

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Meeting of the General Council

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2-5 June 2012
Coimbatore, Tamilnadu

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

General Council Meeting
2-5 June 2012, Coimbatore

AGENDA

1. Condolence Resolution
2. Presidential Address
3. Report of the General Secretary
4. Verification of membership of Central Trade Unions
5. Resolutions
6. Report of the Credential Committee
7. Concluding remarks

PROGRAMME

02.06.2012	10.00 am – 11.30 am	:	OPEN SESSION Flag Hoisting & Homage to Martyrs Welcome Address Presidential Address
	12.00 – 1.30 pm	:	GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING Condolence Resolution Introduction of General Secretary's Report, Treasurer's report
	03.30 pm - 05.00 pm	:	Introduction of Report on Verification Fraternal Greetings, Resolutions
	05.30 pm -07.00 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
03.06.2012	9.30 am -01.30 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
	03.30 pm - 8.30 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
04.06.2012	9.30 am -01.30 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
	03.30 pm – 07.00pm	:	Discussion on Verification
	07.00pm -	:	Secretariat Meeting
05.06.2012	9.30 am -02.00 pm	:	Report of the Credential Committee, Reply to Discussion, Adoption of Reports, Resolutions, Concluding Remarks.
	05.00pm -	:	Rally and Public meeting
(Tea Breaks : 11.30pm - 12 noon & 05.00 pm - 05.30 pm)			
(Lunch Break : 01.30 pm to 03.30 pm)			

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

**General Council Meeting
2-5 June 2012, Coimbatore**

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dear General Council Members, members of the reception committee and special invitees from fraternal organizations,

On behalf of the Secretariat and on my behalf, I welcome you all to this meeting of General Council.

This is the second meeting of the General Council elected in the 13th Conference at Chandigarh in March 2010. The first meeting was held at Nasik in January 2011. In between, our working committee was held in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh from 29 to 31st July 2011.

Comrades,

We are meeting in Coimbatore, an industrial centre, which has witnessed many a battles of the working class. Led by our most respected leaders like P. Ramamurti, K. Ramani, R. Umanath and many others, heroic struggles were conducted in this region, which was once known as Manchester of South India, being a major textile centre.

It may be of interest to know that this is the second time that Coimbatore is hosting the General Council meeting, the first being held immediately after the foundation Conference of CITU in Kolkata.

Many comrades, have sacrificed their lives for carrying forward the banner of class struggle and built up a strong working class movement in this region. We pay homage to all those martyrs who laid the foundation for our movement here.

Dear Comrades,

This is the first time, a General Council of CITU is being held, with our Com. M.K. Pandhe not being there. He could not attend our last General Council meeting due to ill health and you will all remember his letter addressed to all of us. He regained his health and could attend our working committee at Kullu.

But, within 20 days of our working committee meeting, Com. Pandhe passed away, being active till his last day.

There are not enough words to say about his contributions to CITU and to the Indian Working Class movement. We pay our homage to Com. M.K. Pandhe and salute his memory.

We also pay homage to the martyrs, who had to lay down their lives in the cruel attacks on the working class movement in the country and especially in West Bengal, where more than 60 comrades, men and women, have been brutally murdered during the last one year alone.

Especially, we remember Com. Pradip Tah, our General Council member member. Com. Pradip Tah and Com. Kamal Gayen, both members of the district committee of CPI(M) in West Bengal, were killed by the TMC goons, while they were in a procession in support of the historic Joint General Strike of all trade unions on 28th February.

We also pay homage to our comrades Jagadish Das (West Bengal), Sri Hari (AP), Pariyal (Andaman), Savaridass (Karnataka), all veteran leaders of CITU and also Com. Pramod Gogoi, president of AITUC and one of the vice presidents of WFTU.

Comrades,

We also pay homage to Com. N. Varadarajan who passed away on 10th April. Com. NV as he was called, was a tall leader of the working class in Tamilnadu. Beginning his life as a textile mill worker, he rose from the ranks to become the secretary of CPI(M), Tamilnadu state committee and a member of the Central Committee of CPI(M). His public activities as a working class leader spread over 70 years.

Dear Comrades,

We have all assembled here from all over the country, after conducting one of the most successful countrywide general strikes, on 28th February. This was the 14th countrywide general strike against the neoliberal policies of the ruling classes and, as is well known, was the first ever general strike where all the central trade unions in the country had joined together to organize and was participated in by around 10 crore workers all over the country.

Here, in this General Council, we will be discussing about carrying forward this united struggle and also about various other important issues on struggles and on strengthening our organization.

A year has passed since the assembly elections in West Bengal and Kerala, where the Left faced defeat. The impact of this 'change' is now felt by everybody, even those who voted for the 'change'. Attacks on democratic and trade union rights are continuing and in West Bengal, the authoritarian face of the Govt. is being exposed. The attitude of West Bengal Govt. towards the 28th February strike made clear its anti-working class approach. The achievements of the Left Govts, both in Bengal and Kerala, are being nullified by the TMC-Congress combine in Bengal and the Congress led UDF in Kerala. As for the UPA II Govt., they want to hurry up with their neo-liberal agenda, ignoring the situation prevailing in the whole world.

The Union Budget presented in March this year, and also the Railway budget expose the continuation of their anti-people policies.

All reports, analysis on the state of the nation today expose the precarious situation in which the working people in the country, both urban and rural, are forced to live. For instance, the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner recently released the report on household amenities and assets based on the census carried out in 2010. The report exposes the living conditions of the majority of Indians. Nearly 50 per cent of our people living in 6 lakh villages and 7933 towns do not have access to water within their premises. The report stated that much of India lived in one room households with mud flooring, used bicycles for transport, burnt fire wood

for fuel, did not have separate kitchen, had no access to safe drainage and used open latrines. More than 50 per cent of households do not have latrines. Eradication of manual scavenging still remains on paper and there are estimates by organizations fighting against this dehumanizing practice, that there are more than 3 lakh people still involved in this practice. Even now, 67 per cent of our households are using firewood, crop residue cow dung or coal for cooking!

Another report, known as HUNGAMA report, was released by our Prime Minister himself. He had to admit that the situation was shameful. We are on top of the many charts on malnutrition among children, underweight and stunted growth. While this is the situation it is also reported that the National Council on Nutritional Challenges, formed under the Prime Minister in October 2008, has met only once in November 2010.

For the much trumpeted flagship programme of UPA, the MNREGA allotment by the Govt. has been continuously going down. In the year 2010-11 out of the allotted amount of Rs.40100 crores, only Rs.35,769 were spent. In the last financial year, 2011-12, Rs.40,000 crores were allotted and upto December 2011 only 22,251 crores were spent. 257.2 crore work days have been reduced to 160.55 crore workdays in the first 9 months of 2011-12.

The shameful calculation on poverty lines, from the Planning Commission is now well known. Minimum food intake, agreed even by Planning Commission is 2400 calories for rural and 2100 for urban people while food consumed was 2266 calories for rural in 1972-73, 2153 in 1993-94 and 2020 calories in 2009-10. For urban India, the figure was 2107 in 1972-73, 2071 in 1993-94 and 1946 in 2009-10. This is the picture of 'growth', even according to National Sample Survey Organization.

While the Govt. is boasting of high production and over flowing godowns, the daily per capita availability has been falling steadily and dangerously during the reform years. This has been pointed out in detail by Dr. P. Sainath. While per capita availability figure rose every five year period from 433.7 in 1972-76 to 480.3 grams in 1987-91, i.e. the pre-reform period, it came down to 441.4 grams in 2006-10. This, Dr. Sainath points out, is less than the figure for 1956-60 which was 446.9 grammes.

As food prices are rocketing and income of the needy is going down, the living standards of working people are deteriorating. It is in this situation that the Govt. is refusing to have a universal public distribution system in the country and also not coming forward to have a country wide minimum wage with a scientific basis, as was agreed upon in Indian Labour Conference in 1957 and also on the basis of the Supreme Court Judgment in Raptakoss and Brett case.

In the recently held 44th Indian Labour Conference, where the question of minimum wages was the main agenda, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, who inaugurated the conference, did not utter a word about it. On the other hand, he touched upon the persisting demand of the employers, for amendments to labour laws on the basis of their being a hindrance to increase employment opportunities.

The decision of the 43rd ILC, where the workers and Govt. representatives agreed for amendments to Contract Labour Regulation and Amendment Act is still kept pending in the files of the Govt. This

is happening at a time when the the contract system has become an all prevailing system of cruel exploitation in public, private sector establishments and even in Govt. offices.

Despite the experiences the world over, the UPA Govt. wants to go ahead with its disinvestment programmes and also with dangerous amendments to the statutes in the financial sector. The dangers involved in the anti-people, anti-national aspects of disinvestment programmes are now being exposed with the developments in Coal India. A 1% share holder of CIL, a maharatna PSU, based in UK, is threatening international arbitration against the Govt. of India on the issue of pricing of coal. If an investor of only about 1% can threaten a maharatna PSU to go against its PSU character, what will be the fate of PSUs where 49% is disinvested? How will the parliamentary control over the PSUs be maintained?

Added to this is a recent study where the investors have forced various Govts. to go for international arbitrations and got huge compensations for 'violating' Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs). Vodafone has threatened Govt. of India for taxing them, on the basis of their international transactions.

The experience of Enron and now in various PSUs in oil and gas sector should alert us to the dangers involved of investors and corporates pressurizing directly and indirectly to make the Govt. accept their demands.

Govt. of India has gone back on the proposals of Taxations, presented during the budget. The Govt. has succumbed to the pressures of Govts of US and UK and International Investors and made amendments to the finance bill, which, BJP, the main opposition party has also supported. The Left parties have voiced their opposition to these changes.

Linked to this is the chain of scandals and corruptions of huge proportions. The latest in the chain being the defence related Tatra vehicles scam.

Dear Comrades,

It is in these circumstances that we have to continue our struggles on our immediate demands like minimum wages, contractorisation, trade union rights etc.

The recent strikes and struggles in Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Gurgaon in Haryana and the killing of the union secretary Murali Mohan in Yanam by police and the following clashes point out to the necessity of seriously following up the demand of ensuring trade union rights and mandatory recognition of trade unions in the country.

Wherever these eruptions take place, wherever spontaneous struggles develop, we should be able to intervene, give organizational guidance, and ensure working class orientation to these struggles. Unless this is done, there will not be any opportunity to consolidate.

It is also necessary that more intensive campaigns and struggles should continue against the policy issues like disinvestment and bring out the real anti-people character and loot of the neo liberalist combination.

Along with this we have to link up with the issues of peasants and agricultural workers. The

unending suicides and pauperization of peasants have to be taken up by the working class and we should be able to fight together the policies of the Govt., which bring hardship and miseries to the peasants, especially the poor and middle peasants and rural poor.

We should be able to bring back the great tradition of the jute workers of West Bengal, who in the 60s and 70s had heroically defended the interests of peasants. There were also many other struggles in different parts in support of the peasants.

Unless the unity of these two basic class forces is strengthened through struggles, we will not be able to successfully challenge the neo-liberal offensives of the ruling classes. With more and more new policy offensives like new water policy in the offing, we have to take this up seriously.

Comrades,

The attacks on the livelihood of all sections of working people are continuing. And this is part of the international offensive of finance capital. The offensive in various forms is now being challenged by the people in different parts of the world.

The recent meeting of the Presidential Council of WFTU in Johannesburg, has called upon the working people all over the world to strengthen the struggle against these offensives.

We, in our 13th Conference and later in our Working Committee meetings and in the previous General Council, had discussed in detail about the global economic crisis.

The crisis continues unabated. The disparities among the people and also among the countries have only increased. The statistics speak eloquently of widespread poverty and deprivation. 140 crores of the 680 crores of the world population live on less than US\$ 1.25 (about Rs.62) per day. 260 crores do not have access to sanitation. 88.4 crores lack access to adequate sources of drinking water (UN-HABITAT). 92.5 crores suffer from chronic hunger. (FAO). 510 crores are not under any social security schemes.(ILO). It is in this situation of increasing miseries world over and further passing on of the burdens of this crisis on to the working people, that there have been struggles by various sections of people in different parts of the world.

The year 2011 saw waves of struggles in all continents, including the developed and also developing countries.

The crisis in Euro Zone has deepened. The debt crisis in Europe is threatening the existence of the European Union itself. In order to overcome the crisis, more and more attacks, in various forms, are being planned and mounted against the working people. Along with the falling revenues, due to fall in production and in the name of austerity measures to meet this fall, wage cut, increasing work load, reduction in pension and social security benefits have become the order of the day. Unemployment is growing fast in all the countries.

The World Economic Situation and Prospects 2012, released by UN in December 2011 notes the growth slowdown of the world economy from 4 per cent in 2012 to 2.8 in 2011. The report warns of another round of recession.

Public debt ratio of European countries, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Italy etc. has increased sharply. In Greece it is 142%. In this situation countries like Greece are forced by IMF, WB and EU to accept austerity measures against loans. Such attacks on the livelihood of workers as seen in Greece, are continuing.

Greece was forced to accept 3 billion Euros spending cut, 207% cut in minimum wage, 300 million Euros slashed from pension fund, annually, 1,50,000 jobs to be lost in public sector in 3 years, wage reduction in private sector, wage freezing upto 2015 along with savage cuts in health care and child welfare. Such conditions are also being forced upon other countries like Spain, Portugal, Hungary etc. by EU.

In UK, 7,10,000 public workers will lose their jobs in next 5 years. 80% of them are women. In local self Government, one out of every ten will be given marching orders.

It is in this situation of squeezing workers and their income, even those who took the lead in perpetuating the crisis, had to change at least their words, if not their deeds. IMF Chief Christine Lagarde, in her address at Brookings Institution had this to say - "For too long, the benefits of growth have been shared by too few. Growing inequalities and weak financial sectors left the world prone to instability and crises. I have seen the costs of inability, the face of unemployment — the hardship, the loss of dignity, the economic loss. It is the same in all countries: advanced, emerging and low income".

According to IMF Chief "the risks remain high" and "the situation is fragile".

In these circumstances these burdens have resulted in the eruption of mass movements in various countries. Occupy Wall Street movement which began in September 2011 in New York against bailouts, corporate greed and against the unchecked power of Wall Street, got support of large sections of people from different sectors. This movement spread to seventy cities in the US and solidarity actions were there in 82 countries. Issues like unemployment, homelessness, increasing income disparities were brought to the fore in the US and other countries.

On completion of six months of the movement, there were massive protest actions in New York where police let loose attacks on protesters. This had led to a call for general strike in the US on 1st May and some organizations came together later to call for a global general strike.

Greece has been in continuous struggles for months now. Workers reacted to the adoption of austerity measures with 48 hours of general strike, forcing the country to a grinding halt. There were clashes with the security forces at various centres. Recent reports also show that sectoral struggles are on, wherever the austerity measures are being implemented.

Portugal saw massive participation of workers in a countrywide strike on 22nd March, forcing the country to come almost to a stand still. The strike was against the changes in the labour laws and also against the 'austerity' measures. With the so-called socialist Govt. which took over in 2009, resigning in 2011, after the deepening of the crisis, a right wing Govt. is in power. The bail out in May 2011 did not in any way benefit the country. Debt-GDP ratio increased from 102% to 110%. Economy has seen a negative growth of 1.5%. Projections for next year indicate further reduction to -3.3%. With the exports mainly depending on neighboring Spain, which is under more

severe crisis, Portugal is facing a bleak future. With increasing unemployment, especially among youth, reaching 35 per cent and flight of capital to other countries in search of more profits, the crisis is deepening. Minimum wages have been reduced considerably. More than 25% of people are below the poverty line.

In addition to the cut in wages and pension already announced, Govt. had announced reduction in leave and overtime wages and also unemployment benefits. Tuition fees, transport charges and some taxes have also been increased. New amendments to labour laws empower the employers to increase working hours, retrench workers and also to restrict collective bargaining rights.

Massive selling of PSUs like electricity generation companies has already begun. Airlines, Airport Authority, Postal, Banks, Railway, Oil and also water supply has been put on the block and are open for international investors for grabbing. It was in these circumstances that the general strike was very successful with huge participation compared to the previous strike in November 2011.

In Spain, with unemployment at 23%, economy contracting at least by 1.7 per cent this year and Govt. declaring further austerity, the general strike on 29th March had unprecedented participation.

In Italy also, recession is expected to continue this year; unemployment is increasing and GDP-debt ratio is at 120%. Unions are protesting amendments to labour laws to make hire and fire easier.

In Romania, continuing strikes and struggles against austerity forced the Prime Minister to resign. He declared that the resignation is to, 'ease the social situation'.

Germany also saw strikes across the country in February demanding wage increase to offset inflation. 15 hour warning strike saw metro, train, bus and air traffic disrupted.

In Czechoslovakia, it was tens of thousands of students on the streets in February, against increase in fees.

In addition to the countrywide strike in Belgium, the capital Brussels witnessed mass demonstrations in front of EU head quarters by workers from various countries protesting against austerity measures.

Beyond Europe, notable strikes were in Nigeria, South Africa, Kyrgyzstan and in Israel.

In South Africa, on 7th March, a country wide strike was held against increasing contractorisation, which they call labour brokerage.

In Nigeria, protesting against cut in petrol subsidies, workers went on an indefinite strike. Three workers were killed during trade union demonstration. In Lagos, in a huge protest demonstration 13 people were killed and 600 were injured. In this oil exporting country the price of petrol was increased from 29 pence to 61 pence a litre. The national strike went on for six days and was suspended after the President partially reinstated subsidy to keep petrol affordable.

In Israel, the Trade Union Federation began an indefinite strike from 8th February that shut down

banks, Govt. offices, stock exchange, railways, ports and also affected hospitals and air ports. Air ports had to open after a court intervention but in all other sectors, strike continued. Main issue was the rights of contractor workers, who earn lesser wages and do not receive other benefits also. The General strike ended after five days, following negotiations.

The Finance Ministry has agreed to boost outsourced workers' pay and benefits and bring them on par with regular workers. The workers will get increased wages and also improvements in pensions, sick pay, holiday leave and subsidized lunches. The agreement had a clause that the Federation had committed not to strike, for 'economic demands' for three years.

These are only some of those struggles which have been reported, through which working people have expressed their anger against the ruling classes who want to pass on the effects of the capitalist crisis on to the shoulders of the workers.

With the general trade union movement in many countries weakened during the offensives of international finance capital and the neo liberal policies, these upsurges are note worthy.

Notable are the results of elections in various countries. During the last 3 years, eleven Governments in the Euro zone have lost the elections, obviously the result of the anger amongst the people against the policies being pursued.

Very recently. The French people voted out the Sarkozy Govt. and registered their anger against 'austerity'. The same was the case in Greece. Two major parties in the Government have lost heavily. Trends of local polls in Italy, Germany and some other countries also reflect the same situation.

With all predictions about recovery of the crisis fading away, more and attacks are to be expected on the working people all over the world and there are bound to be more eruptions.

Being a contingent of the international working class movement, we will have to closely follow these developments, educate our cadres on these and also raise our voice in solidarity with these struggles.

In addition to this, we have to go into solidarity actions with the heroic people of Palestine, who have been on struggle against the US-Israel combination denying them their right to live in their country and get sovereign rights over their land, which has been annexed by the Zionist forces.

With U.S. imperialism continuing their hegemonic attacks in the name of restoring democracy, our workers should be told about these offensives. After the attacks on Libya, Afghanistan etc., now the targets are Iran and Syria.

The aims of US imperialists and their partners are very obvious. What they want is a regime change. Syria and Iran are targeted because they do not fall in line with the dictates of U.S. imperialism.

In addition to threats of attacks on these countries, millions of dollars and arms are being pumped into Syria.

The end result of the invasion on Libya is now there before the world. They got rid of Gaddafi and the country is in shambles and tribal conflicts continue unabated. Libya's huge oil and gas resources are being shared by US, British and French multinationals, as a part of the loot. So is the situation in Afghanistan, where attacks from the Taliban are continuing.

The developments in Latin America, especially in countries like Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador and Nicaragua where an alternative against the neoliberal policies, although within the existing capitalist system, is developed and people oriented policies are implemented are encouraging. These countries are also ensuring that the natural resources of the countries are not allowed to be exploited by the multi nationals.

Our neighbours

The situation in Sri Lanka has not improved, even after the end of civil war. The Government of Sri Lanka should take immediate steps for a political settlement on the issues of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka and also investigate and punish the culprits who committed atrocities on civilians during the last phase of the war.

In Bangladesh the working class struggles are continuing and there have been serious attacks on the workers in industries like garments.

In Nepal, after a stalemate for more than 2 years there have been some positive developments towards framing a constitution. With the integration of the Maoist led Peoples Liberation Army into the Nepalese army, the way for framing the constitution has been opened up. It is reported that this process will be concluded by the end of May.

Dear Comrades,

With the unity that has been achieved among the central trade unions and National Federations, our General Council in this meeting will have to decide upon the future course of action.

We also have various issues related to our organization and various sectoral demands.

There are also issues related to social oppression, where our Tamilnadu comrades have taken a lead along with several other organizations. The Tamilnadu Untouchability Eradication Front in which CITU and other fraternal organizations have taken active role have brought out cruel forms of untouchability being practised in various parts of the state and have been successfully conducting struggles against these.

There are many lessons to be learned by our trade unions from these types of activities and we should be in the forefront of struggles against social oppression against Dalits, Tribal people and others.

Recent reports coming from various parts of the country, without exception, about the atrocities against women and children are heart breaking. If it is not for the trade unions and working people as an organized force, who else can fight the perpetrations of cruelties against these women and

children? We should be able to rouse the consciousness of our members and the people against these crimes.

Dear Comrades,

Before I conclude I should remind you about the attacks on our leaders, cadres and organizations in West Bengal. The details of murderous attacks are known to you. Our comrades in West Bengal have a great tradition of fighting the attacks of the class enemies. It is the responsibility of comrades from other parts of the country, to be with them in their struggles. The real face of the authoritarian and autocratic forces that has gained power in the name of change is being exposed every day. Let us assure the working class of West Bengal of our solidarity and support.

Dear Comrades,

This is the birth centenary year of Com. P. Sundarayya, the legendary leader of the Telengana revolt. We salute his memory and pledge to carry forward the ideals for which he spent all his life, that is for an India – a socialist India free from all deprivations to the toiling masses.

Dear Comrades,

Once again I would salute you all and through you all our members and all other sections of workers who have made the historic countrywide strike on 28th February a grand success. CITU calls upon every section of the working people to further strengthen the unity and carry forward the struggle towards our goal of an exploitation free India.

Let us salute all our martyrs.

Let us pledge to carry forward their legacy.

CITU ZINDABAD

WORKING CLASS UNITY ZINDABAD

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Meeting of General Council

2-5 June 2012, Coimbatore

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dear Comrades,

The CITU General Council is meeting after a long gap (after the meeting in Nasik in January 2011) owing to unavoidable circumstances. The CITU Working Committee met last July 2011 at Kullu and in the intervening period CITU Secretariat had two meetings on 14-15 November 2011 and 20-21 April at New Delhi to deal with the issues confronting our movement.

1.1.1 The intervening period since the last working committee meeting has been full of events and many important developments in international and national arena. The trade union movement has also been eventful with the CITU unions remaining in the front line. With the active association of our state committees, federations and unions, CITU tried to play its role in effectively responding to the tasks and challenges during the period. The General Council has to thoroughly review the situation and the movemental and organisational activities undertaken and decide its course of action.

1.1.2 The presidential address has dealt in details with the international developments which need not be repeated here. To be brief, the international situation during the intervening period features continuance and deepening of the crisis in the world capitalist order in the form of continuing recession and spread of unemployment with virtually no sign of recovery as yet. The crisis got reflected in the more desperate, aggressive and hegemonic drive by imperialist forces led by the US to subjugate the developing countries' economies through multi-pronged economic and trade diplomacy. The world also witnessed militarist muscle flexing by the US imperialist power in the Middle East and Arab countries, in Libya, Syria and Iran in particular.

1.1.3 However, the most positive development in the international arena is the wave of strike struggles spread all over Europe, America and Africa by the working people expressing their anger and protest against the heinous ploy of the capitalist class to pass over the burden of economic crisis on to them through price rise, cuts in wages and social security and massive job losses. This explosion of organised working class actions on a global scale was also accompanied by worldwide protests and demonstrations against the impact of crisis on the life and livelihood of the people at large, which has drawn wide participation by people from all walks of life. This phase of mass protest started with 'occupy Wall Street' demonstration in the USA in September 2011 and spread all over USA and to all the major cities in the world. From this movement the slogans – "ninety nine per cent versus one per cent" and "billions for speculators and pennies for the people" were raised demonstrating intolerance to the system of one per cent capitalists looting ninety nine per cent of the people which is the hallmark of neoliberal economic order.

1.2 NATIONAL SITUATION

1.2.1 Dealing with the national political developments, the Kullu working committee meeting ob-

served that following the defeat of the Left in West Bengal and Kerala leading to its depleted strength in Lok Sabha, the correlations of forces in the political scenario has taken a rightward shift and that the UPA-II government would take more pro-imperialist right-wing stance and go on offensive with its big-ticket financial reforms programme of privatization and deregulation.

1.2.2 As the events unfolded during the intervening period, such right wing shift has become starkly visible both in the political, economic and foreign policy front. In the background of deepening recession in the western economies and hegemonic exercise of the imperialist forces in the politico economic fronts to make the developing countries' governments succumb to their game-plan, the Indian ruling polity was seen to be more openly obliging the US administration's strategic ploy.

1.2.3 In the foreign policy front, the government of India is virtually toeing the US line on Iran and Syria. Such right-ward desperateness of the government was reflected in its announcement of the decision to allow 100 per cent FDI in multi-brand retail trade just before the commencement of winter session of Parliament. During the session, the government made hectic persuasion to get the major financial sector related bills on pension-privatisation, banking regulation and Insurance cleared by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance to make them ready for being taken up by Parliament. Simultaneously pro-active parleying is being made for pushing through negotiations on Indo-EU free trade agreement which may bring relief to the recession stricken European economy but would prove disastrous to Indian industries. The game-plan for the privatisation of vital infrastructural and public utility services has been proceeding fast by unleashing the so called private-public-partnership model in almost every sector under the sky right from roadway development, railways, communication, public transport, power, petroleum, water supply, health and education and even in the defence sector.

1.2.4 But following the exposure of corrupt deals one after another involving the government at the centre during the period under review, the image of the Congress led government got severely tarnished. The main opposition BJP also could not get much advantage owing to the involvement of BJP led government in Karnataka and some other states in corrupt land and mining deals. Side by side, continuing rise in prices of the essential commodities and resultant impact on the common people has also created severe resentment among the masses which was reflected through various demonstrations and agitations throughout the country both by political parties and also by various mass fronts. Land acquisition drive by corporates in different states has also given rise to spontaneous opposition among the common people and farmers in particular. In totality growing resentment among the mass of the people throughout the country owing to price rise, unemployment, agrarian crisis etc on the one hand and continuous exposure of various cases of corruptions on the other have cornered the government at the centre and the Congress party in particular.

1.2.5 Assembly elections in five states including UP and Punjab was a major political event during the intervening period. In UP, Congress fared badly and BJP also could not improve its position. In Punjab, overcoming anti-incumbency, the Akali led government could retain its power. In Uttarakhand also Congress and BJP finished neck to neck. In MCD elections in Delhi, Congress got defeated. Altogether, the recent elections results reflected erosion of Congress support base in the Hindi heartland while the main opposition BJP could not gain much. The regional parties filled up the void instead. This also signals growing disenchantment among the people against the ruling congress at the centre.

1.2.6 Precisely owing to such a situation, and in the background of united opposition by the trade union movement expressed through various agitations, the government could not push through its scheduled reforms programmes like deregulation of banking and insurance sector, pension reforms etc. It was compelled to shelve its declared programme of allowing FDI in multi-brand retail for the time being.

1.2.7 But one thing needs to be noted in particular. The emerging correlation of forces in the political arena in the background of growing disenchantment against Congress rulers can no way be construed as any consistent and principled opposition to the rightwing policies of UPA-II government either in the political or in economic front. None of the regional parties are consistent in their opposition to the neoliberal policies or the pro-imperialist stance of the government on foreign and economic policy matters. In the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, none of the non-Congress parties except the Left have voiced any substantive dissent against the Pension Bill or banking or insurance related Bills.

1.2.8 In the above situation, the task before us, therefore, is to heighten the united struggle of the working class against the neoliberal policy regime along with independent campaign on the politics of the pro-imperialist neoliberal order in order to combat the right-wing shift in the politico-economic policy regime.

2.0 SITUATION IN ECONOMY

2.1.1 The economic situation is featured by relentless rise in the prices of food and other essential commodities during the intervening period making the life of the common people miserable. The situation has been made more critical by increase in petrol prices a number of times generating a cascading impact on the already rising prices.

2.1.2 Despite all talks of growth oriented policies by the government at the centre, the economy signals a decline in rate of growth, in industrial sector in particular compelling the government to revise downwards the forecast for GDP growth. It is but natural since rising prices and dwindling purchasing power of mass of the common people had its impact by squeezing the commodity market and therefore on the industrial production.

Continuance of recession in the European economies owing to world capitalist crisis has affected our economy in a big way. This has resulted in dwindling export market of Indian products and finally led to alarming increase in trade deficit by 55.8% to US\$ 184.9 billion in 2011-12 compared to last year. This has its impact on fast depreciation of rupee value in terms of dollar and steep increase in import bill, particularly on crude oil account, and also in fertilisers, gold, edible oil etc enhancing the trade deficit further. Biased policy of export-orientation remained totally unmindful about the alarming increase in the import-dependence of Indian industries and exports, particularly in automobile, jewelleryes and consumer-durables, thereby pushing up the import bill. Caught in such a situation, the Indian rulers have become desperate in appeasing the foreign institutional investors and other speculating agencies through various types of concessions and deregulatory measures to augment foreign fund inflow at any cost, unmindful of its negative implication on the economy. In fact the faulty policy has led to a vicious circle of trade-deficit and financial deregulation.

2.1.3 Another aspect need to be noted. A serious shortage situation is looming large in the energy sector, i.e., coal, power and petroleum, that too, owing to faulty policy of promoting private players, both domestic and foreign in all the segments of energy sector and simultaneous discouraging/bottlenecking the capacity addition in the public sector units in the energy sector. As a result industrial units are facing a severe shortage of energy supply, power production is getting affected owing to non-availability of gas and/or coal and many industries are facing shut-down, closure, or underutilisation of capacity as a result of interruption in power supply. The burden of this crisis is being passed on to workers through wage-cut, lay-off, closure etc.

2.1.4 Workers in certain industries are also facing a crisis, despite the industries minting huge profits. The tea garden workers are facing worst exploitation although the tea industry as a whole is enjoying a fairly high profit. The situation is almost the same in the jute industry.

2.1.5 Textile is another sector which is earning huge profits through export. But the export oriented garments units are decentralised and the workers, mostly not unionised, are being subjected to heavy exploitation with meager wages and no social security. Power loom sector is facing severe problems owing to the shortage of yarn and also due to erratic power cuts. In the handloom sector, owing to struggles, the government had to sanction Rs 3300 crore as debt relief to cooperative societies and independent weavers. But in many states this relief has not reached to societies or weavers. On the other hand, many textile mills downsized themselves through decentralisation and outsourcing and workers are facing the major brunt of exploitation.

2.1.6 Agriculture is continuing to face a crisis situation despite increase in agricultural production last year compared to previous year. Despite good harvest majority of agricultural populace did not reap any benefit as the minimum support price is not commensurate with high cost of agricultural inputs and also owing to biased and faulty policies in favour of big landlords and traders. Rural India continues to witness farmers' suicides and deeper impoverishment of majority of rural population.

2.1.7 Worst situation, therefore is noted in the employment front. As per NSSO data, the rate of growth in employment has declined during 2005-2010 period to mere 0.8% from 2.7% during 2000-2005. This decline in rate of growth in employment has taken place despite having annual average GDP growth at 8.5% in 2005-10, substantially higher than previous five-year block of 2000-2005. This exposes the economic trajectory adopted by the government of India to be a jobless one, thereby creating more inequality and economic disparity in the society.

2.1.8 In the midst of such a milieu, the government of the day has been falsely claiming a sharp decline in poverty citing the planning commission data. In fact while failing to arrest the pace of growing impoverishment of the masses due to their pro-rich faulty economic and distributive policies, the government has resorted to artificially define the official poverty line to a ridiculously low level of income/consumption per day—i.e., Rs 22.4 per day for rural people and Rs 28.6 per day for urban people.

2.1.9 Poverty has in fact been increasing with the level of average earning by the majority of people going down sharply both in absolute and real terms owing to continuing price rise on the one hand and distortion in distributive mechanism brought about by low quality of employment and faster informalisation of workplaces throughout the country. 2010 onward, the wages share in net value added even in the manufacturing sector (which is basically in the organised sector till now) has

gone down to less than 10% while profit's share has gone up as high as 60%. In the service and unorganised sector, situation is bound to be more precarious. In such a situation any claim for overall poverty reduction by the government is nothing but a total falsehood. In fact the government and its Planning Commission are working on a project of eliminating the poor from books of account instead of eradicating poverty on the ground.

2.1.10 Rather, inequality has been increasing to an intolerable level. The number of dollar billionaire in India has doubled to reach 55 in two years ending in 2011. The net worth of these 55 dollar billionaires is 240 billion dollars, i.e., Rs 12 lakh crore –more than the size of the annual budget of the country. Side by side the poverty is deepening as explained above. The 66th Round of National Sample Survey carried out between July 2009 and June 2010 revealed that the poorest 10% of rural population survive with below Rs15/- per day whereas for the poorest 10% of urban population the figure is a little higher at Rs 20/- per day. According to the same report the median level of Monthly Per capita Consumption Expenditure(MPCE) was Rs. 895 in rural and Rs. 1,502 in urban India, indicating consumption level of majority of population.

2.1.11 The recently released 'Household Amenities and Assets Census of 2011' shows the extent of poverty in different spheres in India. Out of the 24.6 crore households in India only 29% have a house with concrete roof, only 32% have access to tapped drinking water and only 47% have a latrine facility within the premises. 49.8% of the households still have to defecate in the open; 49% of the households still use firewood as the fuel for cooking and another 17% use cow dung cake or crop residue. 39% of households do not have any kitchen. This is the ground reality in India today.

2.2 Union Budget 2012

2.2.1 The Union Budget 2012-13 has aggravated the situation further. The Budget has decided to suck and rob the millions of poor further to pay the handful of richer class. While thousands of crores of tax concessions are being doled out to the corporate and the rich, the aam admi is being burdened through subsidy cuts and increase in indirect taxes.

2.2.2 The entire budgetary exercise is premised upon a strategy to meet the budget deficit by increasing indirect taxes across the board, which has hit the common people, primarily the poorer sections. The revenue proposals in the current budget have provided relief of Rs.4500 crore in direct taxes, while proposing to mobilise ten times more, an additional Rs. 45,940 crore through indirect taxes, which will inevitably be passed on to the consumers. As per an estimate real burden of indirect tax is going to be around Rs 73000 crore.

2.2.3 The burden of indirect tax in the total tax revenue has been consistently increasing to reach almost two third of the country's total tax revenue, i.e., 63% as per Indian Public Finance Statistics, 2010-11. According to findings of another in-depth study and survey made by Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA), Hyderabad, the existing level of indirect tax burdens even the poorest of the poor among rag-pickers, rickshaw-pullers, street vendors etc having an income of around Rs 3300/- per month, to the tune of around 10.6% of their monthly consumption expenditure. In such a situation the budgetary decision to increase the indirect tax by around Rs 45940 crore is simply atrocious and inhumane.

2.2.4 The drastic cut in the fuel subsidy by Rs 25000 crore along with deregulation in petro-price

and the contemplated deregulation of diesel will make fuel price rise perpetual having cascading impact on the prices of all commodities. Added to this has been the steep increase in the cess being collected on petroleum from Rs 2500/- per tonne to Rs 4500/- per tonne which will further push up the fuel price. The cut in subsidies to fertilisers by 6000 crore rupees will also lead to further price rise of fertilisers which have already imposed unbearable burdens on farmers who are already burdened owing to agrarian crisis. And even allocation on food subsidy marked a marginal increase by 3% which actually reflects a decline if inflation is taken into account. In terms of percentage of GDP, food subsidy actually declined from 0.81% to 0.73%.

2.2.5 The bias against the overwhelming people is reflected in every step in the budgetary and taxation exercise. Subsidies for the majority of populace, i.e., on account of food, fuel and fertilisers have been cut in both real and absolute terms and targeted to be brought down to 1.75% of the GDP. At the same time, the subsidy allowed to hardly one or one and half per cent of populace among the big-business corporate lobby in the form of direct tax revenue foregone and patronised tax default works out to be more than Rs3.6 lakh crore in 2010-11 reaching around 3.9% of the GDP. Under the UPA regime, this subsidy for one or one and half per cent of the rich and big business has been consistently increasing. The revenue forgone, mostly in favour of those big bosses, jumped from Rs 4.59 lakh crore in 2010-11 to 5.29 lakh crore in 2011-12, i.e. by 15% in one year. As per CAG Report, tax-default or tax-arrears, increased from Rs. 77,000 crore in 2005-06 to Rs. 1.8 lakh crore in 2009-10, i.e. an increase of 135% in 5 years. In the next one year period tax-default has increased by 38% in 2011-12 thereby demonstrating the patronisation of tax default as an instrument of subsidising the one and half per cent at the cost of ninety per cent.

2.2.6 When the need of the hour is increase in employment generating investment in productive sectors, the government is encouraging speculation through tax-break which would divert resources from productive investment to gamblers' game of multiplying money directly. The STT (Securities Transaction Tax) rate has been slashed by 25% and a new tax exemption announced for stock market investors under 'Rajiv Gandhi equity savings scheme'. Such incentives for investments in the stock market are being doled out at a time when the interest rate on Employees Provident Fund has been drastically slashed from 9.5% to 8.25%.

2.2.7 Such encouragement to speculation through tax breaks in the budget has been given in the backdrop of already liberalised access of foreign institutional investors (FIIs) in Indian stock and bond market. Last year the FII investment limit in long-term infrastructure bonds, corporate bonds and government securities was raised. The limit on External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) was also raised and qualified foreign investors (QFIs) were allowed to invest in specified Indian mutual funds and directly in equities. This year, QFIs are being allowed access to the corporate bond market. These measures would act in diverting resources from productive and employment generating investment to speculation and aggravate unemployment, income inequality and economic disparity in the society in a big way.

2.2.8 In reality the neoliberal economic policy regime has been perpetuating a reverse transfer from millions of toiling people who create GDP to handful of corporate and big-business, both domestic and foreign. This transfer is taking place through cut in subsidies on common people, consistent increase in revenue foregone for the rich and affluent, and promoting deliberate tax-default, allowing generation of black money and overall a regressive tax regime by consistently lowering the effective direct tax and increasing indirect tax burden in a big way. The Budget exercise is one of

the instruments for such reverse transfer from millions of commoners to handful of rich, from 99% to one per cent. That is the real face camouflaged under so called 'aam-aadmi' hypocrisy.

2.3 Danger of Disinvestment

2.3.1 The Budget has set a target for garnering Rs 30000 crore through disinvestment of shares of profit making PSUs and already number of Navaratna and Maharatna PSUs like RINL, SAIL, NLC, BHEL, IOC etc have been short-listed for the same. The Government has so long been telling the country that disinvestment does not mean privatization as it would retain its control through holding 51% shares in all PSUs meaning thereby that the Government would disinvest up to 49% share in all the PSUs. CITU has consistently been opposing the very concept of disinvestment, it being a process of creeping privatization where Government as well as parliamentary control will be gradually reduced in steps through induction of non-Government directors and dictation of minority shareholders, especially foreign institutional investors (FIIs). Recent revelation of a UK based agency TCI which could garner only one per cent share of Maharatna Coal India Ltd threatening Coal India not to pursue its pricing and supply policy as per guidelines of Government/Parliament with the threat of litigation in international court vindicates CITU's stand and exposes the real danger of disinvestment. The obligation under investment treaties the Government is having with various countries of the world to take care of the interests of the investor from those concerned countries empowers even minor shareholders of any Indian entity to influence the policy decision of any Indian company of which it is a minor share holder. So even disinvestment of minority shares of PSUs, if picked up by any foreign entity may even act in undermining the basic public sector characteristic of the PSUs by its intervention. We have to campaign on this aspect of danger of disinvestment of PSUs among the workers and the people.

2.4 Transferring control of Core Sector Economy to private Hands

2.4.1 The right-wing thrust of the ruling polity is becoming more starkly visible in the active engagement of almost all the crucial ministry in the vital and strategic sector of the economy, the infrastructure and energy sector in particular in handing over those crucial sector in the control of private corporates, both domestic and foreign.

2.4.2 If we look into the energy sector, in the petroleum sector, dominance of private sector is almost established in the downstream refining segment and refining capacity of private sector in the country has already crossed that of public sector. Huge concessions granted to private oil companies to expand their capacity and allowing them to earn untaxed windfall profit through export in the volatile international market has made this possible. Simultaneously the government acted in containing through remote control the expansion and modernisation initiative in the public sector companies in the downstream who are also catering to domestic need, to make them deliberately lag behind their private companies in the field. In the upstream, private sector has already established dominance in the natural gas fields with the proactive patronisation on all aspects of their business from the highest seat of governance. In the crude oil production also the major public sector company ONGC was pulled back from behind not to stake its rightful claim over the single biggest oilfield at Rajasthan despite having 30% share in the same just to favour M/s Vedanta in the takeover of that field. All these are aimed at promoting the dominance of private sector including foreign companies in the crucial petroleum sector and while doing so there has been no hesitation on the part of the Government to sabotage the autonomous functioning of public

sector companies in the field through remote control.

2.4.3 In the power sector, the situation is no less serious. During the 11th Plan period, additional capacity creation by all major Generating company in the state and central sector lagged behind the plan target substantially compared to private sector. Capacity addition during the 11th Plan period, was 15,220 MW, 16732 MW for the central and State sector respectively while for private sector it was 23,012 MW. There can be no reason for at least the Central Public sector company like NTPC to lag behind the private sector. During 11th Plan government announced huge concessions for Ultra Mega Power Projects(UMPP) including permission for duty-free import, but did not allow NTPC to bid for despite their technological and financial capability. Simultaneously, NTPC was not allowed to harness its full potential to expand its capacity despite having huge investible reserves at their disposal through remote control measures by the ministry. The devilish motive of the government of the day to allow the private corporates a dominant edge over government companies in the electricity sector got exposed in their capacity generation programme in the 12th Plan. In the 12th Plan, the target for capacity addition for the government sector, both state and centre has been fixed at 33654 MW whereas for private sector target is 42131 MW. What does this mean? It means that despite having huge investible reserve at the command of NTPC, it will not be allowed to expand its capacity to the fullest extent, state governments will not be encouraged to expand their capacity in the state sector and private corporates will be doled out huge concessions and advantage of duty free import of equipment in the name of augmenting electricity generation in the country. This will have adverse impact on the working of public sector BHEL manufacturing power-plant-equipments. Simultaneously public sector power companies will be targeted for gradual privatization along with their assets and reserves through phased disinvestment of shares. Dominance of private corporates in electricity sector means less regulation on control on tariff for the electricity consumers. Total control of private corporates which is now being planned under 12th Plan means total deregulation of electricity pricing for the people at large.

2.4.4 In Coal sector, pressures are being mounted for opening the coal sector fully for private sector's entry and FICCI President recently made a strong plea for what he called "reforms to break the monopoly of public sector Coal India"

2.4.5 In Communication and Civil Aviation sectors, already major market share has gone in the hands of private players including some fly-by-night operators like Kingfishers and others. In most of these private companies, be it private airlines, airport or private telecom, no trade union rights are being allowed unlike in the PSUs like Air India, Airport Authority, BSNL/MTNL, who have become minor players in the field. Trade unions in the private segments of these segments have become muted, if not totally silent where exploitation of workers and employees are at its peak.

2.4.6 Similarly in the Port & Dock sector, already the private ports that mushroomed in the country during the liberalisation period have already surpassed the business and merchandise handled by all the major ports together still under government sector. Following the decision of the Shipping Ministry on corporatisation of major ports in the country along with permission granted for establishing private berths within the major ports, blue print of privatisation of major ports have also been drawn and that is being actively pursued by the government of the day. In other vital infrastructures like telecom and Airlines/Airports the dominance of private and foreign corporates has already made a noticeable advance through simultaneous promotion of private interests by the government and simultaneous sabotage in the operation of the public sector units in the concerned sector

through a mix of policy and remote control by the same government of the day. This is what is called a 'government of the corporates and for the corporates' indicating a sojourn towards the right wing extremity and complete privatization and corporatisation of the entire governance as such.

2.4.7 The trade union movement in the public sector segment of these vital sectors have to keep themselves fully apprised and updated about the conspiratorial moves of the government to promote private sector's entry and dominance in these areas in order to make public sector redundant in the core sector of the economy and also to reduce striking capacity of the working class in such vital sectors which can really hit the Government.

2.4.8 The working class movement has to assert its best to expose these enemies of the people and combat the onslaught on the country as whole by the right wing plunderers in the ruling polity.

3.0 ATTACK ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND LABOUR RIGHTS

3.1.1 The period under review witnessed continuing attack on social security rights of the workers.

3.1.2 Despite opposition by the CITU representative in the ESIC governing body, the ESI post retirement medical benefits are being denied to the prematurely separated workers who remained ESI subscribers throughout their service but crossed the pay-ceiling stipulated in ESI Act at the time of separation from service due to normal increase in wages.

3.1.3 Interest rate on EPF has been unilaterally reduced from 9.5% to 8.25% despite opposition by workers' representatives in Central Board of Trustees of EPF. The reduction in interest rate on PF has come at a time when government itself has been increasing the interest rates on all kinds of deposits with banks and financial institutions through Reserve Bank of India. In fact PF is a social security fund which is long term recurring fixed deposit with the government which deserves an interest rate higher than all other deposits including commercial deposits. But just the opposite has been done to push the interest rate on EPF even below the interest rate applicable to GPF, PPF and even Special Deposit Scheme in which the EPF accumulation has been normally parked. Such drastic reduction in EPF interest rate reflects a vindictive attitude of the government, the Finance Ministry in particular towards the workers. Despite insistence by Finance Ministry, the workers representatives in Central Board of Trustees have not allowed the EPF accumulation to be invested in the stock market. Therefore the Finance Ministry has acted in vengeance in pushing down the EPF interest rate even below the rate applicable to GPF and PPF.

3.1.4 The pensionary benefits under Employees Pension Scheme 1995 have been reduced to a mockery particularly for the lowest paid workers in the private unorganised sector, the pension amount being as low as Rs 50/- in many cases. On the other hand workers retiring with Rs 20000/- per month or more as last-drawn wage, get a pension of hardly around Rs 1100. This has happened due to unilateral withdrawal of various benefits originally provided in the scheme on the one hand and non-revision of the scheme as per commitment since last one decade or so on the other. Equally responsible is the consistent decline in the interest rate made applicable to pension fund by the government as in the case of EPF. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour, after examining the scheme thoroughly, unanimously recommended for enhancing the government contribution in the scheme to make it at least half of the employer/employees contribution to make the pension payment at least a reasonable amount. But government has been refusing to even con-

sider the unanimous recommendation of the Standing Committee. Even in order to make the minimum pension amount Rs 1000/-, the required shortfall in the fund of 0.63 per cent of respective wage of the worker as found by actuarial calculation is being refused to be made good by this brazenly anti-labour corporate captive Government.

3.1.5 The PFRDA Bill aimed at changing the pension regime from 'defined benefit' to 'defined contribution' one along with allowing foreign companies in pension-fund business to speculate and profit which was forced to lapse during UPA-I regime owing to Left's pressure, has again been reintroduced in the last session. The 'Swabalamban Scheme' is a ploy for mobilising resources from the poorest workers in unorganised sector to be utilised by the so called fund managers in the speculative market.

3.1.6 During the intervening period, the most crucial policy announcement on the part of the government has been on 'National Manufacturing Policy'. According to this policy, national investment and manufacturing zones will be created in different parts of the country in the pattern of SEZs, where the investors will be offered cheap land, readymade infrastructure, huge tax concessions/holiday and labour laws will be dispensed with. In fact, NMIZ is a design to convert the entire domestic businesses into so called Special Economic Zone, with bountiful concessions from public exchequers, that too without any export obligation. It is a design also to introduce the so-called labour reform of 'hire and fire' through the backdoor. Already seven NMIZ have been identified in six states viz., Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan with Andhra Pradesh also in the list.

3.1.7 CITU has already issued statement opposing the decision, copies of which have been sent to all state committees. We must seriously consider strategy to build up widespread opposition to the most retrograde design of NMIZ to loot public exchequer, promote land-grabbing and also loot the workers—all at the behest of big corporates-domestic and foreign. Urgent pro-active initiative needs to be taken well in advance in the states already identified for NMIZ to develop joint front with peasants groups and other mass organisations to oppose NMIZ right from the initial stage itself by initiating widespread campaign, holding conventions and preparing for resistance struggle. Concerned state committees are requested to start planning for the same at the respective level.

3.2 Social Security in the Unorganised Sector

3.2.1 The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act listed ten welfare schemes in its schedule. Out of these four are meant for specific occupations like handloom weavers, handicrafts artisans, master crafts persons and fishers; six schemes - Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension scheme, National Family Benefit scheme, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Janshree Bima Yojana, Aam Admi Bima Yojana and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana cover the general unorganised workers.

3.2.2 Most of these schemes have several shortcomings and limitations and most likely many unorganised workers are not covered by these because of restriction of 'below poverty line' (BPL), which blocks the access of vast unorganised workforce to these schemes. However, we must make efforts to ensure that the benefits available under these reach at least those who are covered. We must utilise these schemes, as well as the benefits available under some other Acts like the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, Building and other Construction Workers Act, etc to approach the unorganised sector workers in different sectors, spread and expand our influence and

strengthen our organisation.

3.2.3 At the same time, through these efforts we must make the unorganised workers themselves understand the shortcomings in these schemes and the apathetic attitude of the government through their own experience. We must mobilise them for the struggle for better social security benefits that cover all the unorganised workers without any barrier of BPL tag.

Construction Sector

3.2.4 This sector is one of the biggest reserves of unorganised sector workers which is having a comprehensive social security legislation for the workers. We have a functioning federation of the construction workers. In several states, our unions have taken up initiative for getting the benefit of the social security schemes delivered to wide section of workers. But in many other states, including some of our stronger bases, coverage of workers under these social security schemes is not at all satisfactory. Organisational lapses and faulty priority are the factor behind such lapses. Our Construction federation and the concerned state committees need to look into these aspects and take urgent measures to improve upon our focused attention in this aspect since through these schemes we can expand our reach to vast section of unorganized workforce and consolidate our organisation.

4.0 ON THE HONORARIUM OR SCHEME WORKERS

4.1 A new section of workforce who are being kept out of the purview of minimum wages and are made to work in lieu of either honorarium or incentives, has surfaced in the country under the neoliberal regime. This workforce came in to being in the process of launching of various central government schemes operationalised by the state governments. It began with the anganwadi workers and helpers in the ICDS in the seventies but post liberalisation regime saw lakhs of workers in several schemes like the mid day meal, Sarva siksha Abhiyan, NRHM, etc under different ministries being employed on the basis of 'honorarium', 'incentive' etc. Most notable is that in the process of last one decade ASHA and Mid-day-Meal workers could be organised in most of the states in regularly functioning unions. Among anganwadi employees, we have a well functioning federation which took pioneering initiative to organise these segments of scheme-workers in most of the states. All India Coordination Committees were formed separately for both ASHA and Mid-day-meal workers which have been functioning since the last couple of years.

4.2 We should now seriously consider coordinating the movements of all these segments of scheme workers to develop a joint all India movement demanding coverage of all the scheme workers under statutory minimum wages and social security. In fact this is a fight for their recognition as workers which the government of India is stoutly refusing to concede. Initiating such movement of anganwadi employees, ASHAs and mid day meal workers will attract various other scheme workers in the movement, and that will be an effective counter to the new ploy of exploitation of workers in the name voluntary or honorarium workers.

4.3 Simultaneously, all these schemes are facing challenges of privatisation through various routes. Recent statement of Prime Minister to reform and restructure ICDS through 'multi sectoral programmes for 200 high burden districts', on a pilot basis, 'by supporting alternate modalities of service delivery' clearly indicate such moves in the day to come. This is a part of a continuous

attempt by the government to hand over the management of anganwadi centres to NGOs, panchayats, SHGs, Corporates. This is yet another indication that the government wants to get rid of its responsibility of effective implementation of ICDS despite shedding crocodile tears for the malnourished children.

4.4 Similarly in Mid Day Meal Scheme there are efforts to hand over the cooking job to NGOs, including big religious organisations like the ISCON in several states including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra etc. The food is proposed to be cooked in big centralised kitchens and supplied to the schools. The central government also wants to supply ready to eat (RTE) food instead of freshly cooked food under the scheme. This will render jobless lakhs of women workers engaged in the mid day meal scheme, either directly as contract workers or as SHGs.

4.5 Similar move for offloading the government responsibility in ASHA and USHA and tagging the same with private agencies or NGOs cannot be ruled out.

4.6 Our organisations at all levels must be ready to oppose and fight against any such measures. We should also make serious efforts to develop joint struggles on the issue, along with the other federations and mass organisations.

5.0 44TH SESSION OF INDIAN LABOUR CONFERENCE

5.1 The 44th Session of Indian Labour Conference, the tripartite forum of the workers, employers and the governments, was held on 14-15 February 2012 in New Delhi with Minimum Wages, Social Security and Employment & Employability on its agenda.

5.2 The Prime Minister inaugurated the Conference. Despite 'Minimum Wage' being the main agenda item, Prime Minister's inaugural address did not make even any mention of the same. But he did not fail to echo with appreciation the most favourite concerns of the employers, i.e., flexibility in labour laws. Prime Minister did not hesitate to express satisfaction that in recent years, 'more and more state governments have become considerably more flexible in their approach to labour restructuring and rationalisation'. He also said that 'we must periodically take a critical look whether our regulatory framework has some parts which unnecessarily hamper the growth of employment enterprise and industry...' In fine, as the highest executive in the seat of country's governance, he endorsed the ongoing violation of existing labour laws patronised by various state governments and in fact pleaded for changing them towards making them more flexible for the employers to bend and break. CITU protested such a one-sided approach of Prime Minister in its intervention and most of other trade unions echoed the same, although Prime Minister did not wait to listen to the views of trade unions in the conference.

5.3 The conclusion of the 44th ILC has already been sent to all the state committees and published in the 'Working Class' and 'CITU Mazdoor'. The issue that needs to be mentioned in particular here that on 'Minimum Wage' the ILC had to unanimously conclude that 'There was consensus that government may fix minimum wage as per norms/criteria recommended by the 15th ILC (1957) and the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court (Raptakos Co. Vs Workers' Union) 1992'. After long deliberation, the representatives of the state governments, central governments and employers' organisations have to agree along with the trade unions on the above formulation.

5.4 We may recall that in 43rd session of Indian Labour Conference, there was a consensus between the trade unions, state governments and the central government representatives that the Contract Labour(Regulation & Abolition) Act 1970 should be amended to incorporate the section 25(2)(v)(a) of the Rules framed under the Act in the main body of the Act to provide for same wages and benefits for the contract workers as regular workers in the concerned establishment for doing the same and similar nature of work. Accordingly the Union Labour Ministry sent the proposal to Cabinet for amendment of Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act 1970 on the above line in 2010. But despite repeated persuasion by the Labour Ministry, the matter has not yet been cleared by Cabinet at the instance of PMO.

5.5 The Minimum wage and the issue of 'same wage for same work' for the contract workers are two most burning issues before the trade union movement at the moment. We must widely propagate on the above two recommendations among the mass of the workers and build up militant movement in the states and industrial sectors demanding fixation of minimum wages based on unanimous recommendation of 44th ILC and on the demand of same wages and benefits for contract workers as available to regular workers in the respective establishments. Such independent initiative on our part will help in creating ground for developing decisive struggle from the united platform of trade unions.

6.0 ATTACK ON TRADE UNION/ DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN WEST BENGAL

6.1 Attack on trade union and democratic rights assumed a new dimension in West Bengal where immediately after last assembly elections and formation of TMC-Congress Government, violent physical attacks have been unleashed on the trade unions the CITU in particular and also on other mass organisations of peasants, students, youth and women by the armed TMC-Congress hoodlums with the police remaining a silent onlooker in most of the cases. Trade union offices are being set on fire and ransacked, left supporters are being physically attacked, women including the anganwadi employees are molested and tortured, houses set in fire and many of our comrades have been killed. Till date more than 60 leading activists of the democratic movement were killed including six from the trade unions; the number is increasing every day. Around 400 union offices were captured and hundreds were ransacked. Workers are being threatened and terrorised to desert CITU and join the TMC union. In many areas, contract workers owing allegiance to CITU unions were thrown out of employment and new set of workers are engaged at reduced wages in connivance with the contractors. An atmosphere of terror is being sought to be created to maim the Left opposition and democratic movement. Such a situation bears ominous portents for democracy and the fascistic design to suppress the class and mass organisations in this strong bastion is aimed at weakening and marginalising any opposition to the anti-people measures being unleashed by the TMC-Congress regime in the state. Recent incident of torture and arrest of a university professor for sending cartoon on ministers of the state government alarmingly reveals the brutal and fascistic intolerance to any dissent and criticism on the part of the state Government and the party in power. Along with the democratic movement, trade union movement led by CITU have been resisting the attack braving all atrocities.

6.2 All these are attacks on the rights and livelihood of the toiling class and are not confined to Left supporters alone. Resistance against these attacks have to be built up through broader class mobilisations and in fact prospect of such broader class mobilisation is getting brighter. Our trade unions at all levels have to work in broadening such class mobilisation while combating the attacks

by the TMC regime.

7.0 IMPORTANT STRUGGLES

7.1 United Struggles

7.1.1 During the intervening period the countrywide Jail Bhara/satyagraha programme of 8th November 2011 and General Strike of 28th February 2012 are the two most important events of all-in-united struggle by the working class of the country.

7.1.2 The Jail Bhara programme was preceded by months-long state level and sectoral campaign both on independent initiative of CITU and also jointly by all trade unions. While reviewing the preparatory campaign and also the Jail Bhara programme, CITU Secretariat had noted 'the preparatory exercise for the Satyagraha/Jail Bhara programme has witnessed more 'joint initiatives' at the state and district level in most of the states. In many states, again joint conventions have been held and joint campaign programmes have also been organised in many centres. CITU took frontline initiative in involving all the trade unions in the preparatory campaign in most of the places which could draw at least the leaders and activists of other trade unions in the joint platform of campaign at the state district and local level to a greater extent than before'. Such initiative of campaign was reflected in the mobilisations in the Jail Bhara programme on 8th November 2011 and bigger involvement of workers at the grass root level. The programme was observed in almost all the districts of the country having workers' population and in all industrial centres. More than a million workers took part in the mobilisations on the day of Jail Bhara and Satyagraha.

7.1.3 The General Strike of 28th February 2012 also was a historic success drawing the participation of about 10 crore workers across the sectors and covering all the states. This general strike was also preceded by a three months long state level, regional and industry-level campaign both from independent and joint platforms.

7.1.4 While planning for the strike campaign and its political-organisational thrust, the CITU Secretariat in its extended meeting held on 14-15 November 2011 decided that 'CITU must have to take vigorous initiative for independent campaign on the strike action on joint call. Simultaneously we have to involve other central trade unions and federations for joint campaign throughout the states with all seriousness. Our independent campaign also should focus on the all-in-united initiative for countrywide action and must reach the broadest section of workers including the followings of other unions with an ardent call for unity. Our campaign for joint action must sincerely aim at unification of the entire working people on the issues raised by the joint trade union platform, which alone can sustain the joint platform for action in the days to come and this is the most urgent political organizational task for the class-oriented trade union movement like ours in the background of mounting offensive by the ruling class against the basic rights and livelihood of the entire working people aimed at more right-ward shift in the ruling polity'.

7.1.5 Based on reports received from the states and federations, CITU Secretariat finalised a detail review of both the preparatory campaign undertaken by the CITU Centre, State Committees and Federations and the strike performance on 28th February 2012 which is being separately annexed with this report. The General Council members, while participating in the deliberation must take that review report into account.

7.2 Other Struggles

7.2.1 Intervening period witnessed increasing conflicts in workplaces throughout the country where workers' rights are being attacked by the employers and the governments. There have been numerous struggles by the workers in defence of their rights and livelihood in almost all the states of the country. The notable one which has drawn national attention is the struggle of the Maruti Suzuki Workers in Gurgaon which continued for almost five months at different spells and the main issue has been the right to form trade union of workers' own choice and basic rights at workplace. This has attracted united solidarity action by all the trade unions in the state. Also at the call of CITU, solidarity demonstration could be organised on all India scale and almost all the state committees of CITU did organise such solidarity actions.

7.2.2 Among other all India united actions had been successful bank employees strike on 5th August 2011, and coal workers' massive strike action on 10th October 2011. The sales promotion employees of 126 organised sector companies had gone for one day strike on 17th August 2011. The workers of Swedish MNC Volvo at Bangalore staged two and half month long strike action and finally compelled the management to settle their issues. Besides above there have been militant demonstrations and rally by the anganwadi employees in Gujarat braving the prohibition and attack by the Modi government, and the joint demonstration by the anganwadi, ASHA and mid-day meal workers in Punjab braving lathi charges and police atrocities.

7.2.3 Initiative has also been taken by the government employees' associations to organise resistance against the retrograde move to curtail the pensionary rights and privatising pension through PFRDA Bill. Following a well attended national joint convention of state and central government employees, railways, banks and insurance employees etc, state level conventions were also held to prepare for a massive march to Parliament on 25th November 2011 and also for a countrywide strike in the concerned sectors in the days to come. Also, at the initiative of CITU, ASHA workers staged a massive 7000 strong demonstration before Parliament on 24th November 2011. The Joint Action Committee of BSNL Employees and Officers also staged successful countrywide strike action on 15th December 2011 in BSNL opposing the decision of government to downsize the workforce of BSNL by 90000 and other related issues.

7.2.4 In West Bengal, braving the continuing physical attacks and killings by the TMC hoodlums and state administration combine, CITU has been carrying on their struggles in different sectors both independently and in some cases jointly with other trade unions. In the process of strike campaign, two of our comrades, Pradip Ta, General Council member of CITU and Kamal Gayen were brutally killed by the TMC hoodlums.

8.0 OUR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

8.1.1 CITU's bilateral relations with the central and the industry-wise trade unions of different countries covering all the continents and also international trade union organisations have been enhancing. Our formal affiliation with WFTU and serious participation in the activities of WFTU has been a contributory factor. Our presence and contributions in the various fora of WFTU i.e, Secretariat, Presidential Council and different TUIs has taken us to work more intensively with different organisations in different countries widening and deepening our reach. Our ideological position and leading role in the working class struggles in our country have had been appreciated by trade union

organisations internationally. Our comrades involved in the international meetings had more firmly established the stand of struggle built up by CITU. That more and more trade unions are interested to pursue bilateral relations with us is evident from the invitations extended to us to attend meetings and conferences.

8.1.2 Following are some report on activities in this area:

Meeting of the WFTU Secretariat was held Strasburg, France in September, 2011 which was attended by S. Dev Roye.

Presidential Council of WFTU's meeting was held at Johannesburg, South Africa in February, 12 which was attended by A.K. Padmanabhan, S. Dev Roye and Debanjan Chakraborty.

On the event of ILO's South Asia meeting on ILO convention-implementation held at Kathmandu, Nepal in August last, Amitava Guha represented CITU. He also met some leaders of the Central Trade Unions of Nepal. .

In September, 2011 S. Dev Roye attended conference of Energy and Allied industry workers (CEPPWAWU) at Durban, South Africa representing the TUI (Energy).

Representing WFTU S. Dev Roye attended conference of CONEP on 1st May at Kathmandu. During the preparation of this report, he has been nominated by WFTU to attend the 14th conference of National Union of Mineworkers, South Africa (NAM), the largest trade union in South Africa having 360000 members to be inaugurated by Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa.

P.K. Das had attended the international conference Asia Pacific Occupational Safety and Health Organisation (APOSHO) held at Perth, Australia in November last. He also attended third meeting of the TUI Metal (WFTU) held at Nicosia, Cyprus in March, 2012.

Debanjan Chakraborty, General Secretary of UITBB (TUI of WFTU for Building, Wood and building materials workers) had attended several meetings held in different countries. He attended regional conference of Africa held in July last at Douala, Cameroon. He also attended Secretariat meeting of UITBB held at Lisbon, Portugal in November, 2011. He attended a joint meeting of the General Secretaries of TUIs and the leadership of WFTU held at Athens as General Secretary of UITBB in May, 2012.

Nominated by CITU, Sashikumar Valiyaparambil, Reji Zachariah and Syed Mujeeb Ahamed were supposed to attend 2nd International Conference of Working Youth scheduled on 29-30 April at Havana, Cuba. But they had to return mid journey due to transit visa problem.

8.1.3 This year on 4 May a delegation of six comrades from All China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) visited CITU center led by Duan Dunhou, Vice Chairman and Member of the Secretariats of ACFTU. The centre based Secretariat led by the General Secretary of CITU had a protracted bilateral discussion with the delegation on wide-ranging issues.

8.1.4 For the 101st session of ILC of ILO scheduled from 30th May to 15th June at Geneva Hemalata has been nominated as a member of the Indian delegation.

8.2 International Day of Action (WFTU)

8.2.1 At the call of WFTU international day of action was observed on 3rd October 2011 all over the world in different cities. CITU along with other WFTU affiliated central trade unions observed the day with meetings organized in number of cities all over the country - from Imphal to Chennai to Delhi where workers were briefed about WFTU and struggles of workers internationally. Our state committee and many industrial federations took appreciable initiative. WFTU headquarters recognised the role of CITU on this occasion.

8.2.2 Now, the Presidential Council of WFTU in its Johannesburg meeting has decided that this year 3rd October day will be observed as 'International Day Action' demanding Food, Housing, Clean Water, Free Public Health care system for all. WFTU has called upon the working class all over the world to observe the day with appropriate programme including campaign, demonstration, mobilisation and action. This General Council meeting also calls upon all of our state committees and industrial federations to observe the day in a befitting manner. The programmes so observed on that day must be captured with still photographic documentation.

9.0 FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION – OUR APPROACH

9.1 Joint movement

9.1.1 After the General Strike of 28th February 2012, the Central Trade Unions met on 26th April 2012 to discuss future course of programmes. Various ideas have been exchanged among the unions. General consensus has emerged that joint struggle needs to be intensified and our next course of joint activities must culminate in a higher phase of countrywide action programme with adequate preparation. The Central Trade Unions will meet again after having internal consultation within the organization.

9.1.2 In the joint meeting of trade unions we have to discuss both the issues on demands and concrete course of joint programmes. We have to insist for a higher form of action with adequate preparation and phases of countrywide joint campaign at state and industry level. We have to stress in particular more joint activities at the workplace levels and industry-level and we have to take more initiatives in involving others in joint workplace-level campaign.

9.1.3 Besides programmes being decided at national level, our state committees and federations have to give more stress on organising joint struggles and mobilisations on state specific issues or industry-specific issues. That will help us in reaching wider sections of workers as well as sectors beyond our existing periphery.

9.2 Independent activities

General

9.2.1 Side by side, we have to develop our independent activities of campaign, propaganda followed by agitation with a particular focus of activating our unit/union level leaders and activists in the same. At the same time our independent campaign should consciously give sincere appeal for all unions to unite on burning issues facing the workers. Precisely with this approach and vision,

from the working committee meeting held in Kullu in July 2011, we decided to organise independent campaign and agitation on 1) enhancing minimum wages, 2) payment of minimum wages and regularisation of honorarium workers (anganwadi, mid-day-meal, ASHA and various other scheme related workers and employees), 3) same pay for same work for contract workers doing regular workers jobs 4) universal social security and pension for all. Some of the State Committees like Karnataka and Maharashtra have already conceived and planned some programmes on the same and that initiative should be taken by all the state committees of CITU.

9.2.2 Such independent activities would help in carrying our campaign to the grass root level workers including our political understanding about the reasons behind such government policies that facilitate increasing exploitation of the workers and the toiling people and will create the ground for wider grass-root level unity among the workers across the unions. This would also help in expanding our support base and also develop cadres/leaders from among the workers.

9.3 Sectoral Initiative

9.3.1 Besides state level initiatives for independent campaign and agitations, there are scopes for developing sector specific agitations and movements and we have to harness full potential of such movemental prospects.

Contract Workers

9.3.2 In many industries struggle of contract workers is gaining momentum either with or without the involvement of regular workers in that industry. In last couple of years there have been number of militant struggles and strike action by contract workers and they succeeded in realising many of their demands. The 40 days strike by the contract workers of Vizag Steel Plant, multiple days strike in Neyveli Lignite Corporation led by AITUC, strike in Nalco are some of the examples. In certain industries contract workers union is independently organised. In some others, regular and contract workers are in the same union. In both the cases, prospect of developing movement on wages and service conditions of the contract workers exist. CITU has to harness the prospect to develop such struggle. At the state and central level, such struggles have to be appropriately coordinated.

9.3.3 Appropriate strategy needs to be drawn in this regard. We should commence our initiative where we are better organised and in a position to involve the regular workers unions effectively. For example, latest National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA) stipulated a provision for revision of wages for the contract workers in the industry to be finalised by a Joint Committee constituted for the purpose. We should explore the possibility of joint movement demanding expeditious finalisation of the same as all the coal unions are party to the said agreement. We have to explore similar possibility in other industries as well. Such sectoral initiative will create a ground for industry level and state level movement as well.

Public Sector

9.3.4 Campaign and struggle against disinvestment, which is going to be aggressively pushed through by the government should continue to be our priority task in the public sector movement. Along with that other burning issues facing the workers have to be taken up for sectoral struggle.

9.3.5 In the PSUs like steel, port & dock, HAL etc, where the five year tenure of wage agreement has expired on 1-1-2012, concerned federations should take urgent initiative to develop both independent and joint movement for expeditious commencement of wage negotiation. We should demand simultaneous wage revision for both the regular and contract workers in these industries and try to involve other unions also in this effort.

9.3.6 Side by side, in the PSUs where 10 year-wage-agreement was signed, we have to take initiative to identify burning issues before the workers and formulate appropriate demands to develop countrywide joint and sectoral movement of public sector unions by activating our public sector unions' coordination committee and through that process the joint platform of Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions (CPSTU) in extended form involving both INTUC and BMS unions.

9.4 Movemental Perspective

9.4.1 In general, our strategy for independent movemental initiative should focus on the better organised segment of both the organised and unorganised sector to start with, based on appropriately formulated demands which can touch the imagination of the workers in the respective segments. CITU Secretariat in its last meeting conceived the following ideas:

- * In the organised sector, struggle should focus on minimum wage of Rs 10000/- or as formulated by 44th ILC(which is formally agreed to by all the unions and employers organisations) and same wage for the contract workers for the same work done as regular workers, and pension for all.

- * In the unorganised sector our focus should be on minimum wage of 10000/- and universal social security and pension.

- * In the segment of honorarium workers like anganwadi, mid-day-meal, ASHA, where the movement is fairly organised countrywide, our movement should focus on the demand of universal coverage of all honorarium workers by statutory minimum wage and universal social security. State level movemental initiative may converge into all India mobilisations of honorarium workers to mount pressure on central government.

- * Movemental initiative may be taken up at state and sectoral level. And after a phase of independent activities, effort should be made other trade unions in the movement on above issues. State level and sectoral movements may be coordinated into all India campaign, movement and mobilisation in the subsequent phase.

- * Our independent initiative in the above direction will definitely create ground for carrying the united struggle to higher pitch and we must all work in that direction.

9.4.2 The General Council members are requested to deliberate upon the above ideas and enrich them for effective implementation in the days to come.

10.0 ON SOCIAL ISSUES

10.1 Consistent fight against all kinds of social oppression is one of our most important class-task as enshrined in the CITU constitution which directs us to fight against all encroachments of economic and social rights of workers (3Ba) and for abolition of discrimination based on caste, like untouchability, on sex and religion, in relation to employment wages and promotions (3Bg) and for protection of democratic rights of the minorities (3Bh). Let us admit, there is serious shortcoming on our part to take up this constitutional task at all tiers of our organisation with the consistency and

focus it deserves, along with other movemental and organisational engagements.

10.2 At the present situation, this task has assumed crucial importance in view of the consistent effort of the ruling class to divide the people on caste, religion, identity and various other lines to sustain their exploitative regime and weaken the class movements against such exploitations.

10.3 As we have noted, there has been increasing assertion from among the downtrodden section of the society against various social oppressions perpetrated on them by the present semi-feudal society in connivance with the exploiting class in general. This is welcome development no doubt but in the absence of continuous and consistent intervention by the class movement, such assertion is being sought to be channelised to caste/identity/community consciousness to a large extent by the vested interests for narrow political gains and also those who thrive on identity politics.

10.4 Task before us therefore is to take up the issues of social oppression and discrimination from our class platform focusing the issues in the collective agenda of our class movement. We have to basically plan two-pronged initiatives. One at the CITU level, issues are to be discussed both for identifying the issues of SCs, tribals and other downtrodden sections and taking up general campaign and also to identify the particular sector/unions having larger populations from the socially oppressed sections. Second, to sensitise and activate the leadership and activists in the identified segments and sectors to take up sector specific issues of social oppression and related demands from the concerned trade union platforms.

10.5 To start with, for example, state committees may identify the sectors of sizable tribal workers and can discuss with our unions in the concerned sector to identify the pressing issues facing them and formulate the demands to be taken up and championed from the union platform only. Same approach holds good with other section of socially oppressed segments. Moot point is that social issues have to be pursued and championed from the class platform only and that task has to be taken up consciously and with consistency and continuity without fail.

10.6 General Council may suggest concrete actions in this regard to make this a regular agenda of our committees, and unions/federations at all level.

11.0 OTHER IMPORTANT PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

M K Pandhe Memorial Lecture

11.1 The CITU Secretariat meeting held on 14-15 November 2011 decided that that CITU Centre will organize 'M K Pandhe memorial Lecture' or relevant issues facing the working class movement every year on a suitable day during the period from 11th July (birthday) and 20th August (date of demise). State Committees and Federations were advised to undertake appropriate programmes in memory of our great leader M K Pandhe during the same period. This programme is going to take place for the first time this year during July-August. Concerned committees are requested to observe the programme in a befitting manner.

P Sundaraiah Centenary Year

11.2 This year 1st May marks the beginning of the birth centenary year of Comrade P. Sundaraiah

the legendary revolutionary leader the toiling masses of the country. While saluting the revered memory of the relentless fighter for emancipation of the exploited classes, we propose to observe the centenary year of the great revolutionary through year-long educational programme at all levels of the organisation with special focus on 'workers' peasants' alliance and task before the working class'. State Committees and Federations of CITU are requested to take initiative in that direction.

12.0 ORGANISATION

12.1.1 There should be simultaneous organizational review of all our movemental activities at all tiers of organisation. The working committee meeting at Kullu decided that mid-term review to be undertaken by all the state committees. We have received report of such mid-term review only by AP, Tamilnadu, Haryana and Odisha state committees. In other states, such review could not be undertaken, it appears.

12.1.2 Secondly, we are not aware whether all the state committees have undertaken a proper review of the preparatory campaign and strike action of 28th February 2012. The circular sent by centre to send a detail report in this regard have not been responded to by most of the states, barring only seven states. That severely hindered the review endeavoured by the centre. However, review made on the basis of whatever reports received from the states and whatever information gathered by the centre has already been annexed with this report. Comrades must help us to understand as to why they did not respond to the circular and what should we do in absence of a proper report.

12.1.3 Thirdly, the 14th Conference of CITU is due in early 2013. We are in search of an appropriate venue for the same. Meantime state committees have to start their organisational preparation in the run up to the 14th conference, i.e., holding the conferences of district and state level before the all India conference. Even in the midst of movemental activities that we have to undertake both from independent and joint platform the conferences need to be organised with adequate preparation so as to make the same an effective instrument as well as platform for consolidating the organisation both politically and ideologically.

12.2 Journals

12.2.1 Not much improvement is there in the circulation of Working Class and CITU Mazdoor published from the centre. Rather it has marked a decline over the period. The circulation of the Working Class in English is 4760 as in May 2012 of which 4053 are the copies sent to the affiliated unions. The circulation of CITU Mazdoor in Hindi is 4178 of which 830 are affiliation-copy. However of the total circulation of CITU Mazdoor, highest subscriber is West Bengal (659 copies) followed by Himachal Pradesh (581 copies) and Uttar Pradesh (440).

12.2.2 The circulation of the Voice of the Working Women published from CITU Centre in English is 6564. But its circulation is also extremely uneven among the states and eighty percent subscribers are from Kerala. The quarterly Hindi journal 'Kamkaji Mahila' has been started from January 2012 with 1369 regular subscribers.

12.2.3 As we noted at the time of our 13th Conference, many of the non-Hindi speaking state committees are publishing journals in local languages viz., Shramik Andolan (West Bengal), CITU Sandesham (Kerala), CITU Sethi (Tamilnadu), CITU Sandesha (Karnataka), CITU Sandesh

(Maharashtra), Shramik Ekata (Orissa), Jharkhand Mazdoor, Karmika Lokam (Andhra Pradesh), CITU Bulletin (Assam), Mazdoor (Tripura) etc. But their circulation in general is quite low not only compared to the membership but even compared to the number of committee members and activists up to union level. Comrades may report about the present status of circulation of those journals.

12.2.4 And for most of the Hindi speaking states, CITU Mazdoor is only trade union journal and the low circulation of this journal in these states clearly reveals that even many of the state and union level leaders in these states do not read CITU Mazdoor. Such tragic reality speaks volumes about our political-organisational weakness and lack of understanding about the role a journal can play in organisation and movements.

12.2.5 Besides the above many of our Federations and friendly associations also publish regular journals/bulletins for circulation among their members. We do not have concrete information on their circulation and regularity.

12.2.6 Improvement of the quality of the journals and their circulation is a crucial task for our organisation advance politically and organisationally. Serious initiative at all level is required to be taken to improve the circulation of journals, sending regular reports to be published in the journals and also regular comments on the content and quality of the journals.

12.3 Membership

12.3.1 As per reports received from various states, membership drive has been carried on in every state to prepare for facing the verification to be undertaken by the government on the basis of 2011 membership. From the centre, all the state committees have been regularly pursued to at least complete the submission of their annual returns and affiliation fees up to 2010 at least by December 2011. As on date, 12 states viz., AP, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka Himachal, Kerala, Maharashtra Punjab, Tripura and Goa have completed the same. Kerala has also submitted half of their 2010 membership for 2011 also. Other states could not yet complete their 2010 accounts and many are defaulters for 2009 also. Out of them six states viz., UP, Rajasthan, MP, Chattisgarh, Odisha and Bihar are gross defaulters defaulting more than 9000 to 25000 members in 2010 compared to their 2008 membership. In case of West Bengal owing to situation of terror and violence, our comrades cannot yet enter many areas as a result of which there is a shortfall of around 4 lakh membership. But in case of other defaulting states, centre could not make themselves aware of anything concrete which can justify such grave default despite repeated persuasion with the concerned state leaders. You will appreciate, situation is quite challenging for us to retain at least existing ranking among various central trade unions in the forthcoming verification. After the last Secretariat meeting held on 14-15 April 2012, circular was sent to all the state committees to ensure that the unions in their states file the annual return to state labour department by end of April without fail and must complete their submissions of copies of annual returns with affiliation fees to the centre for the year 2011 latest within May 2012 along with all backlogs for 2009 and 2010, if any. Response to the circular from the unions and the state committees as received till 20th May 2012 is summarised in the statement on state wise membership position annexed with this report.

12.3.2 One aspect need to be noted in particular. From the Working Committee meeting at Kullu,

call was given for maximizing the membership collection keeping in view in particular the challenge of verification before us. The 2010 membership position as received at the centre reveals that some of the states could considerably increase their membership demonstrating their seriousness on the challenge of expansion of CITU before all of us. Notable among them is Andhra Pradesh, which has increased their membership by around 1 lakh compared to their 2008 membership, Haryana by 20000, Karnataka by 25000, Kerala by around 1.6 lakhs, Maharashtra by 7000, Punjab by 20000, and Tripura by 21000. It is expected that increase in their membership will be more in 2011. It is also expected that all the state committees must have taken serious effort in increasing their membership and that effort will be fully reflected in their 2011 membership. To what extent such expectation will be fulfilled will be finally reflected in the claim CITU will submit for membership verification after the notification is made by the Labour Ministry.

12.3.3 One crucial task we have to concentrate immediately after returning from this General Council relates to the preparation by every affiliated union to get all documents ready for verification according to the checklist sent to all state committees several times. Our state committees and federations have to take initiative to physically monitor every affiliated union of ours in this matter so that we do not lose a single membership in the verification process. State committees are requested to send reports on their first round checking with union level about preparedness for verification with all relevant documents within a period of two months.

12.3.4 Steps to be taken at district and state level on conveying objections to others' claims, if any, are already known to all concerned. Nevertheless centre will again convey the requirements at appropriate time.

13.0 TASKS

13.1 Based on the formulations made in the report the following concrete tasks emerge before all of us:

1. Organising independent activities to build up sectoral and state level movement and mobilisations, both in organised and unorganised sector based on concrete demands to create ground and pave way for united struggle at a higher pitch. State committees and federations have to take urgent initiative in that direction and explore the possibility for developing joint movement at state and sectoral level.
2. Independent campaign and agitation must accompany conscious simultaneous initiative to expand and consolidate CITU both politically and organisationally.
3. Preparing the affiliated unions with all relevant documents and records for facing verification.
4. Organising effective campaign against social repression and on demands of the socially oppressed sections from the trade union platform.
5. Organising M K Pandhe Memorial programmes during 11 July-20 August at all levels.
6. Organising education-programmes on the occasion of P Sundaraiah Birth Centenary Year with particular focus on 'worker peasant alliance and task before the working class'.

7. Prepare for holding conferences at different level in the run up to 14th Conference of CITU in early 2013.

14.0 CONCLUSION

14.1 While reviewing the political situation, a clear and desperate right wing shift has been noted in the behaviour of the ruling polity in the background of a weakened Left inside Parliament. Imperialist pressure is also being built up to force such right wing shift both on political and economic policy front.

14.2 Simultaneously, ruling polity is facing an erosion of its credibility owing to growing disenchantment among the masses owing to price rise, increasing unemployment, exposure of numerous corrupt deals and various other factors including consistent struggle by the toiling class and broader unity of working class movement realised in that process.

14.3 The situation therefore has thrown both tremendous challenges and great opportunities before the working class movement. And the working class movement only can combat the situation effectively. Desperate bid of the rightist forces to occupy greater space by marginalising Left can only be combated by the militant expression of working class by heightened united struggle against the neoliberal order. Widest class mobilisation at grass root level on the issues facing the workers and the people at large is the most crucial task of the hour and that alone can pave the way for united countrywide counteroffensive by the working class against the onslaught being planned by the right wing forces on the country's economy and the people.

14.4 Our independent initiative must therefore unleash much bigger initiative at all levels of our organisation to enable us to channelise peoples' anguish against the miseries inflicted by neoliberal order against the cohorts of neoliberalism in the polity, in the track of intensive class struggle. Task is no doubt challenging but not an impossible one to discharge.

14.5 While concluding, let us recall the concluding note of our working committee meeting held in July 2011 at Kullu:

The challenges before us are no doubt stupendous, but our ideology and its serious pursuit in the field of mobilisation and action is the greatest weapon at our command. We must expand and consolidate our organisation in that direction with the determination to combat.

14.6 We will overcome. We will definitely overcome the challenges before us and carry the class struggle to a militant height to combat the rightist offensive.

With greetings

Long live unity of the working class

Long Live CITU

Tapan Sen

General Secretary

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Meeting of General Council

2-5 June 2012, Coimbatore

REVIEW OF 28TH FEBRUARY ALL INDIA GENERAL STRIKE

The state wise details of the preparations for the 28th February 2012 all India General Strike and its implementation in different states can be part of the report of activities. Here we attempt to analyse the major aspects of the strike that made it one of the most wide spread and effective countrywide general strikes in the history of independent India and try to draw lessons to further strengthen the unity achieved in this strike, to carry forward and intensify the struggle for the protection of the rights of the working class and to strengthen CITU in order to achieve our objective of emancipation of the working class and the people of our country. However, it is regrettable that despite specific circular no 4/2012 dated 2nd March 2012, sent to all state committees, office bearers and industrial federations very few states (from five states only) have sent the information requested about the details of the preparations made for the strike, to help a proper review. This draft is based on whatever information we could gather at the centre.

The 28th February 2012 all India General Strike was the 14th country wide general strike in the two decades since the inception of the neoliberal policies. This was the first time that both INTUC and BMS, the two major central trade unions of the two major ruling parties in the country joined the other central trade unions in giving the call for the general strike. This reflects the discontent among the mass of the workers against the impact of the neoliberal policies of reforms and their increasing support to the demands raised by the joint trade union movement during the last more than two years. CITU played the leading role in the formulation of these demands. The participation of the other central trade unions was more visible in this strike compared to the earlier general strikes; participation of BMS was significant in many places, but the participation of HMS was conspicuously low. HMS did not participate in the state level meetings in Madhya Pradesh despite repeated efforts; it played a negative role in coal in Chattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, campaigning against the strike.

The discontent against the price rise, the attacks on the trade union and other hard-won rights of the workers and the demands of minimum wages and equal wages and benefits for contract workers, the enthusiasm created by the coming together of all the central trade unions and the joint efforts of the leadership of the central trade unions in addressing joint conventions in major state capitals and industrial centres, joint appeals to some major industrial federations etc, the initiative and the independent efforts of CITU in the campaign – all these contributed to the effective strike on 28th February 2012.

Initiatives from the CITU centre

In addition to playing the major role in the formulation of the demands of the strike, CITU centre took the initiative for the joint convention of the public sector trade unions in Bangalore, for the joint discussions of the central trade unions' leadership with the leadership of the major federations in sectors like ports and docks, transport, petroleum, electricity etc. CITU centre kept regular contact

with the leadership of all the other major central trade unions in an attempt to ensure coordinated efforts for the campaign and success of the strike. The secretariat members of CITU participated in the state and industrial joint conventions.

In addition, CITU centre also made efforts to ensure effective independent campaign by its state committees and affiliated unions to take the demands of the strike to the widest sections of the workers.

A meeting of the extended secretariat inviting the presidents/ general secretaries of the state committees and industrial federations was held on 14-15 November 2011. As per the decision of this meeting, a draft pamphlet was prepared by the centre and sent to all the state committees for translation and distribution. Secretariat members from CITU centre attended some state committee meetings to help in the planning of the campaign for the strike and also made efforts to monitor the preparations for the strike in different states and sectors.

Preparations by the state committees/ industrial federations

There was significant improvement in the initiatives taken by the state committees to ensure the success of the strike. In general, our state committees, including in states like Gujarat where we are weak, took the initiative for joint conventions and campaign. Almost all the state committees of CITU met and prepared plans for the successful implementation of the strike in their respective states. The secretariats/ working committees of several industrial federations including Electricity Employees' Federation of India, All India Road Transport Workers' Federation, all India federations/ coordination committees in Steel, Petroleum, Powergrid, NTPC, BHEL, BEL and All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, etc met and discussed strike preparations. Many of these federations took initiative to issue jointly signed statements by all the industry-based unions/ federations supporting the strike and appealing the workers to join. The jointly signed declarations, statements etc were sent to the concerned state committees to be used in approaching all the sections of the workers in the campaign. A draft with the specific demands and points to be highlighted for the campaign among anganwadi employees was sent by the AIFAWH to all its state committees.

The All India Road Transport Workers' Federation also held 3 zonal meetings and a meeting of the road transport unions in the north eastern region for the success of the strike in the region. Separate meetings were also held in each of the states in the region.

Joint activities

State level joint conventions were held in most of the states including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal, Assam, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh etc.

In several states joint conventions were held at district and industry level. CITU state committees in several states took initiative to organise the preparatory meetings held for the success of the strike. In almost all the states, joint leaflets and posters were printed and distributed. As per reports received at the Centre, in Andhra Pradesh district level joint conventions were held in all the districts; in Karnataka they were held in 21 out of the 30 districts. In Kerala, joint conventions were held in all

districts and also at the panchayat level. In Tripura, joint conventions were organised in all the sub divisions. In Madhya Pradesh, joint torch light processions were organised in almost all the cities. Separate joint conventions of financial sector employees, state and central government employees, private transport workers were also held in many districts in Andhra Pradesh, where joint human chain programme was held at 166 centres in 14 districts and joint scooter rallies were held in 20 districts. In Kerala, joint jathas were also held though INTUC did not participate in the same. Similar district/sub-divisional level campaigns might have been held in other states as well but no report is yet received on the same.

Independent campaign

Most of the state committees of CITU held independent campaign in addition to the joint campaign. In Andhra Pradesh, all the district committees held workshops to workout the concrete plan in the district. 792 mandal committees, 199 town committees and 95 city division committees as well as the committees of the state unions at different levels met to plan campaign. 602 mandal conventions were held.

As per the available information the draft pamphlet sent by the CITU centre was translated and printed and distributed in lakhs (Andhra Pradesh – 333700, Chattisgarh – 20000, Haryana – 10000, Madhya Pradesh – 5000 and Odisha – 9500; total 378200). In Kerala, the pamphlet prepared by CITU Centre was published and circulated as joint pamphlet by all the central trade unions with very minor change. In West Bengal the CITU pamphlet has been published in three languages in Bengali, Hindi and Urdu, but we do not have exact information about exact number of circulation in those two states. Similarly, as per information available only from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi and Haryana, more than 2476200 joint and independent leaflets were distributed by the state and district committees of CITU and some state level unions, with details from some unions pending. Thousands of joint and independent posters were also printed and pasted.

Andhra Pradesh state committee made commendable efforts in this regard publishing lakhs of pamphlets and leaflets. 333700 copies of the pamphlet from the all India centre were published in Telugu and distributed in 1001 mandals, 580 industries and 105 corporation divisions. In addition 938000 pamphlets were printed and distributed by the district committees and another 711200 by different sectors. More than 7,17,000 handbills were distributed and also 67000 posters were printed and pasted in the state as part of campaign in Karnataka.

Independent and joint rallies, demonstrations, processions, dharnas etc were held in support of the strike in different states. A jeep jatha was held jointly by the Haryana state committee of CITU and Sarva Karmachari Sangh (State government employees' association) during the course of which 43 meetings were organised; the jatha culminated in a joint trade union rally in Faridabad in which around 12000 – 15000 workers participated. The CITU affiliated brick kiln and construction workers' unions in Haryana also held a rally in Hisar in support of the strike in which around 8000 workers participated. In Tripura a big militant rally was organised in Agartala in support of the strike. Street corner meetings were organised by the Tripura state coordination committee of working women. In several industrial areas in Delhi, both joint and independent rallies, demonstrations etc were held some highlighting specifically some of the demands. Delhi state committee also made use of cultural forms like street corner plays in the campaign for the strike. It has also formed strike committees in some industrial areas. Gate meetings were also organised in the industrial areas to

cover all the factory gates in the strike campaign. The demands were prominently displayed through huge flexi boards at the main centres and grounds in several cities in Gujarat.

Campaign/rallies/processions in support of strike were also held in almost all the districts, blocks and industrial areas of in West Bengal, in many places braving attacks by the Trinamool Congress goons. In one such programme of strike-campaign Pradip Ta, General Council member of CITU and district committee member of CPI (M) and Kamal Gayen, district committee member of CPI (M) were brutally murdered by the TMC hooligans.

From the meeting of the extended Secretariat of CITU held on 14-15 November 2011, call was given for appropriate organisational preparation for intensification of the campaign so that our campaign can reach the widest section of workers and our leaders and activists at the unit/union level can be activated in that direction.

Participation in the strike

The strike was more visible and effective all over the country with a bandh like situation prevailing in several states. Particularly noteworthy is the effective strike in West Bengal, despite the threats of victimisation by state government and physical attacks including murders by the hooligans of the ruling party in the state. Not only in the states where we are strong as in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura, in many other states and in several districts of some states, normal life came to a standstill.

The strike in public transport including State road Transport Corporation, auto rickshaw etc was strikingly visible. In Kerala, West Bengal, Tripura and Assam, public transport, private buses, taxis, auto rickshaws, mini buses, goods transport were off the road; in Delhi autos and taxis went on strike; in Odisha strike in the transport sector was total; strike in state road transport was 75% to near total in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan while it was 50% in Tamil Nadu. In West Bengal, all private transport was off the road while in 18 districts of Andhra Pradesh 80% of private vehicles were off the road. There was effective strike in the road transport sector in the north eastern region for the first time. The transport workers in Jammu and Kashmir also participated actively in the strike.

Almost all auto rickshaws in Bangalore were off the road on the joint call of CITU and HMS though AITUC did not participate in the strike. Auto rickshaws in more than 30 towns in Karnataka, 90% of autos in 6 municipal towns and 30% autos in another 3 municipal town in Andhra Pradesh participated in the strike. Several districts in Bihar too witnessed good strike in the road transport sector.

It is estimated that around 75 lakhs transport workers, both from public and private sectors, participated in the strike.

The participation of employees in public sector undertakings was better this time. In Karnataka, strike was total in BEML, BHEL, ITI, HMT and Defence DRDO, Quality control; BEL executives too joined on request of negotiating trade unions; in HAL, strike began on 27th night itself and all workers were out of the shift by 12 midnight. In Andhra Pradesh strike was total in ECIL, BHEL, BHEL R&D, and HCL in Hyderabad and in Vizag steel and shipyard in Visakhapatnam. Strike was total in most of the ports in the country, except in Kolkata and Haldia. The mine workers in Chattisgarh,

Jharkhand, and Odisha etc joined the strike en masse. The strike in the petroleum sector- in the upstream, refineries and marketing, was substantial in the eastern, north eastern and southern parts of the country while more than 50% workers in this sector in the western India participated in the strike and in northern India strike was partial.

However, there was no strike by the permanent workers in Bhilai steel plant though 12000 contract workers in the plant joined the strike; only 30% permanent workers in Rourkela steel plant joined the strike while it was total among the contract workers; In Bokaro Steel Plant also strike was partial. There was no strike in NTPC. Compared to earlier occasions the strike was weak in the coal industry with some mines of SECL reporting only 10 – 40% strike; there was no strike in NCL; however in ECL, BCCL and CCL it had better response with 70 – 90% coal workers participating in the strike; 50% workers joined strike in Mahanadi coalfields. In BHEL units at Bhopal, Hardwar and Ramchandrapuram strike was hardly 20 – 25% while in Trichy, Ranipet and Bangalore, strike was total. In NALCO in Odisha, while the CITU leaders participated in the strike, the other permanent workers joined the strike for only 1-2 hours and joined duty.

The participation of contract workers was particularly noteworthy. In most of the PSUs, contract workers' participation in the strike was total, even when the permanent workers' participation varied in different PSUs. In Singareni collieries 80% contract workers and 20% permanent workers participated in the strike despite the leadership of AITUC, INTUC and TRS informing the management that they were not participating in the strike. All the contract workers in NTPC Angul, in Rourkela and Vizag steel plants, in NFL in Guna, joined the strike.

The strike also had visible impact in the private organised sector. In Karnataka, for the first time Mangalore Port was totally shut; workers in 2 units of BOSCH, in, ITC, L&T, Federal Mogul, Volvo, Toyota, Wipro, Vikrant tyres, Hutti Gold mines, Birla Group of industries, Harihar Polyfibres, Rajashree cements, Hindalco and Coca Cola participated in the strike. In Andhra Pradesh, strike was effective in majority of the private industries in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Hyderabad, Nellore, Medak and Ranga Reddy districts. In Chattisgarh, strike was total in BALCO, LANCO Power Plant etc while 40% of workers in the private industrial area in Raipur joined the strike. Workers in around a dozen private units in Devas industrial area and in KEC International in Madhya Pradesh, in the small industrial units in Indore, Gwalior etc joined the strike. In Rajasthan almost all major industrial areas like Bhilwara, Rajsamund, Kota, Jodhpur, Khetri etc reported massive strike.

Strike was effective among the financial sector employees, postal employees and BSNL employees though it is reported to be weak in some circles in BSNL. While in some states, the state government employees participated in the strike, in some as in Andhra Pradesh, they signed in the muster rolls and participated in the processions; in Punjab, they took mass casual leave.

Medical representatives, anganwadi employees, ASHAs, mid day meal workers, construction workers, mandi workers, head load workers, beedi workers etc joined the strike in lakhs.

The wide campaign through leaflets, booklets, meetings, rallies, etc created an impact on the workers in several industries who were not affiliated to any of the central trade unions. The booklet on strike reportedly had a good impact. Workers from several industries in Faridabad in Haryana, in Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and several other states who were in independent unions joined the strike.

An important feature of this strike is the participation of the workers in SEZs. All the SEZs in Visakhapatnam district were closed; the Pharma City was closed; the workers in Apache SEZ in Nellore district went on strike.

Another significant feature of this strike was the support it received from the general public and the small traders and shop keepers. For example, the response, of the traders and other sections of the people to the bandh call, given in support of the strike by the Left parties in Andhra Pradesh, was magnificent. Shops were closed voluntarily in several states including in Chattisgarh. 42 taluk head quarters in Karnataka, Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh observed total bandh. Given the huge support the call for the general strike received from the common people, no state government, except in West Bengal, resorted to any significant threats or vindictive measures against the workers and employees.

Joint protest demonstrations including rallies, meetings, dharnas, rasta roko and rail roko etc were held all over the country. Lakhs of workers, mostly from the unorganised sector – anganwadi employees, ASHAs, mid day meal workers, construction workers, beedi workers, head load workers, etc participated in these demonstrations. In Andhra Pradesh, processions and meetings were held in 1072 mandal centres and 138 towns on the day of the strike in which more than 2 lakhs workers participated, around 80 – 90% of them from CITU. In Gujarat, joint rallies were held in around 10 district headquarters whereas anganwadi employees held rallies in 19 districts. Processions and public meetings were held in 147 taluks out of 176 taluks in Karnataka. 30000 – 35000 workers participated in the processions in different industrial areas of Delhi; the processions which started in some areas with a 40 – 50 workers soon swelled into thousands. In many industrial areas, employers closed the factories for the day but still the workers came to join the processions.

One aspect need to be flagged in particular. This strike was the first countrywide joint strike in the last two decades when the Left Front government was not in power in West Bengal and the Trinamool government and its chief minister openly threatened of vindictive action including loss of service and jobs. There were apprehensions among some quarters about the success of the strike in the state. In West Bengal, strike was observed in the face of threats and physical attacks by the state sponsored goons throughout the state. Com Pradip Tah and Kamal Gayen laid down their lives braving murderous attack. The Govt issued threat to all its govt employees to dissuade them from strike. Transporters and transport workers were threatened with dire consequences including cancellation of licenses and physical assault. Organised threat were held out throughout the state even up to block level so that shops are kept opened, transport plies and post offices, banks, telecom offices operate on the strike day. Anganwadi workers were threatened with dire consequences of not being allowed to work if anganwadi centre does not open on the strike day.

Despite all these, transport workers, particularly in private transport sector, both big and small, responded to the strike call magnificently; even shops and establishments in both cities and district towns remained mostly closed; anganwadi employees, all women workers struck heroically. Industrial workers throughout the state covering all industries viz., Jute, Coal, Engineering, joined the strike overwhelmingly. Plantation workers also joined the strike in a big way. Strike participation remained poor only among a part of middle-class employees segment. While employees in Banks, Insurance, Telecom, PSU and Central Govt offices etc, joined the strike in enmasse, strike was comparatively poor and partial among the state govt offices and undertakings and among regular teachers. The working class of the state deserve special appreciation for effectively combating

terror and attack and overwhelmingly participating in the strike action; even the corporate media had to acknowledge that West Bengal was among the worst hit by the strike.

Shortcomings and weaknesses

However, many shortcomings and weaknesses continue to exist. We cannot say that all our state committees and industrial federations have fully utilised the occasion to approach even all our members, leave alone the workers belonging to the other unions or those not affiliated to any union, despite the repeated directions from the CITU centre.

The efforts by most of the state committee were confined to organise conventions and some general campaign programmes. No serious effort was made to ensure that the demands raised by the strike are taken to the mass of the workers. While the CITU membership is more than 50 lakhs, the total number of booklets published by all our state committees and affiliated unions together comes nowhere around even a substantial percentage of that number. In fact the number of leaflets/pamphlets should be more than our membership figure so that our campaign can reach the members of other unions and common workers in general. As per reports available with us, only in some states like Andhra Pradesh such effort was made by distributing more than 16 lakhs leaflets while our membership in the state is more than 5 lakhs. But in some states like Odisha, while the state committee decided to print around 50000 leaflets, in practice only around 10000 leaflets were printed and distributed, while our membership in the state is more than 1 lakh; several district committees and unions did not distribute the leaflets. ?

In several states though the workers participated in the strike, they were not fully aware of the demands raised and their link with the policies pursued by the government. This also reflects weakness/shortcoming in activising and properly equipping our leaders and activists at union/unit level who are the living link between the common worker and the leadership at various tiers. This also indicates our major weakness in understanding the importance of propaganda in our work, in raising the consciousness of the workers and consolidating our organisation and support base. When we are not able to come out of routinised and ritualistic nature of our work, to make the workers aware of the demands, how can we make them aware of the historic role of the working class in ending exploitation?

Another aspect we need to consider when we review the strike is whether we have been able to expand our contacts, our influence outside our union membership and if so to what extent? To what extent we have been able to activise our union/unit level committees in the campaign? Whether we have been able to consolidate our organisation? Though it is not possible to examine these aspects with the information available with the CITU centre at present, all the state committees must review their work in this campaign keeping these aspects in mind and send their observations to the CITU centre for a more fruitful analysis. As per the information available, the All India Road Transport Workers' Federation's efforts helped in influencing the transport workers' unions in the northeast region, many of which expressed their desire to join our federation.

Conclusion

The success of the 28th February strike shows that the workers are enthused by the unity of the central trade unions and are ready to come into struggles. The demands of minimum wages, equal wages and benefits to the contract workers, trade union rights, price rise and pension evoked

maximum response from the workers. This needs to be taken into consideration while carrying the struggle forward and we must intensify our struggles on such specific demands.

Response of the contract workers in organised industries to the strike call throughout the country is noteworthy. In many industrial units, particularly in public sector, contract workers joined the strike in a big way despite regular workers stayed away from the strike. We must plan for developing industrywise movement on contract workers demands with a vision to coordinate the industrywise struggle for a countrywide action by contract workers at subsequent phase. We have to prioritise this task in view of their crucial role in the working of the modern industrial economy.

It is also to be noted that though the participation of almost all the central trade unions in this strike has increased compared to the earlier strikes, joint campaigns were possible and the strike was effective where the CITU committees took the initiative. Thus it becomes imperative upon us to continue the initiative, not only at the centre but also at the state and industrial federations' levels, to further strengthen the unity.

We must also note that this will be possible only when the CITU and its affiliated unions are strong enough to persuade and prod the other trade unions into action. The strength of CITU can grow only through our independent campaigns, struggles and propaganda among the workers.

We have to identify some concrete immediate burning demands of the workers and plan an effective campaign culminating in a militant independent struggle. This has to be taken up while we continue our efforts to take the joint campaigns forward.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Meeting of General Council

2-5 June 2012 , Coimbatore

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

(After the Kullu Working Committee meeting of CITU)

The period after the meeting of the CITU working committee in Kullu was dominated by our efforts towards effective implementation of the calls of the joint trade union movement – the jail bhara programme on 8th November 2011 and the countrywide general strike on 28th February 2012. However, several independent campaigns and struggles have been conducted by the state committees of CITU, its affiliated unions and industrial federations. Though some state committees like Andhra Pradesh have more or less been sending regular reports of activities, the weakness in sending reports of activities continues in the case of most of our state committees.

The report on activities presented below is based on the information available with the CITU centre. The review of 28th February general strike, the most important of our initiative, is given separately

8th November 2011 Jail Bhara

The 'Jail Bhara' programme on 8th November 2011 was a great success. Lakhs of workers from all over the country held demonstrations, dharnas, picketing, rasta roko, rail roko and different forms of protest actions and courted arrest.

In several states, including in the 'Hindi speaking states', almost all the districts and industrial centres witnessed massive participation of workers in the 'Jail Bhara' programme. Workers courted arrest in all the districts in Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, West Bengal, and Kerala and in almost all the districts in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Karnataka. In several other states including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh 'Jail Bhara' was observed in many industrial centres and district headquarters with workers courting arrest in large numbers. Workers courted arrest in 23 centres in all the subdivisions in Tripura and in 663 mandals, 81 municipal towns in Andhra Pradesh, in 11 centres in Chattisgarh, 9 districts in Gujarat, 11 out of the 12 districts in Himachal Pradesh.

In some places in West Bengal, police physically assaulted the workers. In Malda police resorted to severe lathi charge injuring 32 workers. In Burdwan, two CITU leaders including a woman leader were manhandled by the police.

All India Road Transport Workers' Federation

A meeting of the north zone committee of All India Road Transport Workers' Federation, held in New Delhi on 2nd August 2011 decided to strengthen the movement of road transport workers in Hindi speaking areas. Representatives from Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir attended.

All India Co-ordination Committee of FCI Unions

An all India convention of FCI Unions was held in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh on 8th August 2011 in which the All India Co-ordination Committee of Food Corporation of India (FCI) Unions was constituted. Around 1200 delegates from different states participated in the convention. 30 delegates took part in the discussion. A procession was organised on the occasion.

All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers

A mid term review of the implementation of the direction and decisions of the 6th conference of AIFAWH is scheduled in Kullu on 2- 4 August. 133 working committee members and invitees representing all the state committees except Jammu and Kashmir, Puducherry and Tripura participated in the meeting.

The mid term review noted that though the efforts to intensify struggles and take up local problems as per the direction of the 6th conference of AIFAWH has improved to certain extent, many state committees were not paying the necessary attention to raising the consciousness of their members and on cadre development. It also noted that the membership did not reflect our influence.

The 7th conference of AIFAWH is scheduled on 4- 7 October 2012 in Thiruvananthapuram, on the basis of 2011 membership.

All India Coordination Committee of ASHAs

A huge rally was organised by All India Coordination Committee of ASHAs in Delhi on 24th November 2011. Around 6000 ASHAs from 15 states participated in the rally that highlighted the demands of regularisation, fixed remuneration, regular payment, regularisation, etc of the ASHAs. A memorandum was presented to the Union minister for health and family welfare.

ACTIVITIES IN THE STATES

Andhra Pradesh

Around 3000 employees of '104 services', providing medical services outsourced by the state government, went on strike for 111 days from 9th November 2011 to 28th February 2012, demanding implementation of the Government Order related to their wages and demanding job security. The government initially tried to terminate the services of 900 employees but ultimately had to come to an agreement with the union. It has agreed to provide alternative employment to those removed from service and also to implement the concerned government order.

5000 out of the total 12000 computer teachers imparting technical knowledge on computers in schools, as part of a central government programme, went on strike for 105 days from 16th September 2011 to 28th December. 25 computer teachers participated in the relay and indefinite fast in Hyderabad for 30 days. These teachers, who are appointed on contract basis, achieved an increase of Rs 600 – Rs 800 in their wages as a result of the strike. Trade union classes were held by the CITU state committee on daily basis during the period of the strike.

1000 employees of Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies, working in 3 centres, teaching and non - teaching, went on strike for 28 days in December 2011. Though 250 of them were removed from service for participation in the strike, they continued the strike with courage. Ultimately the strike was withdrawn on reinstatement of the Home Room Tutors (HRTs) and appointment of a committee on allotment of quarters, wage increase, sanction of regular posts etc.

Around 2000 employees working in the 268 urban health centres including the 76 established under NRHM, who were organised as an independent union since the last several years have recently joined CITU. Committees were formed in 19 districts.

A state level convention of contract employees working under different state government departments was organised in Hyderabad on 10th January 2012. 350 contract employees from 16 districts participated. The convention decided a struggle programme on the demands of regularisation and DA.

Despite revising the minimum wages under pressure from the united struggle of the beedi workers and issuing the Government Order, the state government did not publish the concerned GO in its Gazette. Instead it has appointed tripartite committees at the instance of the owners without consulting the trade unions. Some unions, including those affiliated to AITUC, BMS, INTUC, TNTUC and Telangana Karmika Sangh entered in to agreement with the managements accepting wages lower than prescribed in the GO. Our union conducted independent campaign demanding gazetting of the GO. Effigies of the government were burnt in 8 districts having concentration of beedi workers. 50 thousand pamphlets were distributed on the occasion. A state convention was organised along with IFTU, the majority union and AFTUC on 28th January 2012 in which around 200 beedi workers from 8 districts participated. The state government had ultimately gazetted the GO.

The state conference of Civil Supplies Hamalis was held in Ongole on 13th November 2011. 70 hamalis from 9 districts attended. Picketing of the commissioner's office in which 700 hamalis from 8 districts participated was held on 7th December demanding increase in wages. 8000 leaflets were distributed and the union gave notice to go on strike from 6th March. The state government reached an agreement with the union on the issues of wage rise, bonus, ESI, uniform and payment of arrears.

10000 power loom workers in Chittoor district went on strike for one week in February – March 2012 demanding increase in piece rates and achieved a raise by Rs 1.75 per metre. Later, a district wise union affiliated to CITU was formed. Tamil Nadu comrades attended to the public meeting held on 14th March.

Around 1000 contract workers out of the total 8000 employed in Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam participated in a dharna before administrative office demanding implementation of wages as per an existing Government Order. An indefinite hunger strike for 4 days, led by the district general secretary of CITU, was held from 13th – 16th March, after which it was withdrawn as the management agreed to settle the issue by the end of March.

Many of our state wide unions conducted 'Chalo Assembly' programmes during the assembly session in the month of March 2012.

The mid day meal workers' union organised 'Chalo Assembly' on 5th March in which around 3000 mid day meal workers participated. The state government agreed to increase the menu charges to the students in 1- 5 class to Rs 4 per child, and for those in classes 6 – 10 to Rs 4.65; it has also agreed to positively examine their demand of identity cards and job security. The union also demanded the government to stop privatisation of the mid day meal programme by handing it over to NGOs, contractors etc.

15000 anganwadi employees participated in the 'Chalo Assembly' programme organised by AP Anganwadi Workers and Helpers' Union on 6th march, demanding payment of enhanced wages and their arrears. Sensing the resentment among them, the government issued and released the GO to the press on 5th March on payment of arrears for 5 months. Subsequently another GO was issued for total clearance of all the arrears.

Earlier nearly 70000 anganwadi employees participated in the dharnas before the district collectorates on 30th January 30th to focus on the local problems, demanding increase in the remuneration paid by the state government, and against establishment of nutrition and nursery centres in the vicinity of the anganwadi centres.

Around 3000 ASHAs participated in the 'Chalo Assembly' held on 12th March 3000 Asha workers held assembly march. The government released the pending dues of incentives up to December 2011.

Study circles are being conducted at the mandal headquarters in 12 districts Mandal Study circles. Classes for CITU activists working on the residential area problems of workers in municipal towns were conducted in 9 districts.

Mandal level conferences of CITU have been completed in 10 districts.

Dharnas in solidarity with the Maruti Suzuki employees were held in front of the Maruti Suzuki show rooms and sales offices in 10 districts.

The East Godavari district committee of CITU extended all support to the workers of Regency Ceramics in Yanam (Puducherry), from the beginning. Protest marches were held all over the state against the police brutality. A state office bearer of CITU stayed at Yanam for some days to extend all the required help. The state general secretary attended the condolence meeting of Murali Mohan. Solidarity fund is being collected all over the state.

Assam

The Assam State Committee of All India Road Transport Workers' Federation organised a state level dharna on the issue of one time payment of motor vehicle tax. It also participated in the joint struggles of the central trade unions including jail bhara on 8th November 2011 and all India general strike on 28th February 2012.

Chattisgarh

The Chattisgarh state committee of CITU conducted a state wide 21 days' campaign on the 22

point charter of demands from 1st of September 2011. The campaign culminated in an impressive mass meeting & rally on 22nd September in Raipur. More than 5000 workers from different segments participated in the rally.

Delhi

The Delhi state committee of CITU organised a huge demonstration before the labour commissioner's office on 18th October 2011 demanding implementation of labour laws, abolition of the contract system, and appointment of only regular workers in work of regular nature. Workers from different industries participated in the demonstration.

A mass dharna was organised on 7th October 2011 by the workers of International Electron Devices before the office of deputy labour commissioner in Noida protesting against the unilateral lockout by the management since 26 September. More than 500 workers participated in the dharna. The district magistrate was forced to receive the memorandum demanding strict implementation of the MOU signed by the management and lifting the illegal lock out, compensation to all workers for the lock out period.

Gujarat

A massive dharna was organised by Gujarat Anganwadi Karmachari Sanghatana in front of the state Assembly in Gandhinagar on 26th March 2012. Around 5000 anganwadi employees from 19 districts participated in the dharna demanding minimum wages of Rs 6000 – 7000 with sliding scales and special allowances, retirement at 60 years with benefits including pension and gratuity, compensation through a lump sum amount for those who have already been retired without any benefits, immediate payment of the arrears of Rs 62 crores incurred by the anganwadi workers and helpers towards annual bonus, hot snacks, etc.

The state government which initially refused to even accept the memorandum was ultimately forced to accept it when the anganwadi employees declared that they would sit on Satyagraha.

Haryana

The construction workers' union organised an impressive demonstration in Julana demanding early completion of registration of all the construction workers, death compensation, and other benefits applicable to the construction and other building workers. A memorandum was submitted to the SDO.

IFB Automobiles workers organised a dharna on 12th July 2011 under the leadership of CITU, demanding implementation of labour laws, eight hour work, minimum wages, regularisation of the casual workers performing permanent nature of work etc. Large number of peasants from the neighbouring villages also participated in the dharna in support of the workers' demands.

Himachal Pradesh

The ninth state conference of Anganwadi and Helpers' Union, Himachal Pradesh was held in Mandi on 9-10 July 2011. 200 delegates from 12 out of the 14 districts in the state participated in the

conference, which began with a rally on 9th July. The conference decided to intensify the second phase of the struggle on local demands and conduct a membership drive.

Jammu & Kashmir

A joint convention of anganwadi employees and ASHAs was held in Jammu on 2nd October 2011. Around 100 anganwadi employees and ASHAs from 5 districts in the Jammu regions including Jammu, Kathua, Rajouri, Reasi, and Udhampur participated in the convention which discussed their problems and decided to conduct campaigns and struggles on the local issues and strengthen the respective organisations.

Around 1000 ASHAs from all the 10 districts in the Kashmir valley of the state participated in a rally held in Srinagar on 4th October 2011 under the banner of Jammu and Kashmir ASHA Karmachari Union affiliated to CITU. The demands that were raised included continuation of the National Rural Health Mission, fixation of regular wages, regular payment of their remuneration, implementation of the assurances given earlier like sim cards for mobile phones, uniform, rest rooms in hospitals etc and immediate stoppage to the harassment by the regular staff in the government hospitals etc. The scheduled procession to the state assembly was called off due to the tense situation in the city after the death of a National Conference activist.

Jharkhand

As per a late report received by the CITU centre after the Kullu working committee meeting, Hatia Mazdoor Union affiliated to CITU led a struggle of the HEC supply and contract workers in Ranchi. Dharnas, rallies and strikes were organised several times on the demands of the contract workers forcing the management to sign an agreement with the union on 20th June. The consistent struggle by CITU led union succeeded to reduce the time limit from 10 years to five and half years. The contract workers will get other service benefits also under the agreement including the monitory benefits.

The wages were revised from Rs 114 to 268 for unskilled, Rs 126 to 286 for semiskilled, Rs 131 to 296 for skilled, Rs 153 to 326, Rs 170 to 352 for highly skilled categories and Rs 179 to 365 for super skilled workers. The agreement also stipulates that an unskilled worker with 7 years and above experience is entitled to semiskilled wages and those in the semiskilled category with similar experience will get skilled wages. Persons with 8 years experience as skilled worker, or 15 years as semiskilled and skilled taken together will get highly skilled wages. Person with experience of 7 years as highly skilled or 15 years as skilled and highly skilled service taken together will get super skilled wages.

Karnataka

Since 2008, Karnataka state committee of CITU has been conducting a sustained struggle on certain demands of the workers in the organised and unorganised sectors. In continuation of the struggle, a massive state level demonstration was held in Bangalore on 26th November 2011 in which around 20000 workers participated forcing the government to call a meeting in which several state cabinet ministers and principal secretaries held discussions with the state office bearers of CITU. The state government agreed to constitute an expert committee in which the president and

general secretary of CITU state committee were also included, on the issue of minimum wages.

In continuation of the common struggle, demonstrations and dharnas were conducted in front of the offices of the labour commissioner from 17th to 19th April 2012. On 19th April demonstrations were held in front of the Deputy Commissioners officers in 25 districts. The main demands focused included a minimum wage of Rs 10000 for unskilled workers with 2008 as base year and linked to consumer price index, implementation of the industrial minimum wage for all the contract/ daily wage workers, regularisation of the services of temporary workers who have completed 10 years in government departments/ undertakings, and also of the scheme workers like anganwadi employees, ASHAs, mid day meal workers etc, identity cards for all the workers in the unorganised sector, effective implementation of the welfare schemes, minimum wages for village panchayat workers, ration cards, supply of rice/ wheat etc at Rs 2 per kg, residential house site pattas, pension and social security benefits for all workers, scholarships to the children of unorganised sector workers, 180 days' paid maternity leave for all working women, reduction in the prices of petrol and diesel etc

The labour commissioner, along with the other officers of the labour department, held a discussion with the CITU office bearers along with and agreed to extend some welfare measures like Janshree bima yojana, RSBY etc to several segments of the unorganised workers. It was also agreed to propose notification of minimum wages for anganwadi employees, ASHAs, mid day meal workers etc and cover the village panchayat workers under a suitable scheme to provide minimum wages and other benefits.

Kerala

A state level convention of road transport workers was organised on 10th August 2011 where a 'confederation of road transport workers' was constituted. It has decided to increase the membership of road transport workers in the state to 5 lakhs within a time frame.

Anganwadi workers and helpers in Kerala under the leadership of the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Association (CITU) have achieved an increase in honorarium as well as pension. This declaration by the Congress led UDF government came after a prolonged struggle, culminating in a relay dharna and massive Assembly March held on 19th March 2012 at Thiruvananthapuram. Now the anganwadi workers and helpers both will get Rs 1000 per month from the state government. The amount of pension has been increased to Rs 750 per month to workers and Rs 550 to helpers.

Madhya Pradesh

A joint struggle of the contract workers of National Fertiliser Limited in Guna, with the initiative of CITU resulted in 40% increase in the wages, 16% bonus, gum boots and uniform for the 700 workers. The CITU fought back the threats of the management in collusion with the hoodlums of the contractors to force the management to come to the negotiating table.

Maharashtra

A unique convention of co-operative sugar factory workers, farmers and sugarcane harvesting

workers was organised by Maharashtra state committee of CITU in Aurangabad. The convention unanimously adopted a resolution demanding protection of the cooperative sugar sector from rampant privatisation and liberalisation. A charter of demands of the sugar industry, both organised and unorganised was also adopted in the convention.

Odisha

A state level rally was organised in Bhubaneswar by Odisha State Committee of CITU on 28th December 2011, on a 22 point charter of demands that included fixation of minimum wage not below Rs 200 per day, reopening of the closed mines and reinstatement of all the retrenched mine workers, immediate measures to curb price rise and universalise the public distribution system, pension for all, strict implementation of all labour laws, social security benefits to all the unorganised workers, effective implementation of the Odisha Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards decisions, enhancement of remuneration to anganwadi, ASHA, mid day meal workers and extension of social security measures to all of them etc. More than 10000 workers from all the 30 districts in the state participated in the rally. They included workers from public sector undertakings like steel, NTPC, coal, NALCO Mines and Refinery in Damanjodi and (S&R) Complex, Angul, permanent and contractor workers from port and dock, mines workers of Sundergarh and Keonjhar districts, workers from transport and small scale industries, construction workers, anganwadi employees, ASHAs, mid day meal workers, krishak sathis, shakti sahayika, 'yashodas', beedi workers, forest workers etc took part in the rally.

Later a delegation submitted the 22 point memorandum addressed to the chief minister to the government and held discussions with the chief secretary to the government of Odisha in the presence of the officials of the different departments.

CITU state committee and district committees organised massive campaign throughout the state for the success of programme. Jathas were organised by the Sundergarh and Keonjhar district committees of CITU covering all the industries and up to panchayat level. 30000 leaflets were distributed and 15000 posters pasted. Gate meeting, general body meetings etc were held among the workers in different industries.

The mid term review of the implementation of the decisions of the last Odisha state conference and all India conferences of CITU was held in Bhubaneswar on 25 – 26 March 2012. 73 state committee members and invitees from 11 districts attended the meeting.

The meeting decided to conduct a 2 month long campaign on the demands of minimum wages, pension for all, equal wages and benefits for the contract workers, and allocation of adequate fund to ensure social security benefits for all the unorganised workers culminating in district level massive mobilisations. It has decided to concentrate on the developing industrial corridor in the state and prepare a plan. Certain organisational decisions to improve the functioning were also taken.

Punjab

Punjab and Chandigarh council of NTUI unanimously decided and declared its merger with CITU.

Thousands of MNREGA workers, large number of them women, participated in the rallies and

demonstrations held all over the state under the leadership of the Punjab state committee of CITU against the violation of MNREGA norms and delayed payment of wages etc. The demonstrations were held in front of the offices of the SDM on 8th September 2011.

More than 700 drivers, conductors and auto workshop workers of Punjab Roadways participated in a dharna organised by Punjab Roadways PUNBUS contract workers' union affiliated to CITU, against the illegal contract labour system.

A rally of anganwadi employees, ASHAs and mid day meal workers was organised in Chandigarh on 4th October 2011. The police resorted to brutal lathi charge against the peacefully demonstrating employees. Protest demonstrations were held against the police brutality all over the state. Thousands of anganwadi employees, ASHAs and mid day meal workers participated organised a rasta roko in Sangrur on 16th October. Police again resorted to inhuman lathi charge on the women employees.

More than 1000 anganwadi workers and helpers from all the districts in the state representing most of the ICDS projects participated in the 'Victory Rally' in Muktsar on 30th October 2011 organised by the Anganwadi Mulajam Union. This was the first such rally by CITU or any other trade union organisation in Muktsar.

Rajasthan

A well attended convention was organised in Jaipur on 1st October 2011 against the hike in electricity rates

A joint state level trade union convention was held on 11 October 2011 in support of the joint trade union call for jail bharo programme on 8th November 2011. Large number of workers from various organised and unorganised sector industries participated.

Tamil Nadu

750 regular workers of Kamstar, a US automobile unit in Chennai went on strike in August 2011, demanding wage revision, right to negotiate etc. The workers conducted demonstrations in Chengleput before the Sub-Collector office and before the Collectorate at Kancheepuram and demanded the intervention of the state labour minister to resolve their demands.

The state committee of CITU organised demonstrations in different districts on 6th September 2011 demanding enactment of a law on trade union recognition, raising of minimum wages to Rs 10000 per month along with DA and regularisation of the contract workers. More than 1000 workers from different sectors participated in Chennai, Kancheepuram and Thiruvellur districts.

The small power loom unit owners in Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts went on strike from 31st August demanding 100% wage rise from the power loom cloth manufacturers. They refused to accept the suggestion of a 25% rise made by the concerned minister.

The state conference of handloom workers was held at Jeyankondam on 11 - 13 September 2011. 219 delegates including 41 women from 20 districts participated in the conference, which started

with a public meeting in which around 1000 handloom workers participated.

5616 sugar mill workers in 14 out of the total 17 sugar mills in the state (15 in cooperative and 2 in public sector) went on a joint strike from 4th April demanding wage revision. Workers of all union affiliations including those with ATP (trade union wing of AIADMK) participated in the strike. 4200 workers participated in a rally held in Chennai on 24th April. 2800 workers participated in the 48 hour mass hunger strike held on 1st and 2nd May. 3765 workers took part in the picketing programme on 4th May. Finally the 38 day strike was called off on 11th May, after the management agreed for wage rise of unskilled workers by Rs 1595 and for supervisors by Rs1907 per month.

13000 contract workers of NLC (Neyveli Lignite Corporation) are on strike since 21st April demanding regularisation, equal wages for equal work, setting up EPF office at Neyveli etc. The strike called upon by AITUC is being supported by all the other unions except ATP. 400 workers belonging to different trade unions took part in a fast. Talks are going on.

550 nurses and staff of Kancheepuram Meenatchi College and Hospital are on strike under the leadership of CITU affiliated union from 27th April demanding wage revision. No agreement has been reached till now despite seven rounds of conciliation meetings.

450 workers of Ford Motors resorted to picketing demanding withdrawal of the dismissal of 11 workers on allegations of minor misconduct. The management has suspended 7 workers. A demonstration was held on 16th May.

The state government has not yet notified the wage revision of beedi workers as per the settlement signed in October 2010, because of which it is not yet being implemented by the employers in Kanya Kumari, Tirunelveli districts. CITU union gave a call for indefinite strike from 17th April demanding immediate notification. Lakhs of workers participated in the strike which was supported by all the other unions. The strike was called off after 2 days when the labour minister assured that the notification would be issued within a month.

6000 transport workers held a rally in Chennai on 18th April demanding regularisation of reserve employees and implementation of wage agreement in full etc. The Chief Minister announced filling up of 16661 vacancies, recruitment of 400 dependents on compassionate grounds, complete yearly medical check up at Perundurai Transport Hospital of drivers above 45 years of age etc.

Around 3000 local bodies' workers conducted a rally in Chennai on 17th April demanding regularisation, recruitment of more workers etc

Around 300 workers of Tamilnadu Minerals conducted a demonstration before the head office in Chennai on 16th April, demanding promotion, stopping of leasing the mines to private parties, stoppage of engaging private JPC machines instead of Tamin machines, etc

Hundreds of construction workers conducted demonstrations in all major district headquarters on 10 – 16 April demanding implementation of the Central Construction Act. On 15th April, picketing was held at more than 60 centres by CWFI demanding enhancement of welfare benefits, streamlining the functioning of welfare Board, etc.

The state conference of loading and unloading workers was held at Tiruppur on 22-23 of April in which 276 delegates took part. In the open rally more than 5000 workers participated in the rally held on the occasion

The state conference of TASMAC (sales of Indian made foreign liquor) employees was held at Tirunelveli on 30th April - 1st May. 278 delegates attended. Around 3000 workers participated in the public meeting

A silent procession was held in North Chennai on the occasion of the death anniversary of VP Chintan. A seminar on 'VPC in political and cultural fronts' was held in the evening. Several other programmes like book sales, blood donation camps, meetings etc were organised in several other places.

May Day was observed all over the state along with AITUC and fraternal middle class organisations. Hundreds of workers took part in May Day rallies. In Nagercoil the rally was converted into a silent procession as a mark of respect to Com D Mani, a senior working class leader who died on the same day.

Uttar Pradesh

The first state conference of Palledar workers' union was held at Jalaun on 3 July 2011.

The annual conference of Loha and Mill mazdoor union affiliated to CITU was held in Kanpur. Workers from Kanpur Metal Products, Bajaj Company, Srikrishna Engineering and Metal and Component participated in the conference. The conference decided to organise a large rally on 5 August.

The state committee of CITU hosted the all India convention of FCI workers where the all India coordination committee of FCI Unions was constituted.

The state level joint convention of central trade unions was held in Lucknow on 14th August 2011. The convention unanimously decided to organise a big rally before the state Vidhan Sabha on 13th October 2011 in support of the 15 point charter of demands.

A joint trade union dharna was organised by the state committee of CITU on 13th October 2011 in front of the deputy labour commissioner's office in Lucknow demanding minimum wages of Rs 11000 per month.

The first conference of Paper and Card Board Workers was held in Kalpi (Jalaun) on 3rd October 2011.

A delegation of CITU met the additional labour commissioner on 9th November 2011 and submitted a memorandum on the demands of the hotel workers including variable dearness allowance etc.

A massive rally of anganwadi employees, ASHAs and mid day meal workers was held in Lucknow in front of the Vidhan Sabha on 11th May 2012 in which around 2500 anganwadi employees, and around 1500 ASHAs and mid day meal workers participated on their demands. Later a detailed

discussion was held with the government on their demands. Following the demonstration, the government order related to the release of the funds for the payment of the arrears of the remuneration to the anganwadi employees, enhanced more than one year back by the government of India was issued. A special secretary for ICDS was also appointed by the government who agreed to hold further discussions with the representatives of the union.

Uttarakhand

The Almorah district conference of Uttarakhand ASHA Swasthya Kayakarti Union was held at Almora on 9 July 2011. A rally and dharna of ASHAs was held on the occasion. The conference also decided to hold dharna on 16 July demanding increase of honorarium.

West Bengal

A massive rally and demonstration of the unorganised/contractual employees of Banks was held under the banner of "Bank Contractual & Contract Workmen Union, West Bengal", before the Shakespeare Sarani office of Axis Bank on 9th June 2011 to protest against the contemplated large-scale retrenchment of contract/contractual employees by the management of Axis Bank. Leaders of BEFI, BEF, WB and its affiliates attended the programme as fraternal support to the unorganised employees and their cause. The Axis Bank management was ultimately compelled to assure that they would not retrench anyone.

Thousands of anganwadi employees participated in the mass deputation programme all over the state on 1st November 2011. In Kolkata a mass meeting was held outside the office of the Director, Social Welfare.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 31st MARCH 2010
AUDITORS' REPORT

We have examined the Balance Sheet of Centre of Indian Trade Unions as at 31 st March, 2010 and the Income & Expenditure account and Receipt and Payment account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said institution.

We have obtained all the information and explanations and in our opinion, proper books of account have been maintained by the above named institution so far as appears from our examination of the books subject to the notes on accounts.

In our opinion and to the best of our knowledge, and according to information given to us, the said accounts read with the Notes on Accounts give a true and fair view:-

1. In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named institution as at 31.03.2010 and
2. In the case of the income and expenditure account, of the excess of income over expenditure for the year ending 31-03-2010

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 2010

LIABILITIES	RUPEES	RUPEES	ASSETS	RUPEES	RUPEES
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>		2,217,144.00
Opening Balance	22,969,913.00		(As per Schedule attached)		
Add: Surplus from Income & Expenditure account	5,038,547.00	28,008,460.00	<u>INVESTMENTS</u>		
			Fixed Deposits with Banks		22,661,596.00
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS</u>			<u>CURRENT ASSETS,</u>		
a) Current Liabilities			<u>LOANS AND ADVANCES</u>		
Tsunami Victim Relief Fund	8,072,312.00		a) Current Assets		
Com. P. Ramamurthy Fund	3,743,519.00		Balance with Banks	10,344,810.00	
Bihar Flood Relief Fund	66,550.00		Cash in hand	122,088.00	
			Bank Gurantee	12,114.00	
Audit Fee Payable	27,872.00		b) Loans & advances	5,266,315.00	15,745,327.00
Payable Staff Welfare Fund	86,400.00		(Advances recoverable in cash or kind for which value to be received.)		
Int.Coal Mines Workers Fund	618,954.00	12615607			
		40,624,067.00			40,624,067.00

Note : Figures have been rounded off to the nearest of rupee.

For CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date attached.

For B.M. SHARMA & ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Sd/- Sd/- Sd/-
(PRESIDENT (SECRETARY) (TREASURER)

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 7/21/2010

Sd/-
(B. M. SHARMA)
Partner

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2010

EXPENDITURE	RUPEES	RUPEES	INCOME	RUPEES	RUPEES
Magazine Expenses		1,303,360.00	Sale of Magazines		938,743.00
Meeting, Rally & Seminar Exp.		186,107.00	Publication A/c		30,480.00
Travelling & Conveyance Exp.		169,069.00	Affiliation Fee		6,220,449.00
Publication Expenses		70,022.00	Bank Interest		117,251.00
Staff Welfare Expenses		54,650.00	Donation		72,312.00
Wages		913,650.00	Interest on F.D.R.		1,616,790.00
Vehicle Expenses		98,072.00	Miscellaneous Receipts		7,971.00
Building Maintainance Expenses		213,609.00	Outstanding Int.on FDR		276,236.00
Bank Charges		2,589.00			
Electricity Anad Water Expenses		46,361.00			
Medical Expenses		70,438.00			
Miscellaneous Expenses		27,454.00			
Communication Expenses		134,960.00			
Newspaper and Periodicals Expenses		37,214.00			
Relief and Subsidy		118,000.00			
Ghaziabad Flats Development Expenses		9,760.00			
Rent & Taxes		29,553.00			
Service and Maintainance		395,415.00			
Printing and Stationery		112,419.00			
Bad Debts		30,085.00			
Tea and Tiffin Expenses		44,717.00			
Audit Fees		5,515.00			
Com.P.Rammooorthy T.U.School Expenses		1,030.00			
Depreciation		167,637.00			
Excess of Income over Expenditure		5,038,546.00			
tfd. to Balance sheet					
		9,280,232.00			9,280,232.00

Note : Figures have been rounded off to the nearest of rupee.

For CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date attached.

For B.M. SHARMA & ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Sd/-
(PRESIDENT

Sd/-
(SECRETARY)

Sd/-
(TREASURER)

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 7/21/2010

Sd/-
(B. M. SHARMA)
Partner

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2010

RECEIPTS	RUPEES	RUPEES	PAYMENTS	RUPEES	RUPEES
OPENING BALANCE			Magazine Expenses		1,303,360.00
Cash in hand	100,531.00		Meeting, Rally & Seminar Exp.		186,107.00
Cash at Banks	10,129,841.00	10,230,372.00	Travelling & Conveyance Exp.		169,069.00
Sale of Magazines		938,743.00	Vehicle Expenses		98,072.00
Publication A/c		30,480.00	Publication Expenses		70,022.00
Affiliation Fee		6,220,449.00	Building Maintenance Expenses		213,609.00
Bank Interest		117,251.00	Electricity & Water Expenses		46,361.00
Donation		72,312.00	Medical Expenses		70,438.00
Miscellaneous Receipts		7,971.00	Miscellaneous Expenses		27,454.00
Com. P. Ramamurthy Fund		55,996.00	Communication Expenses		134,960.00
Tsunami Victim Relief Fund		275,284.00	Rent & Taxes		29,553.00
Payable to Staff Welfare		95,400.00	Service & Maintenance		395,415.00
			Printing & Stationery		112,419.00
			Tea & Tiffin Expenses		44,717.00
			Staff Welfare Fund		286,250.00
			Addition to FDR		3,000,000.00
			News Papers & Periodicals		37,214.00
			Wages		913,650.00
			Ghaziabad Development Expenses		9,760.00
			Loan & Advance		293,113.00
			Addition to Fixed Assets		14,200.00
			Bank Charges		2589
			Relief and Subsidy		118000
			Com.P.Rammoorthy T.U.School Expenses		1,030.00
			CLOSING BALANCE		
			Cash in hand	122,086.00	
			Cash at Banks	10,344,810.00	10,466,896.00
		18,044,258.00			18,044,258.00

Note : Figures have been rounded off to the nearest of rupee.

For CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date attached.

For B.M. SHARMA & ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Sd/- Sd/- Sd/-
(PRESIDENT (SECRETARY) (TREASURER)

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 7/21/2010

Sd/-
(B. M. SHARMA)
Partner

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 31st MARCH 2011
AUDITORS' REPORT

We have examined the Balance Sheet of Centre of Indian Trade Unions as at 31 st March, 2011 and the Income & Expenditure account and Receipt and Payment account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said institution.

We have obtained all the information and explanations and in our opinion, proper books of account have been maintained by the above named institution so far as appears from our examination of the books subject to the notes on accounts.

In our opinion and to the best of our knowledge, and according to information given to us, the said accounts read with the Notes on Accounts give a true and fair view:-

1. In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named institution as at 31.03.2011 and
2. In the case of the income and expenditure account, of the excess of income over expenditure for the year ending 31-03-2011

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 2011

LIABILITIES	RUPEES	RUPEES	ASSETS	RUPEES	RUPEES
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>		2,435,910
Opening Balance	28,008,460		(As per Schedule attached)		
Less: Excess of Expenditure over Income	1,887,853	26,120,607	<u>INVESTMENTS</u>		
			Fixed Deposits with Banks		26,437,077
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS</u>			<u>CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS AND ADVANCES</u>		
a) Current Liabilities			a) Current Assets		
Tsunami Victim Relief Fund	8,358,759		Balance with Banks	13,357,505	
Com. P. Ramamurthy Fund	12,772,169		Cash in hand	45,728	
Bihar Flood Relief Fund	66,550		Bank Gurantee	12,114	13,415,347
Audit Fee Payable	27,575		b) Loans & advances	5,834,780	5,834,780
Payable Staff Welfare Fund	158,500		(Advances recoverable in cash or kind for which value to be received.)		
Int. Coal Mines Workers Fund	618,954	22,002,507			
		48,123,114			48,123,114

Note : Figures have been rounded off to the nearest of rupee.

For CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date attached.

For B.M. SHARMA & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Sd/- Sd/- Sd/-
(PRESIDENT (SECRETARY) (TREASURER)

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 9/24/2011

Sd/-
(B. M. SHARMA)
Partner

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2011

EXPENDITURE	RUPEES	RUPEES	INCOME	RUPEES	RUPEES
Magazine Expenses		1,224,965	Sale of Magazines		669,849
Meeting, Rally & Seminar Exp.		3,328,174	Publication A/c		79,711
Travelling & Conveyance Exp.		316,092	Affiliation Fee		4,382,271
Publication Exp.		145,747	Bank Interest		333,289
Vehicle Expenses		110,697	Donation		200,000
Bank Charges		5,996	Interest on F.D.R.		539,599
Building Repair & Maintenance Expenses		89,909	Miscellaneous Receipts		12,207
Electricity & Water Expenses		84,600			
Medical Expenses		96,180			
Miscellaneous Expenses		32,612			
Communication Expenses		128,712			
News Papers & Periodicals		28,380			
Relief & Subsidy		221,500			
Wages		1,241,250			
Rent & Taxes		21,101			
Service & Maintenance		278,056			
Printing & Stationery		196,119			
Tea & Tiffin Expenses		57,716			
Audit fees		27,575			
Chain Flags Expenses		36,100			
Com.P.Rammoorthy T.U.School Exp.		11,995			
Ground Rent for CITU's at Saket		27,399			
Staff Welfare Fund		57,000			
TDS A/C		1,577			
Two Wheeler Fuel Exp.		800			
Ghaziabad Flats Development Expenses		27,282			
WFTU Affiliation Fees Expenses		125,766			
Depreciation		181,479			
			Excess of Expenditure over Income		1,887,853
			trfd. to Balance Sheet		
		8,104,779			8,104,779

Note : Figures have been rounded off to the nearest of rupee.

For CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date attached.

For B.M. SHARMA & ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Sd/-
(PRESIDENT)

Sd/-
(SECRETARY)

Sd/-
(TREASURER)

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 9/24/2011

Sd/-
(B. M. SHARMA)
Partner

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2011

RECEIPTS	RUPEES	RUPEES	PAYMENTS	RUPEES	RUPEES
OPENING BALANCE			Magazine Expenses		1,224,965
Cash in hand	122,087		Meeting, Rally & Seminar Exp.		3,328,174
Cash at Banks	10,344,810	10,466,897	Travelling & Conveyance Exp.		316,092
Sale of Magazines		669,849	Publication Exp.		145,747
Publication A/c		79,711	Vehicle Expenses		110,697
Affiliation Fee		4,382,271	Bank Charges		5,996
Bank Interest		333,289	Building Repair & Maintenance Expenses		89,909
Donation		200,000	Electricity & Water Expenses		84,600
Interest on F.D.R.		539,599	Medical Expenses		96,180
Miscellaneous Receipts		12,207	Miscellaneous Expenses		32,612
Com.P.Rammooorthy Fund		9,028,650	Communication Expenses		128,712
Staff Welfare Fund		72,100	News Papers & Periodicals		28,380
Tsunami Victims Relief Fund		286,447	Relief & Subsidy		221,500
			Wages		1,241,250
			Rent & Taxes		21,101
			Service & Maintenance		278,056
			Printing & Stationery		196,119
			Tea & Tiffin Expenses		57,716
			Payable Staff welfare Fund		57,000
			Addition to Fixed Assets		400,245
			Addition to FDR		3,775,481
			Loan & Advance		568,464
			Chain Flags Expenses		36,100
			Com.P.Rammooorthy T.U.School Expenses		11,995
			Ground Rent of CITU's Land at Saket		27,399
			Audit Fees		27,872
			TDS A/c		1,577
			Two Wheeler Fuel Expenses		800
			Affiliation Fees of WFTU Expenses		125,766
			Ghaziabad Flats Development Expenses		27,282
			CLOSING BALANCE		
			Cash in hand	45,728.00	
			Cash at Banks	13,357,505.00	13,403,233
		26,071,020			26,071,020

Note : Figures have been rounded off to the nearest of rupee.

For CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date attached.

For B.M. SHARMA & ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Sd/-
(PRESIDENT)

Sd/-
(SECRETARY)

Sd/-
(TREASURER)

Place : New Delhi

Dated : 9/24/2011

Sd/-
(B. M. SHARMA)
Partner

STATEMENT SHOWING STATEWISE MEMBERSHIP AS PER ANNUAL RETURNS RECEIVED TILL-17/05/2012

Name of the State	Unions Submitting Returns			Position of membership according to Annual Returns					
	2009	2010	2011	2009	Female	2010	Female	2011	Female
Andaman & Nicobar	8	8	0	2965		3073			
Andhra Pradesh	722	655	479	571321	164694	535249	179358	185599	19783
Assam	87	86	6	71442	33878	84355	39905	700	
Bihar	14	13	0	7521	875	13654	4108		
Delhi	85	76	55	35397	1762	31870	1558	44166	5835
Goa	7	6	0	1169	46	851	2		
Gujrat	23	24	0	14968	893	15525	3068		
Himachal Pradesh	56	52	0	40824	23069	41871	23635		
Haryana	48	47	33	79433	24243	87477	22888	104685	36269
Jammu & Kashmir	6	6	0	3100		5781	580		
Karnataka	144	136	0	171038	101230	187066	106556		
Kerala	866	843	515	1315516	404605	1439871	493191	979110	331056
Madhya Pradesh	89	92	14	33398	8654	21807	7366	80	20
Maharashtra	130	127	27	127767	64365	123249	62664	49928	37674
Orissa	58	56	0	67779	8953	82640	19173		
Punjab	77	77	58	77050	18379	102701	19274	125363	103344
Rajasthan	94	77	43	36581	373	32135	2211	14662	4270
Tamilnadu	595	568	0	527835	141116	520483	143805		
Tripura	40	37	0	162769	63165	183375	67840		
Uttar Pradesh	79	72	42	17562	143	9639	127	4573	142
West Bengal	1156	1024	0	1376078	226523	1386360	294133		
Uttaranchal	48	44	2	14110	4400	17395	4699		
Chhatisgarh	5	4	0	13585	454	13673	363		
Jharkhand	25	25	1	91167	22613	76878	21765	15092	
Manipur	4	4	0			331			
Mizoram	0	0	0						
Total	4466	4159	1275	4860375	1314433	5017309	1518269	1523958	538393

Year	No. of Unions	Membership
1983	1854	1890993
1984	2005	1575655
1985	1717	1716457(132536)
1986	2412	1844273(209348)
1987	2350	1680884(206482)
1988	2618	1919280(264507)
1989	3114	2425000(247388)
1990	2934	2095550(245060)
1991	2783	2088218(291228)
1992	3343	2381012(321620)
1993	3156	2371405(306344)
1994	3198	2470131(261980)
1995	3523	2784050(358188)
1996	3645	2805127(435285)
1997	3804	2917200(506097)
1998	3502	2881478(483373)
1999	3929	3296808(550583)
2000	3771	3126943(646678)
2001	3787	3150673(600407)
2002	4162	3463362(679694)
2003	3904	3331973(636651)
2004	3969	3541859(728820)
2005	4061	3986622 (898186)
2006	4764	4133893 (916292)
2007	4606	4781681(1150108)
2008	4462	5170038(1292665)

COM. P.RAMAMOORTI T.U. SCHOOL FUND as on 15.05.2012

CITU, Andaman & Nicobar	Rs.5,600.00
CITU, A.P. State Committee	Rs.2,346,399.00
CITU, Assam State Committee	Rs.15,000.00
CITU, Bihar State Committee	Rs.25,560.00
CITU, Chhattisgarh State Committee	Rs.46,321.00
CITU, Delhi State Committee	Rs.56,687.00
CITU, Goa State Committee	Rs.1,206.00
CITU, Gujarat State Committee	Rs.1,000.00
CITU, H.P. State Committee	Rs.20,000.00
CITU, Haryana State Committee	Rs.109,040.00
CITU, J & K State Committee	Rs.1,240.00
CITU, Jharkhand State Committee	Rs.6,500.00
CITU, Karnataka State Committee	Rs.415,070.00
CITU, Kerala State Committee	Rs.4,506,363.00
CITU, M.P. State Committee	Rs.74,274.00
CITU, Maharashtra State Committee	Rs.520,000.00
CITU, Orissa State Committee	Rs.54,251.00
CITU, Punjab State Committee	Rs.136,247.00
CITU, Rajasthan State Committee	Rs.27,000.00
CITU, Tamilnadu State committee	Rs.821,150.00
CITU, Tripura State Committee	Rs.310,000.00
CITU, U.P. State Committee	Rs.36,310.00
CITU, Uttarakhand State Committee	Rs.21,500.00
CITU, West Bengal State Committee	Rs.1,000,000.00
2nd World Conference of Oil, Gas, Refinary Trade Union	Rs.700,000.00
All India Co-ordination Committee of Sail Employees' Union, W.B.	Rs.20,000.00
All India Road Transport Workers Federation (towards space to be occupied)	Rs.844,000.00
All India State Government Employees Federation	Rs.1,000,000.00
Association of SAIL Employees, Kolkata, W.B.	Rs.40,000.00
Bank Employees Federation of India, Kolkata	Rs.500,000.00
Central Zone Insurance Employees Association, Chhatishgarh	Rs.50,000.00
Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India, W.B.	Rs.100,000.00
Com. E.Balanandan	Rs.11,111.00
Com. R.Vaigai	Rs.50,000.00
Electricity Employees Federation of India(towards space to be occupied)	Rs.2,500,000.00
Hindustan Steel Employees Union, Kolkata	Rs.20,000.00
Jean Pierre Page (Foreign Delegate)	Rs.1,000.00
K.Vaidyanathan, Tamilnadu	Rs.500.00
R.Rajalakshmi, Chengalpattu, T.N.	Rs.5,000.00
Steel Workers Federation of India, W.B.	Rs.50,000.00
TOTAL	Rs.16,448,329.00

State-wise Circulation of CITU Journals
AS ON May, 2012

Patrika /
Kamkaji Mahila

The Voice of the
Working Woman

CITU Mazdoor

The Working Class

States	The Working Class		CITU Mazdoor		The Voice of the Working Woman		Patrika / Kamkaji Mahila	
	Affiliation	May-11	May-12	Affiliation	May-11	May-12	Jan-11	Jan-12
Andaman	10	10	8	10	10	0		
Andhra Pradesh	862	894	830					
Arunachal	1	1						
Assam	142	118	165					
Bihar	11	15	27	11	95	84		2
Chhatisgarh	20	20	11	20	345	306	10	5
Delhi	85	21	22	85	79	224	100	50
Goa	7	7	7				1	5
Gujarat				1	36	39		
Haryana	3	1	2	3	839	205	45	6
Himachal Pradesh				2	1116	581	762	
Jammu & Kashmir	2	4	1	2	12	30		
Jharkhand	14	13	13	14	127	112		
Kerala	939	919	913				5	
Karnataka	234	178	162				5	
Sikkim	1	1	0					
Maharashtra	156	139	47	156	40	153	200	450
Madhya Pradesh	9	9	12	9	498	386	50	26
Manipur	1	1	4					
Meghalaya								
Mizoram		1	1					
Nagaland	2	1		2	1	0		
Orissa	145	147	162	145	45	45		
Punjab	8	1		8	358	136	785	785
Puducherry								
Rajasthan	2	1	2	2	396	420	35	10
Tamilnadu	699	688	761					
Tripura	48	44	45					
Uttar Pradesh	12	10	18	12	455	440	305	30
Uttarakhand				2	251	358		
West Bengal	1678	1607	1547	1678	1274	659		
TOTAL		4851	4760		5977	4178	2303	1369

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Meeting of General Council

2-5 June 2012, Coimbatore

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION

Com.M K Pandhe

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) has lost its tallest leader Dr M K Pandhe who was also one of the most highly respected leaders of the Indian Trade Union movement of the time. Com. Pandhe died on 20th August 2011 following a massive heart attack, at the age of 86 years. The General Council meeting of the CITU being held at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu from 2-5 June 2012 pays respectful homage to our dear leader com. M K Pandhe.

Comrade Pandhe's public life spanned over seven decades, beginning as a student movement activist in his early youth, and he continued to remain fully active, agile and concerned as one of the tallest leaders of the working class and the Left movement till the last hours of his eventful life, totally undaunted by ageing problems and failing health. Suffering from cancer and all the hazards of treatment and accompanying complications could not deter him in the least from his activities spreading over the length and breadth of the country, across many sectors. The country's toiling class has lost a dedicated fighter for the cause of their emancipation.

He joined the communist movement in 1943 and played a frontline role in asserting the role of the working class in the fight for social transformation and emancipating the people from all kinds of exploitation. He was elected to the Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in 1998 and continued in that position till his death.

His singular contribution in the trade union movement and organizing and leading the workers in the strategic sector of industries had been unparalleled. Also crucial has been his contribution in organizing the workers in the unorganized sector and also emphasizing the working women's role in the trade union movement. He had been national secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) in the early sixties and was one of the founder leaders of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), the organization which he steered as one of the foremost centres of the working class movement. He had been General Secretary of CITU from 1991 to 2003 and remained President from 2003 to 2007.

In the phase of coming together of all trade unions of different affiliations on the united platform on common issues and unleashing of the era of joint struggle of trade unions on national scale in the late seventies, the untiring effort of Comrade Pandhe played the most crucial role. He had always been the champion of the broadest unity of the working class in the struggle on common issues. Comrade Pandhe commanded high respect and acceptability as a towering leader in the entire trade union circles, irrespective of affiliations.

Comrade Pandhe was also widely known and respected in the international arena of the trade union movement. His initiative has led to widening the international relations of CITU in a big way.

He had been the Co-President of International Energy and Miners' Organisation (IEMO) which was a joint international platform of energy and mining workers worldwide, irrespective of affiliations.

His firm commitment to working class ideology and to anti-imperialism had always been the guide for CITU in organizing the united movement and exposing the capitalist order. His untiring initiative and able leadership in this direction has contributed immensely both in developing and maintaining continuity in the united platform of struggle against neoliberal policies since 1991, which got further broadened to all in unity of the trade union movement in the joint struggle since 2009.

Comrade Pandhe's contribution in the working class movement will always be remembered and will be a guiding force for CITU's activities.

The General Council dips its red banner and pays homage to his memory.

CITU General Council pays homage to the memory of Com. Kamalapati Tripathi, General Secretary of UP State Committee of CITU. Who passed away on 21st January 2012.

General Council pays homage to the memory of Com. V. Srihari former member of Working Committee and senior office bearer of AP State Committee who left us on 14th February 2012.

CITU General Council pays homage to Com. Sukumar Burman, Vice President of All India Fishers and Fisheries Workers Federation, who was also a former Minister of Tripura. He breathed his last on 10th March 2012.

CITU General Council pays homage to the memory of Com. Nirupama Chatterjee, president of West Bengal State ICDS workers union and a senior leader of CITU. She was also a former Minister in LF Govt., West Bengal.

General Council pays homage to the memory of Com. Nirmal Majumdar, former member of general Council, Com. Jagdish Das, former member of working committee, Com. Savan Das. Veteran leader of Kolar God Field Workers, Com. Bharati Daka, President of Assam state Anganwadi Workers Union.

CITU General Council pays homage to the memory of Com. N. Varadarajan, Senior leader of CPI(M) in Tamilnadu who passed away on 10th April. Com. Varadarajan had played a leading role in building up working class movement in the state.

CITU General Council also pays homage to Com. D. Mani Senior leader of working class movement in Tamilnadu.

CITU General Council pays homage to Com. Pramod Gogoi, a veteran trade union leader, President of AITUC and Vice President of WFTU.

On Martyrs

CITU General Council dips its red banner and salutes the memory of Com. Pradip Ta, our General Council member for West Bengal and Com. Gayan, a senior leader of the Democratic movement

in West Bengal. Both of them were also members of the Burdwan district committee of CPI(M). They were brutally murdered by the Trinamool Goons on 22nd February 2012, under they were leading a procession in connection with the country wide general strike on 28th February.

CITU General Council being held at Coimbatore pays respectful homage to those Martyrs from West Bengal who, were brutally murdered by anti-social elements led by Trinamool Congress and others.

General Council also pays homage to the memory of those who have laid down their lives for the cause of working people and the democratic movements.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Meeting of General Council

2-5 June 2012, Coimbatore

INFORMATION DOCUMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS OF 44TH INDIAN LABOUR CONFERENCE (14-15 February 2012, New Delhi)

The Recommendations of Conference Committee on Minimum Wages

1. There was consensus that the Government may fix minimum wages as per the norms/ criteria recommended by the 15th ILC (1957) and the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court (Reptakos Co. Vs Workers' Union) 1992. The Government may take necessary steps accordingly.
2. There was a broad consensus that the Minimum Wages Act should cover all employments and the existing restriction for its applicability on the scheduled employments only should be deleted. This will also help India ratify ILO Convention No.131.
3. It was broadly agreed that there should be national minimum wages applicable to all employments throughout the country.
4. There was broad agreement on the amendment proposals as listed out in Para 5 (iv, v & x).
5. In respect of 5 (iv), it was pointed out that the payment to the apprentices should be treated differently from the other categories.
6. The Committee noted that at present there are 12 States/UTs who have not adopted VDA. There was a broad consensus that all States/UTs should adopt VDA.
7. It was also recommended that the payment of minimum wages should be done through Banks/ Post Offices etc.
8. As regards 5 (vi), it was felt that the enforcing agencies should not be given the power of adjudication and, therefore, this proposal should be re-examined.
9. The proposal of paying different minimum wages in respect of same employment either in the Centre or in the State should be done away with.

The Recommendations of the Conference Committee on Social Security

- 1) There was a broad-based consensus that the wage ceiling for the application of EPF Act be increased from the present level of Rs.6,500/- to Rs.10,000/- or Rs.15,000/- as already applicable

for the ESI Corporation. Similarly, the ceiling for workers covered under EPF Act be reduced from 20 to 10. However, Laghu Udyog Bharati was not agreeable to this reduction in ceiling of number of workers.

2) Minimum pension under the EPS 95 be increased to some floor level, which should not be less than Rs.1,000/-, since a large number of workers receive pension which is less than that provided by the State Governments for elderly people which is normally in the range of Rs.400/- to Rs.1000/-.

3) The PF Accounts be computerized urgently so that the workers are able to avail the facility of PF transfer and settlement immediately. Smart Cards like RSBY be issued to PF account holders.

4) Minimum ceiling of 5 years of continuous service be reduced in case of gratuity and gratuity be made transferable in case of change of job by the employee.

5) The maternity leave under the Maternity Benefit Act be increased from the present level of 12 weeks to 24 weeks. This increased maternity benefit be made available only up to two children, while the lower limit be continued for more than two children.

6) Accountability on the part of organizations implementing the social security schemes be fixed in order to ensure that the beneficiaries receive the deliverables in time. Citizen Charters for these organizations be finalized early.

7) Amendment in the definition of wage is required in the EPF Act so as to remove the ambiguity with regards to splitting of minimum wages for the purpose of contribution.

8) It was felt that the funds of Rs.1000/- crore provided in National Social Security Fund (NSSF) is inadequate and it was broadly agreed that funds should be substantially increased either through imposition of cess or by increasing the corpus.

9) It was agreed that on the lines of National Social Security Board, State Social Security Boards must be constituted as provided under the Act by the end of the year. Some of the States viz., Karnataka, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh have already constituted these Boards to monitor welfare schemes in their respective spheres.

10) Social security benefits be provided to Anganwadi, Asha, Mid-Day Meal workers and other similar type of workers.

11) Unorganised sector must be brought under various social security schemes including health, insurance, education, pension, etc.

12) It was agreed that RSBY should be extended to all the unorganized sector workers to avail the health insurance benefits at the earliest.

13) There was a consensus that steps should be taken to provide OPD facility to beneficiaries under RSBY and generic medicines should be used and provided under this scheme.

14) Interest income of various social security funds created by the Central or State Governments

be exempted from taxes.

The Recommendations of the Conference Committee on Employability and Employment

- 1)** Employment generation and Employability should be top agenda of the Govt.
- 2)** Though lot of focus is being laid on training of 500 million persons by 2022, there is a need to take appropriate measures for creation of employment opportunities to offer the matching employment.
- 3)** There is an urgent need to declare the National Employment Policy in order to provide enabling framework for facilitating employment generation and decent working conditions for all.
- 4)** Investment in labour intensive industries should be promoted and incentivised.
- 5)** Labour Market Information System should be established to get skill requirement from the industry and available skills from the institutes. In this regard, employment exchanges may be modernized for providing virtual job market on real time basis.
- 6)** Skill mapping should be done at the local level and inventory of skill assets should be created.
- 7)** ITIs should also focus on sectors beyond manufacturing and should concentrate on service sector. There is urgent need for quality assurance measures in training of ITIs and instructors.
- 8)** Emphasis should be laid on development of infrastructure including storage, processing and marketing in rural areas and agro-based industries.
- 9)** ITIs should focus more on popular trades keeping in view the requirement of the local industries.
- 10)** Institutional arrangements for providing training in traditional skills should be encouraged and may be brought under certification system.
- 11)** Public awareness programme should be taken up, particularly in rural areas regarding the importance of skill development and certification of traditional skills.
- 12)** There should be functional and spatial integration of State and Central infrastructure and other available resources for optimal utilization of resources.
- 13)** MSMEs should be encouraged and supported to participate in the skill development efforts.
- 14)** Stipend of apprentices under the Apprentices Act should be enhanced.
- 15)** Existing and new Centres of Excellence/Clusters in traditional crafts should be strengthened and provided support in terms of marketing, credit, new technology, etc. to promote self-employment.
- 16)** Barriers should be removed from skilling and certification of illiterate and uneducated workers.

17) Entrepreneurship and self-employment should be encouraged by providing necessary support.

18) Existing employment in the unorganized sector should be safeguarded by assuring access to natural resources for those sectors dependent on them. In order to increase their productivity, appropriate advanced tools and technology for traditional producers should be developed.

19) Skill development should be promoted among the women and differently-abled persons. To increase participation of women in skill development, special measures should be taken.

20) Centres of Excellence should be established at the national and State levels which will produce world-class technicians.

21) National level consultation with all the stakeholders should be held immediately to finalize the road-map for preparing skill development plan leading to skilled force of 500 million persons by 2022.

22) Comprehensive steps should be taken to create environment for employment generation and protection.

23) Trainers should be trained in large numbers to meet growing requirement.
