forces. In our society where income and wealth are unevenly distributed as characterised by Dr Singh himself in his address to the workshop, deregulation and delicensing will mean starving the backward area from industrial development, generating greater imbalance in distribution of gains of production and militancy against the very aspect of social justice—since same would lead to survival of the fittest—in the present context the powerful echelon of the society both monetarily and politically. And what deregulation means has amply been exemplified by the greatest financial scandal of the time, the multicore stock market scam. If the profit and turnover be the only criterion of efficiency as being philosophized by the proponents of our new economic policies headed by Dr Singh, such scam should be the symbol of efficiency of operation. In fact the kind of deregulation being advocated by Dr Singh and others would provoke many such unproductive speculative trends in the economy much to the detriment of the economic health.

The paper presented by Shri Ashok V Desai of National Council of Applied Economic Research went further ahead of Dr Singh in justifying the open door and completely deregulatory, and totally market oriented economic policy. Probably Shri Desai missed the basic point in agenda of the workshop—“the social dimension of the structural reform in

India”. He assessed the policy package of the Govt of India to be half hearted and suggested further liberalisation and deregulation to convert the entire labour force in the organised sector into contract/casual workers to ensure/guarantee higher productivity and to pursue a totally open door policy, of virtual *lassiez faire* with least or no government intervention. The government should be involved to bear the cost of the liberalisation wherever required as viewed by Shri Desai.

This does not require further elucidation as the matter has already been dealt with while discussing the address of Dr. Manmohan Singh. Only one thing is required to be mentioned. Even with utmost optimism Sri Ashok Desai could not paint a brighter picture regarding the success of policy packages already adopted by the Govt of India either in respect of employment generation or in respect of rushing of investment either from within or abroad in Indian economic scenario.

Another aspect is required to be pointed out. While dealing on the agenda, the participants as well as the papers presented in the workshop mentioned about the safety net to be provided to those hurt and hit during the adjustment process. While Dr. Ajit Kr. Ghosh observed about the total absence of any safety net provision in the policy package of the govt of India, perception regarding the safety net is also misconstrued to some extent both in context and coverage.

Dr. Mundle observed in his paper that the workers in the organised sector is not going to be affected by the structural adjustment programme, which is totally unfounded. As everybody is aware, persuasion of the new policies has already brought the lakhs of workers in the sick units even in public sector on the verge of retrenchment. Owing discontinuance of govt grant and refusal of banks to give further credit at the instance of govt many public sector units particularly in textile sector virtually stopped production and in many places payment of salary to workers are stopped and/or has become irregular. In all probability, the workers of the organised sector particularly those of sick and closed units are going to receive first blow of the so called reforms programmes moreover Dr. Mundle proposed a safety net device to ensure provision of Rs. 10/- per day per head for 270 days work in a year. This is more of a kind of relief programme than being a safety net for the workers going to be dislodged from their work and does not offer productive alternative to those who would lose jobs. And such relief or dole, can in no way be an acceptable device to the workers, nor is it workable.

What is missed in the perception regarding a safety net. As Dr Ghosh pointed out the policy package should have included an explicit employment policy as its integral part. And for an employment generation policy to become an integral part of the structural reform programme, it is imperative

that the reform programme must create reality for, or possess in-built mechanism for generating meaningful productive employment for all sectors and stratas of working population. And what is essentially required for that is to address the basic problem of squeezing domestic demand through radical land reform and improvement of the lot of the rural fold representing 65% of the total population, which can be done not by relief and doles but by productive means. Such a position can alone generate multiplier effect in the economy, creating congenial atmosphere for expanding the production base for mass consumables and offer berths not only for redeployment of the displaced/dislodged workers but also for the unemployed.

The structural reform programme being pursued by Indian rulers lacked this basic approach. Reform in land relation are put out of the agenda of such programme thus setting aside 65% of the population from the agenda of economic development.

Any attempt to restructure the economy stated to be for economic growth side tracking this basic aspect of reforming the rural economy would only deform the economy further and sustainable growth can never be achieved.

Hence when Dr Manmohan Singh tells about redeployment and retraining in the background of increase in the unemployment by additional 10 millions in next two years as an impact of structural reform programmes, question arises—where to be redeployed and whom? Essentially retrenchment becomes the only inevitability.

Interesting to note, that while dealing in experience of other countries of the world in similar structural adjustment programme, mostly under World Bank/IMF guideline, Dr Rashid Angad from ILO could not help presenting a gloomy picture. Particularly in the Latin American & Sub Saharan African countries, such structural adjustment programmes of liberalisation, marginalisation of govt intervention and open door policies have brought adverse effects with rising unemployment, falling real wages and increasing impoverishment.

Dr Amjad ofcourse commented that such experiments have been comparatively successful in the Asian countries. But these as per the observation of Dr Amjad such comparative success was largely attributable to increase in agricultural growth which helped sustain output and employment. And in most instances role of government has been instrumental in bringing about efficiency in the structure of production. What perhaps has been avoided to be mentioned by Dr Amjad is the character of the structural adjustment programme in India, which basically militates against govt intervention in the operation of economic forces. Practically the crusade against govt intervention is the essence of the policy

package advocated by the Indian rulers. And on the other hand, while citing Malaysia, South Korea and others as model of economic development, Indian proponents of World Bank programme forgets, active intervention of State played a determinant role in those countries in shaping their respective economy, although even those countries possess many imbalances in their economy posing threat to the sustenance of development. Workshop also was addressed by leaders of the Central Trade Unions. Only point to be noted here is that even INTUC opposed many aspects of the economic policy like closure of sick units, privatisation of public sector etc. What is not understood then as to why INTUC inspite of having such understanding stayed away from the united protest action of the working class against such policies through on 16th June 1992. However, words are not always consistent with deeds for many around us. The address made by Shri K P A Sangma, Minister of State for Labour and Shri Keshub Mahendra, President Employers Federation of India have nothing to comment upon since those contain impractical pious hope in justifying the reform programmes. Hence the same may be overlooked.

On the whole the publication by compiling the proceedings and papers presented in the workshop on "Social Dimensions of Structural Adjustment in India" organised by ILO on 10th-11th December 1991 at New Delhi is no doubt a useful one. A careful reading of the same would definitely unveil the real face of the so called structural adjustment programme in India as generating unemployment and poverty for the makers and as a corollary riches for the richer and more so for the multinational companies besides severely putting the economic sovereignty into jeopardy. Hence for whom the development programme is designed? Or is it reform or a design for deformity? In spite of shortcomings the book also helps us to reaffirm the reality.

Review of :

(Social Dimensions of Structural adjustment in India—papers and proceedings of a Tripartite Workshop held in New Delhi; December 10-11, 1991—An ILO-ARTEP Publication).

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## 4th all India Conference of Water Transport Workers' Federation of India

The Water Transport Workers' Federation of India in its 4th conference held at Merchants Navy Club Auditorium, Willingdon-Island, Kochi from 19th to 21st May 1992 strongly condemned the economic policies pursued by the Narasimha Rao Government at the dictats of the World Bank which immensely endanger the self reliance and sovereignty of the country.

The policy will adversely affect the Water Transport industry-Privatisation of port operation, drastic reduction in manpower, free entry of multi-nationals in coastal shipping and in foreign trade of the country will become the order of the day. The growth of our national shipping industry will be greatly affected and tonnage of our country is already declining year by year.

The US imperialists are blackmailing our country with super 301 and imposition of restriction on India's trade. The notorious Dunkel proposals will hit hard our foreign trade and make economic progress difficult. The recent U.S. objection to India's obtaining rocket technology from Russia is a gross interference in India's internal affairs. The Water Transport Workers' Federation of India hailed the successful ASLV test and wished further success in India's scientific research in future. Indian people will solidly stand behind every attempt to fight U.S. blackmail.

This conference demanded to the Government of India to withdraw from the proposed India U.S. joint Naval exercise.

K P S Menon Chairman Reception Committee welcomed the delegates. M.K. Pandhe General Secretary CITU in-augurated the conference. K.K. Roy Ganguly General Secretary submitted a report on activities of the federation which was discussed at length by the delegats from all the ports. The Report was adopted unanimously after discussion. Shiv Shankar Ghortal, Treasurer submitted a Statement Accounts of the fedration which was adopted unanimously.

Shyamal Chakraborty, Minister of Transport Government of West Bengal greeted the conference. Water Transport leaders of INTUC and AITUC also greeted the Conference.

The conference expressed serious concern at the growing menace of communalism and divisive forces in the country. It called upon the working class to fight these disruptive forces with all their might so that unity and integrity of the country can be preserved.

The conference expressed its strong resentment

at the dismantling of democratic institutions and curtailing their powers by Karunakaran Government. It condemned the repressive measure adopted by the Karunakaran Government against the democratic movement.

The conference welcomed the decision of the Sponsoring Committee to give a call for an All India General Strike on 16th June 1992 and appeals to all the Federations working in the Waterfront Industry to endorse this call so that all the Water-Transport workers join the call so that it can be made a grand success.

The conference finalised the proposals for a new Charter of Demands and decided to organise a countrywide discussion on these demands so that by the first week of July it can be finalised by the office bearers of the Federation. The conference called upon all the unions to campaign among the workers on these demands so that pressure can be brought on the Port Authorities for a satisfactory solution of all the outstanding demands.

The conference elected a new Working Committee including M.M Lawrence as the President and Subash Chakraborty as the General Secretary.

A mass rally was held after the Conference of Mattachehemy Town Hall which was addressed by M.K. Pandhe, Shyamal Chakraborty and others.

### Com. Paritosh Banerjee

The CITU expresses its deep sorrow at the passing away in Calcutta on 18 May '92 of Com. Paritosh Banerjee, a prominent leader of Hind Mazdoor Sabha in West Bengal. He started his trade union life as an important functionary of the BPTUC and an organizer of the railway workers. He later joined Hind Mazdoor Sabha when it was formed and devoted his time and energy mostly for the railway trade union movement in the course of which he became first the General Secretary and then President of the Eastern Railwaymen's Union & Treasurer of the All India Railwaymen's Federation. His outlook as a leader of railway trade union movement was marked by an urge for unity of all forces with diverse political affiliation in the struggle for the cause of railwaymen and the working class.

# International Solidarity Meet at Philippines : A Quest for New Orientation

Jibon Roy

Notwithstanding the fact that the horizon of Internationalism is shadowed today by the setback to socialism in erstwhile Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, its gleaming shine is still kept beamed through the smokes of confusion widening international working class movement is tending to assume distinction in days to come.

If the working class resistance worldwide in recent times is sought to be viewed along with growing urge for international consolidation amongst the ranks in the movement, it could be said that the eclipse is not at all permanent. The very existence of the working class as the creator of all wealth but still robbed of its due share, keeps the candle of internationalism lightened through its struggle against expropriators scattered but united internationally. Rejuvenated compatriotism amongst the developing nations and increasing unity of the people against "New World Order" widens the concurrent characteristics of resistance against multinationals and US gangsterism is adding new colour to international brotherhood in those Third World nations. My experience through 15 days Philippine visit during April end and May '92 and participation in the 9th International solidarity at Philippines and in the seminar on "New World Order" has given me confidence to feel that internationalism is a phenomenon, can survive and acquire strength even at the most critical stage of international working class movement.

**Increased need of international co-operation was responded**

In view of a situation under unipolar world when the International working class movement was under severe strain the Centre of Indian Trade Unions thought it urgent to strengthen its international relationship at a broader length. Invitation from Kilusang Mayo Uno Labour Centre of Philippine had therefore been readily accepted. SWFI had gladly responded to the call of sponsoring the visit and asked me to undertake the responsibility.

I reached Manila in the evening of 28th April and stayed there upto 9th morning. Attended the May Day celebrations, visited extensively all areas of the metropolis.

I had the opportunity to visit factory gates, prison house, slums and also the trade union offices. I have been enlightened and enthralled with the stories of heroic resistance struggle of the working class and the people of the Island nation against neo-

colonialism its militarism and state sponsored terrorism. I got moved with the art of combining various forms of struggles and the forums in a state of situation where everything and anything could be declared illegal. Situation is such that even killing of trade union activist or worker at the factory gate either by military or by private force of employer is made permissible in the name of curbing terrorism. And same is also a regular phenomenon and news of sudden disappearance of trade union leaders and activists is quite common in Philippine trade union movement. In a political system which moves entirely at the pleasure of USA everything is expected.

I got specially the first hand experience about socio-economic picture of a country when a semi-feudal and neo-colonial economy is structurally adjusted globally. But the precious experience I brought home is about the real state of happenings in the continents of the unipolar world of today. My intimate talks with 65 odd delegates participated in the seminar on "New World Order" and their speeches had been a great source of understanding the world.

**K M U As The Driving Force to Trade Union Unity**

The Kilusang Mayo Uno Labour Centre is the united Trade Union Platform of the Left in the Philippines representing 20 percent of the country's 3.2 million industrial workers. This is the most militant section of the labour which constitute the base of labour and democratic movement. It is hardly conceivable to the people who live in democratic society what adversities a trade union movement has to face in a militarized society where anti-communism forms the main plank of ruling polity and general democratic aspiration is throttled. Notwithstanding right to organize and right to strike is guaranteed under constitution, in reality a legal strike is almost impregnable in the semi-feudal and semi-colonial society. Any strike notice is invariably followed by Government intervention and in such a situation it becomes automatically illegal. True to the sense of state structure in a semi-feudal and semi-colonial country, maintenance of private army by the industrialists is allowed. Storming of factory gate by the military is a regular occurrence there. Kelusang Mayo Uno popularly known as KMU took the arduous task of organising different sections of the working class in private and public sector, Government Employees who are organised under different organisations, and many of whom have not yet been unionised. Ceaseless campaign against

colonial exploitation, colonial wages and in support of extension of democracy could form the platform of unity step. Though it is far off from achieving a total unity, KMU can claim that it could establish itself as the main platform of trade union unity in Philippines.

### **Globalisation of Semi-Colonial Economy and Working Class**

The nation of 17,000 small and big islands, rich with alluvian agricultural land and stored with immense quantity of high quality gold and nickel has been converted into an import based export oriented country. Its quarries, garment and semiconductor industries are totally owned by the foreigners. There is no capital goods industry in the country and hence mined products are processed by the multinationals abroad. Garment and semi-conductor goods are processed with imported raw materials. As the economic management is left entirely to the market forces, in case of Philippines they are multinationals, it is thrown into a great inflationary spiral to a average of 25-30% per year and into ruthless consumerism. On the other there is no Govt protection even for the most weakest section of the population. Multinational makes not alone the choice of commodity to be produced but create compulsion for the people to consume. I have visited number of public places in Manila and I found no drinkidg water or tap in railway stations, markets, or hotel complex. People are compelled to take Coco cola or beer in place of water and this is converted the consumer pattern from basic necessities to luxuries.

Minimum wages fixed for the Philippine workers to compare with other third world nations may be treated better in terms/net amount. It is around 5 dollar a day against less than one dollar in India. But in view of reality that everthing except oxygen in the air is under the control of the market forces, there being no safety net against price or social security measures like provident fund, gratuity etc such better rank in wages appears to be illusive. There is no system of wage scale and overwnelming percentage of workers are posted in lowest level of wage rate; no education or medical facilities by the employers or the government. Nonetheless, whichever minimum wage is fixed has not been paid in most part of the country, even in Manila. In all practical purposes working class has been left to the mercy of multinationals.

What is inspiring is the taking up of challenge by the Philippino working class. Growing strike struggle against the colonial wage and acute living condition is the striking phenomenon in working class struggle. We came by cases of strikes to continue for months together and sometime more than year. Through this struggle trade union unity developed. In a semicolonial and militarized society no militant trade union movement can spread its roots

unless the movement could embrace the entire community in it different type of social movements and enlargement of mass education. The KMU to the best of its ability trying to keep itself at the midst of these movements beginning from health or science movement to the length of community education. Its contact with student, youth and women movement is not just ritualistic but it is a systematic organisation. Working women's participation in KMU functioning is a great feature in Philippino trade union movement. It is claimed that the KMU along-with its other allies have the influence over 60% of the population.

### **Seminar on New Economic Order—An Important Step Towards Brother International Understanding**

The international department of KMU which is equipped with all modern communication systems and experienced staff is proud for the organisation. Through a consistent painstaking process the KMU could establish friendly contacts with number of trade unions groups in Asia and Pacific, Western part of Australia, many European countries. This contacts led to the formation of solidarity committees in some of such countries. This international contacts have saved the Philippine trade union movement enormously from being isolated from the International working class movement and thus from being crushed by state terrorism from within. The International Seminar on "New World Order" is the result of that pursuit. It cannot be claimed that the seminar had been a well represented one or well documented. Except CITU, KOSATU (South Africa), Vietnam General Confederation of Labour, LUSTME (New Caledonia) no trade unions from developing nations could participate. Despite having genuine intention many trade unions could not participate because of financial reasons. Out of all National trade unions in Europe, only CGT France has participated. From Japan number of trade unions which have just been striving to fill up the vacuum created due to stepped up compromise of proletarian internationalism by the govt. backed central trade union participated. What was the most important was the participation of number of regional trade unions from Australia which are affiliataed to International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. Similarly few ICFTU unions from Canada have participated. Besides, groups of workers and independent unions from Belgium and Newzealand did attend the seminar. In total sixty seven delegates have participated in the seminar.

**In the Quest for New Approach**

The rebuilding of international consolidation of the working class, in the current context when no pre-conceived notion can work and traditional platforms of international movement got practically disorganised, trade union movement have no other option but to find new friends in organisation irrespective of affiliations. We are to expand our vision, go deep into the phenomenon of international working class movement and to find truth. If the Philippine seminar is viewed on that broader aspect, it must be said it is a great success.

Quite a large number of papers were presented by the unions representing different countries. Those had dealt in length how exploitation by T.N.C.s has intensified in the recent past, sanctions are decreed against nations. It was generally stated irrespective of first or third world unions present in the seminar that pressure on working class is intensified at every passing day of pursuit of new world order. Apprehension of military expansionism found expression in many speeches. Notable, is that number of delegates from developed countries such as Belgium, Australia, Japan had expressed concern at the growing trend of chauvinistic intolerance against migrants or minorities. There was general urge irrespective of affiliation to co-operate and exchange experience. Most important had been the unanimous adoption of a resolution against U. S. blockade against Cuba.

In a situation of utter confusion travelling of so many people a long distance on their own expenses, their eagerness to understand the new situation, expressing genuine anger against US hegemonism are no doubt the most positive feature that reflected in the whole exercise. Appreciable critical attitude against US economic and Military hegemonism taken by the activists coming from cross section of trade union affiliates gives definite direction towards immediate international approach.

**EPF rate of interest declared**

The Ministry of Labour Government of India vide its notification No. G.20015/1/92-S. II dated 1.6.1992 has declared the rate of interest to be credited to the Employees' provident fund members Account for the year 1992-93. According to the decision the rate of interest to be credited is 12% per annum.

**Who Advises whom**

Through World Bank and IMF the developed capitalist countries, particularly the USA, are seeking to be the self-appointed teachers of developing third world countries, and preaching capitalism and non-planned market economy to be the only effective means for all round development.

But what are these countries doing themselves? A ILO study reveals that unemployment in Britain is touching 10%, USA 8%, West Germany 6%, Canada about 11%, Spain about 15% and Italy around 11%. The notable point is that in all these countries the phenomenon is having a rising trend. This is clear from the table below.

**Unemployment rates in advanced Capitalist Countries**

	1989-90	Current
Britain	7%	9.5%
Austria	3 "	5.6 "
Japan	2.1 "	2 "
U.S.	5.5 "	7.6 "
Chile	5.6 "	4.5 "
Spain	16 "	15 "
Sweeden	1.5 "	4 "
Finland	3.5 "	12 "
Turkey	8.5 "	7 "
Italy	11 "	11.2 "
Israel	9.5 "	11.5 "
W. Germany	5 "	5.5 "
Mexico	2.5 "	3 "
Canada	8 "	11 "

Source : International Labour Organization

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