

**Centre of Indian Trade Unions
General Council Meeting
January 5-8, 1997
Vishakhapatnam**

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Comrades,

We met in our General Council at Howrah from 31st of May to 2nd of June, 1995. After this we have had two meetings of our Working Committee - one at Bhilai on 2nd to 4th of November, 1995 and another at New Delhi from 6th to 9th June, 1996. In these meetings we have reviewed the work done and took decisions about the immediate jobs ahead. Now in this General Council, we have to review our work besides formulating the future tasks. Since we are going to hold our 9th conference in Kerala some time in the month of April 1997, we have to discuss and finalise the programmes of this conference too. The General Secretary's Report deals in detail the world economy, the national and international situation and the tasks, besides a review of the work done during this period. Therefore, I shall be brief and deal with certain issues only.

We all know that we have originally planned to hold this General Council here from 17th to 20th of November 1996 for which all the arrangements were made by our comrades. But we had to shift the dates due to the unprecedented national calamity that engulfed the costal areas of Godavari during the first week of November. The cyclone mercilessly hit these areas causing indescribable destruction. The human loss was estimated to be over a thousand, besides the property loss o 1000s of crores of rupees. Myself with some members of the Parliament, party leaders and leaders of CITU, visited these areas. We have seen the colossal damage to the paddy fields, coconut gardens, besides the smashing off of the small houses of the rural poor especially of the fishermen. The whole of the power supply system and the communication network were shattered and completely damaged. The Government of Andhra Pradesh was completely geared up to do what all possible to give relief to the people and to restore normalcy in these areas. The constraint of financial resources stand in the way above all' said the Chief Minister when we met him at Hyderabad before returning to New Delhi. He wanted the Centre to release more funds to the State which we felt is correct. After coming to Delhi, we have appealed to the Centre to provide more help to Andhra Pradesh to enable the State to meet the situation arising out of this national calamity. The CITU have immediately asked the unions to collect money for Andhra Relief Funds, which the comrades have taken up seriously. Also we have donated Rs 25,000/- from our Central fund.

Comrades, let us express our sympathy with suffering people of Godavary Districts and assure them that we will continue to cooperate with them in all their efforts to restore normalcy.

Before we proceed further, let us express deep sorrow on the death of comrade Sunil Moitra, one of the outstanding leaders of the trade union movement and the Polit Bureau Member of the CPI(M) who passed away at Calcutta on 18th of September, 1996 due to a massive heart attack. He played a key role in organising the insurance employees of the country, which today is one of the powerful unions of the insurance employees. During 80s, he has been elected to the Lok Sabha and there he played an effective role in raising the issues affecting the working class and the people.

His masterly interventions and exposures are remembered even today by those who were with him in the Parliament. He became a Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and elected to the Polit Bureau. He was in charge of the People's Democracy and its editor. In various fields he has done yeoman serves to the working class and the people of the country. We pay our respectful homage in his memory and send our heartfelt condolence to Com.Nilima, his wife and other members of the family.

Another serious loss for us was the demise of Com.Godavari Parulekhar, the legendary leader of the adivasis

and the Peasantry. She passed away at Thane, Maharashtra on 9th of October, 1996 at the age of 89. She joined the freedom movement at her early age and was jailed several times for taking part in satyagraha movement. She led several battles against the landlords and the reactionaries and through this she became the legendary figure among the peasantry of Maharashtra. She joined the Communist Movement and was elected to the CPI(M) Central Committee. Comrade Godavari Parulekhar's life was a model for all the revolutionaries of the country. We pay our homage in her memory and convey our heartfelt condolence to her family members and comrades.

During these period many of our important cadres have passed away in different parts of the country. We dip our red banner in their memory.

We express our strong protest against the murder of Com.Amya Das, a member of our General Council from Orissa on 29th of October, 1996. We condemn this gruesome murder by the anti-CITU goondas. We express our sympathy with the bereaved family.

Dear Comrades,

You might remember that we have dealt with the development of the world economy in our earlier sessions, debunking the tall claims made by the captains of world capitalism, the United States that "they were building a new world order, a crisis-free capitalist system, the only sustainable system using the technological advancement since socialism has no future and it is already dead." But, now many studies and reports have been published by bourgeois Pundits who were the proponents of this theory, highlighting the crisis of the world economy. Though trade and commerce to a certain extent have shown increase, the overall economic growth is tardy. Killing of millions of jobs, threatening increase in unemployment and underemployment, growing poverty, increasing disparity between the rich and the poor, between the developed and backward nations of the world, etc are the features of the so-called development.

Here, I do not wish to go into elaborate details, but I shall confine only to some of the details given in two or three reports. Let us begin with the report of the ILO on world employment 1996-97, the press summary of which is available to us. The headline given to that is : *"Global Employment Crisis Continues, Worldwide inequality is Rising."*

People around the world, approximately 30% of the entire global work force are unemployed in industrialised and developed countries alike and it says that global employment situation is "grim". growing number of unemployed is aggravating the social and economic situation. The report also gives the figures about unemployment. In the OECD countries 34 millions. In European Union unemployment increased last year to an average of 11.3% of the workforce. France, Germany, Italy and Sweden registered significant increase.

After giving these figures in many countries of the world the ILO argues that steps should be taken to provide full employment in order to reverse the developing unemployment and underemployment now prevailing in so many parts of the globe. *Current levels of unemployment make no economic sense and are neither politically nor socially sustainable."*

The report argues that the new development, globalisation of trade and commerce with restructuring etc, economy can be developed and employment recreated. They admit however that the present anxiety being expressed by the people about loss of employment and increase in poverty is understandable, *"given the almost worldwide deterioration of employment conditions" the size of layoffs and "the concentration of job losses in particular economic sectors and communities."*

In conclusion the report suggested, as I stated earlier, that "the full employment practice should be born in mind by all." But it cannot be done under the capitalist system, since the system is facing a crisis, which nobody can now cover up. The building of a crisis free capitalism stands exposed by the actual experience.

Let us have a look at the Human Development Report 1996 published by UNDP. This report emphasises that the economic development must help the human development. Basing on this they examined the past 15 years of developments and brought out many facts. A few is given below

Widening Disparities:

1. "Of the \$23 trillion global GDP in 1993, \$18 trillion is in the industrial countries - only \$5 trillion in the developing countries, even though they have nearly 80% of the world's people."

"The poorest 20% of the world's people saw their share of global income decline from 2.3% to 1.4% in the past 30 years. Meanwhile, the share of the richest 20% rose from 70% to 85%. That doubled the ratio of the shares of the richest and the poorest—from 30:1 to 61:1."

"The assets of the world's 358 billionaires exceed the combined annual incomes of countries with 45% of the world's people."

"During the past three decades the proportion of people enjoying per capita income growth of at least 5% a year, more than doubled from 12% to 27%, while the proportion of those experiencing negative growth more than tripled from 5% to 18%.

"The gap in per capita income between the industrial and developing world tripled from \$5,700 in 1960 to \$15,400 in 1993."

2. Jobless growth: "where the overall economy grows, it does not expand the opportunities for employment: In the OECD countries in 1993 the average unemployment rate was 8% - ranging from 2.5% in Japan to 10% in the United Kingdom, 18% in Finland, and 23% in Spain. In the developing countries too, jobless growth has meant long hours and very low incomes for the hundreds of millions of people in low productivity work in agriculture and the informal sector."

Ruthless Growth - "Where the fruits of economic growth mostly benefit the rich, it leaves millions of people struggling in ever deepening poverty: During 1970-85 global GNP increased by 40% yet the number of poor increased by 17%. While 200 million people saw their per capita incomes fall during 1965-80, more than one billion people saw it between 1980-93"

Voiceless Growth - "Where growth in the economy has not been accompanied by an extension of democracy or empowerment: Political repression and authoritarian controls have silenced alternative voices and stifled demands for greater social and economic participation."

Policy - makers once debated whether they should choose economic growth or extensive participation, assuming that these were mutually exclusive. That debate is dead. People do not want one or the other—they want both. But too many people are still denied even the most basic forms of democracy and many of the world's people are in the grip of repressive regimes."

"Voiceless growth can also be growth that gives women only a minor role in an economy's management and direction. As Human Development Report 1995 showed, human development, if not engendered, is endangered."

Rootless growth: "Which causes people's cultural identity to wither: There are, thought to be, about 10,000 distinct cultures, but many risk being marginalised or eliminated."

Futureless growth: "Where the present generation squanders resources needed by future generations: Rampant and uncontrolled economic growth in many countries is laying waste to forests, polluting rivers, destroying biodiversity and depleting natural resources.

From the above, it can be seen that the developing inequalities in the world are increasing poverty and pauperisation, besides unemployment. Here again we find that the "crisis-free capitalism" is a wild dream.

World Development Report 1996

The situation in the erstwhile socialist countries are-examined exclusively by the World Development Report, 1996. naturally this World Bank report tries to justify the so called 'transition' to capitalism. However it also brings out certain facts about the life of the people of these countries. It goes to show that the National Income of these countries are falling, unemployment on the increase and the real wages of the workers are on the decline. The standard of living of the people are going down to unbearable levels. Poverty and break down of health care have hit the life span of the people. In the case of Russia for men a reduction - 6 years during 1990-94 for women 3 years. The equality enjoyed by the women under socialism is non-existent today. They were the first to be found out of employment.

The figures given below will give us the idea about the situation in many of these countries.

The GDP of countries compared to the year 1989

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Poland | 98% |
| Hungary | 80% |
| Estonia | 67% |
| Lithuania | 40% |
| Rumania | 73% |

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Mongolia | 75% |
| Russia | 60% |
| Moldavia | 40% |
| Kazhakisthan | 40% |
| Ukraine | 40% |

The rate of unemployment

Albania - 18%; Bulgaria - 14%; Croatia - 13%; Russia - 12%; Latvia - 7%

The real wages of the workers have come down in many of these countries. Only in Hungary the real wages remain constant. In Poland - 32%; Czech republic - 19%; Russia - 30%; Ukraine - 50%; Latvia - 50%; Estonia - 55%; Bylorussia - 55%; Kazhakistan - 65%. For the rest of the countries figures are not available. It is evident from the above, that the change over the capitalism can bring in a new life to the people of these countries was an illusion.

Before I close this subject let me bring before you a different scenario which is being witnessed in China and Vietnam. according to World Bank, China and Vietnam too have also have given up socialism and trying to change over to market economy. China and Vietnam have denied this and stressed that they are continuing the socialist path with their national characteristics. Chinese economy is growing at a faster rate and is the highest in the world. As per available statistics, average annual growth of economy is shown below:

Annual Average Growth

| | |
|---------|-------|
| 1971-80 | 5.5% |
| 1981-89 | 11.1% |
| 1990 | 3.9% |
| 1991 | 8% |
| 1992 | 13.6% |
| 1993 | 13.4% |
| 1994 | 13.8% |
| 1995 | 10.2% |

The World Bank also admitted the growth of Chinese Economy averaged 10% which is the highest in the world. The World Bank tried to claim that it is because of the restructuring and privatisation policies that are being implemented in China at a slow pace. This argument cannot cut any ice since it is illogical. The fact is that the Chinese did not give up planned new development. With regard to public sector, they have not privatised it but taken steps to increase its efficiency by rectifying the existing draw backs of various kinds and these enterprises are made to run effectively and profitably. Also they have not relaxed control over the market economy while relaxing certain areas for market forces to operate. The Chinese Government has claimed that they have introduced a system of socialist market economy. However, it is to be noted the Chinese scenario has presented a new example for speedy growth.

In the case of Vietnam too, the GDP average annual growth according to the world report is 7.1. For Vietnam privatisation of industries did not take place. Without that industrial production is on the increase. According to report in Vietnam, changes have taken place in the matter of land relations. However, Vietnam presents a different picture, than the CEE countries.

Dear Comrades,

I do not wish to go into national political situation today. Only try to examine the effect of the privatisation and restructuring in certain basic sectors of our economy. Today everybody knows that we are facing a serious crisis in the oil sector. As part of the new policy, the Government of India discouraged the public sector oil companies, ONGC and others of intensifying their productive activity so that we can improve reliance in the oil sector. From late 80s onwards under the pressure of World Bank the Government started inviting private sector into the field of petroleum and petroleum products. Without going into the details let me bring to your notice the latest position in this sectors. From April to August this year crude oil production reduced by 10%. Last year during this period the production was 14.82 million tones. This year it has come down to 13.82 m tones. the production

achieved during 1995-96 was 31.15 m tones. But for 1996-97 it is estimated to be 31.10 tones. The annual average demand growth for petroleum product for the last 4 years was 5.4% But in 1995-1996 it rose by 10.8%, and the demand rose to 75.4 m tones. The rate of self-sufficiency was continuously going down. In 1991-1992 it was 50%. In 1995-1996 it came down to 44% and 1996-1997 it would be only 39%. And by 2000-2002 it expected to go further down to 32%, as per the Ministry's estimates. The import of crude oil and petroleum products are on the increase. Consequently the import costs are also mounting. Together with this the price of crude oil went up to 22 dollar per barrel from 18 dollars. The deficit in oil import account is going to increase from Rs 99,800 million to Rs 1,55,000 million. The details of the mismanagement of oil economy I do not venture to explain due to constraint of time.

The government is now in a tight fit. The oil import bill is going sky high and foreign exchange erosion is becoming very serious. The government is contemplating restrictions on import together with increase in prices. The consequences of which needs no explanation. The situation is created by the so called policy of liberalisation.

The foreign oil companies were not willing to help us to develop oil in the public sector. The multinational oil companies abandoned exploration work in given field saying that the fields were dried and there is no prospect for oil. Also they refused to handover information and the vital data they obtained during exploration, to ONGC. Subsequently our ONGC scientists carried out drilling work and extract oil from the very same field. For the refinery sector the multinationals put forth conditions which could not be agreed to — (1) For 30 years no nationalisation, (2) For 30 years import of crude oil, and refining them must be with foreign oil companies, (3) Distribution of the refined products should also be with them for 30 years. Rejecting all these conditions we have developed public sector, which have achieved 73% self sufficiency in crude production. So also the import bill of the product could be brought down sizeably.

Instead of further intensifying the attempt for achieving self sufficiency in this sector, the government under World Bank's pressure opened up this sector to the same multinational companies together with Indian private companies. To facilitate this process the government has appointed a Restructuring Committee as it was done in every other sector. The wonderful part of it is that in this committee foreign and Indian private company representatives were included. Mr Mukesh Ambani of the Reliance Group, Mr Sasi Revia of Essar Company, Mr Vikram Mehta of Shell Oil Company and Mr Ajit Kapadia of Hindustan Domestic Oil & Gas company are there in the 13 member committees. As per their report the ONGC and Oil India Ltd will cease to function as a national oil companies. Empowered committee is to be constituted for Hydro Carbon sector. All datas of sedimentary Basins are to be supplied to the private company. On the financial matters also they have recommended a fantastic proposals for encouraging the private sector.

More than 25 oil/gas discovered fields has been contracted out to joint sector or exclusive private sector. All these fields are most promising soft ones. ONGC has given only junior partnership in the joint venture.

The concessions given to private sector and the contacts signed by the companies with Government are such that the private sector, Indian and foreign, are given most favoured treatment vis a vis with the public sector. The funny part of it is that the oil produce by these companies will be bought by the government at international prices.

With all this concessions given to private sector, their contribution of production of crude oil is only 0.63 million tonne out of the total production of 31.67 m tone in 1995-96

So the present crisis is because of the new policy of globalisation put into practice by the Government of India. Now the country is in serious crisis which will affect the total progress of India and we will be completely at the mercy of foreign multinational companies. The Trade Union movement should properly take it up and fight for a reversal of this policy.

POWER SECTOR

Let me bring to your notice as to what is being done in another vital sector of our economy—the power sector. As soon as Mr Rao came to power they have decided that investment in power sector is to be reduced and private investment should be brought in for power development. Out of the 8th Plan target of 30,800 MW only less than 18,000 MW were achieved because of lesser budgetary support. Today we are facing power shortage in large parts of the country. Of all the persons, MR Manmohan Singh, the architect of the new economic policy, recently declared in a Delhi meeting that the policy decision taken with regard to power was wrong. The reduction of investment in the public sector power development was erroneous. Relying on the private sector for power development did not succeed, and was also wrong. But, hwoever, the Government of India is still pursuing the same policy of the Rao

government. The last 40 years of power development in the country focussed on reduction of unit cost of power. With the change of policy this has ceased to be an important criterion. The new direction given by the Government of India to the States is for restructuring of the State Electricity Boards saying that the Electricity Boards are in debt. The World Bank is offering credits to the States for restructuring the Electricity Boards. The condition attached is that the Board will be only a regulatory body - separate corporations will be organised for generation, transmission and distribution. And then, there should be no subsidised power supply. The Orissa government has taken a 350 million dollars loan agreeing with the conditions - and started implementing the schemes. The subsidised power given to agriculture is to be done away with. The minimum charge of power in the agricultural sector may be around Rs 3/- per unit. For the industries it will go up to Rs 5/-. This pattern is going to be implemented by UP, Rajasthan and Haryana for which the World Bank loan is sanctioned. With regard to the other states too the same directions are being given by the Central Government.

According to the latest figure, the State Electricity Boards today have a cumulative loss of Rs 29,000/- crores. This is because the State Governments wanted Tariff concession given to the agriculture sector and in some cases free of charge.

Also, as government policy, economically weaker sections were given concessional rates. Because of all these the Electricity Boards have given concessions to the consumers to the tune of about Rs 49,000 crores. The power concession given to agriculture and industry, especially agriculture, made the country self-sufficient in the matter of foodgrains. If this policy is changed, and they are going to be changed, on the basis of cost, it will have its own repercussions in our agricultural sector.

Foreign multinational corporations and Indian private companies are invited in the power sector resulting which the power cost may go upto 3 times over what is prevailing in the country today. This will have adverse impact on our total economic development. The Electricity Employees, Engineers, Financial Experts and Scientists have strongly come in opposition to the new power policy of the government. The development of cheap power is possible in the country without our succumbing to the World Bank pressure.

On the question of making the Electricity Boards viable, the West Bengal government have taken certain steps which are in the correct directions. I do not wish to take your time for suggesting the alternative policies. Only I wish to state here that, we, CITU should take initiative to discuss the problems of the Energy Sector, oil, power, and coal, so that we can present a cogent policy frame for the development of the nation.

INSURANCE SECTOR

Comrades,

You know that IMF/WB was insisting that our financial sector is to be opened up and privatised. The government was taking steps to accommodate their view by appointing the Malhotra Committee which under dictation suggested opening up and privatisation of banking and insurance sectors, against which the TU movement was conducting struggles. Of late the government came out with the proposals for opening up the insurance sector to foreign and Indian private companies as well as its privatisation.

The LIC and GIC of India by their performance proved that it is the best in serving the clients also mobilising surplus, which is used for the development of the country. The LIC which had started with only Rs 5 crores of capital in 1956, has been accumulating savings of the people and is in the surplus. It has been contributing sizeable amount of money for our development purpose and maintaining a growth rate of 20% per annum for the last several years. The premium income mobilised during 1995-96 alone amounted to Rs 14,182 crores. The total income including the income from investment was Rs 22,000.04 crores. The LIC's performance was superb in doing settlement which was as high as 97%. LIC was providing the government with resources at 12% low interest. This is the biggest source for development of finance in the country.

The performance of GIC was also equally commendable giving insurance cover and settling insurance claims mobilising the resources for our developmental activity. The claim settlement of GIC in 1994-95 was 74% while the international rate of settlement was hardly 40%. The GIC started with Rs 21.5 crores paid up capital and has given a bonus share to government Rs 194 crores. The LIC and GIC put together can provide a minimum of Rs 20,000 crores per annum. One lakh crores in five years, at the present rate of business, of course is going to develop further.

The story of private sector companies in the country was known to us. The National Insurance Company did

not settle 74% of their claims. This was more or less the position of the other companies too. The international insurance sector including United States cannot claim better performance than ours.

Therefore, the case brought out by the government spokesmen as well as employers' organisations for opening up of the insurance sector to improving efficiency and mobilising resources do not stand scrutiny, because the private sector cannot do better. That is their history. There will be advantages for private sector to mobilising resources which will be used for their private use. The surplus money they make will be utilised for lending as the market place and for further increasing their profit.

Therefore, in the interest of national development these biggest resources available today through LIC and GIC should not be allowed to be transferred to private capitalists of India and foreign. While the Government of India is talking about resource crunch one cannot understand the steps being contemplated to transfer this resource mobilising sector to the private hand. No further explanation is wanted. It is anti-national. Therefore we have to join with insurance employees in their fight against privatisation of this sector. They had a very good strike on 9th December protesting against the policy contemplated for privatisation. The Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill which was introduced in the Parliament had to omit the provision originally intended to provide for licensing of private companies. This was the result of the public pressure and the pressure from the employees. Comrades, I must tell the government on your behalf that the government should not do anything for privatising the insurance sector.

INDIAN DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICAL LTD

Comrades, I want to bring to your notice the developments in another sector. The public sector drugs and Pharmaceutical industry, the IDPL. As part of our planned development we have established this company for producing medicines at affordable rates for the people of our country, for the protection of our peoples' health. IDPL established five units in various parts of the country with the facility for research and development. They were able to manufacture bulk drugs, formulation, fine chemicals, surgical equipments etc at different units.

Bulk drugs manufactured by IDPL are penicillin G and higher antibiotics derived from penicillin, streptomycin, tetracycline, oxy-tetracycline, erythromycin, sulpha drugs, vitamin B1, B2, B6, Nicotinamide, Analgin, Chloroquine, Phosphate, Paracetamol, acetic acid, Thiacetazone, Piperazine salts, Grisofulvin, etc. Industry including multinationals started buying raw materials from IDPL.

Amongst the formulations Sukcoe (vitamin C), idicine, idifulvin, Emdopa, Analgin, could achieve highest share in trade market. Other formulations also grabbed good market share viz, Tetramycin, Cebexin, Hexavit, Idibend, threocycli, Idizone, etc

IDPL supplied drugs to state government, central government organisations with cheaper price. IDPL also introduced formulations with very economical prices in the trade market which compelled the multinationals and big Indian drug companies to reduce prices. For example in 1970, the price of Terramycin was Rs 1.5 per capsule. IDPL introduced Tetracyclin at the rate of 50 ps per capsule. All companies reduced the price of Tetracyclin. The price of Mebendazole (six tablets) was Rs 14. IDPL introduced Mebendazole @ Rs 1.6 for six tablets which compelled all the companies to reduce the price of Mebendazole.

IDPL became one of the first 20 companies in trade market. IDPL could maintain this ranking till 89-90.

IDPL catered medicines having cheaper price to the people of India, thereby social objectives were achieved.

From 1991 onwards the Government of India refused to provide the financial health to this company. Now the company is in sick list. The closure of this company is in the interest of multinationals in the field. If this is allowed to be closed the people of our country have to pay through their nose for their requirement of medicine. In spite of the repeated representations the Government did not provide funds for this company. This is not a question of security of employment for the workers of this company, though that is important, the main question is to provide medicines for the people of this country at affordable rates.

Apart from this, the Govt has not given up its plan to amend the Indian Patent Act. We must oppose it tooth and nail, as otherwise the self reliance in the drug industry will get a fatal blow.

NATIONAL TEXTILE CORPORATION

Similarly, the public sector National Textile Corporation is under serious attack by the Govt's policy. They

have flouted the unanimous agreement and the report of the Textile Research Associations for modernisation and revival of the NTC mills. The promise made by the Prime Minister when we met him recently, has been fake. It is being reported that about 30 to 40 NTC mills are going to be closed, rendering about one lakh workers jobless. The united platform of all the trade unions are in struggle. We have to go all out in opposing the Govt's move and save the NTC mills, which constitute the largest number of PSUs in a industry.

Comrades,

I shall bring to your attention about the corruption which is haunting the bourgeois political parties of the country, especially the Cong(I) party. I do not wish to go into all the details of corruption in the country. Day in and day out the whole press is full of reports of corruption cases and court trials. Mr Narasimha Rao, the former Prime Minister and Congress President is involved in many cases of corruption of which one stands out as a special category. When Mr Rao came to power he had no majority in the Parliament. He could mobilise majority in the House by buying up MPs paying huge sums of money. Now it is the subject matter of court case. In Indian democracy there were corruption in many places before also but this kind of specific corruption paying huge sums and buying MPs never came to light. In this case money was collected from the big employers of the country by Capt Satish Sharma, Minister for Petroleum in the Rao Cabinet. Capt Satish Sharma recieved Rs 50 crores from five industrialists during the period April 1993 to Feb 1994. As per the chargesheet filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation, details are:

Mr Prithvi Raj Jinda of M/s Jindal Saw Pipes, Hissar

Rs 50 lakhs in April/May 1993

Mr V N Dhoot of M/s Videocon International Ltd Rs 1 crore in July, 1993 and Rs 1 crore in October, 1993.

Mr Shashi Ruia of M/s Essar Group of Companies Rs 3 crore in November, 1993 and Rs 4 crores in February 1994.

Mr Mukesh Ambani of M/s Reliance Industries Ltd Rs 1 crore in June, 1993, Rs 1 crore in October, 1993, and Rs 2 crores in December, 1993.

Mr Abhay Oswal of M/s Bindal Agro Industries Rs 1.5 crores in April/May, 1993.

The capitalist of the country are talking about moral standards. I do not know what will they say about it. Mr Rao is foisted as a senior politician and a big leader. Even now there are people in Cong(I) party supporting him, which a normal citizen of the country cannot understand. You should also know that more than a dozen ministers of the Rao Cabinet are involved in different kinds of corruption. We find today that the BJP leaders and government ministers are not above corruption Also we find in states to many leaders are now facing corruption charges and prosecution. The case of Jayalalitha is a case in point. Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav in Bihar also is facing charges of corruption. Though eradication of corruption in high places is a talking point since long but no tangible measures have been taken by the government till date. Bourgeois system is corruption-ridden that everybody knows. However anti-corruption laws are going to be legislated by the Parliament. some proposals are afoot to exclude MPs and MLAs from its coverage. We have to strongly oppose this. The working class of the country should fight for eradication of corruption in high places which is now all pervading.

Comrades, before I conclude, I want to invite your attention to the New Delhi Convention of the National Platform of Mass Organisation held on 16th december, 1996. they have adopted a resolution calling upon the working class to launch a big fight for reversal of the government's retrograde policy. A charter of demand has been accepted with a programme for action. In the 15-point charter of demands they have included the issues facing the people and the working class. I do not wish to detail them since that will come up here in the form of a resolution, I want you to take up the call given by the Delhi convention for immediate action.

With greetings,

E Balanandan

05.01.1997