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THE WORKING CLASS

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The Massive March to Parliament



M.K. Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU addressing the mass rally at Boat Club on November 25



A section of the Presidium with Com E. Balanandan, President CITU

CALL OF THE MAMMOTH RALLY AT BOAT CLUB

Forward to Bharat Bandh

November 25, 1992 was a red letter day in the history of working class struggles in India. An estimated one million workers joined the rally at Boat Club, New Delhi on the day to protest against the IMF dictated economic and industrial policies of the Central Government. After the two country-wide strikes on 29th November 1991 and 16th June 1992, this was the third massive protest action demanding of the government to free itself from the IMF/World Bank and withdraw all the economic, industrial and trade measures, hitherto dictated by the Fund Bank and chalk out a self-reliant economy to safeguard the national sovereignty of the country. The rally broke all previous records of trade union gatherings both in number and in composition. It was joined by workers and employees of all sections and categories both from the public sector and the private sector. The special feature of the rally was the participation in thousands by the central government employees of all departments, the defence employees, the railway employees, the

state government employees etc. The public sector employees from various industries like in coal, steel, fertilizers, oil power, pharmaceuticals, transport, bank, insurance, airlines, etc. joined in thousands. Officers of the public sector undertakings including bank and insurance and central government also participated in the rally in large numbers. All the industrial federations made special efforts to mobilise their workers in the rally in thousands. The working women from various industries and states including the Anganwadi women constituted a big part of the rally. The workers of the unorganised sectors of industries like Beedi, brick kiln, construction, handloom, and other small scale sectors for the first time joined the rally in massive number. Similarly all other allies of the working class, namely the peasantry, agricultural workers, students, youth, women, and other professional employees joined the rally and marched through the streets shoulder to shoulder with the working class. It was a huge demonstration of the blue colour working class and the white



Lining up before the workers' march

colour employees marching together denouncing the IMF, the Dunkel proposals, the American imperialism and demanding of the Narasimha Rao Government to withdraw the economic policy formulated under their pressure. Plackards and picture posters denouncing the Bush administration, the Dunkel draft and the Fund-Bank were carried by the marchers coming from different states. This was a rally of the trade unions which for the first time was represented by all the states in the country. The workers came from Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, from Andaman Nicobar, from Goa and from Tripura representing the four extreme points in the country. It is needless to point out that all the other states sent their optimum number. The proverbially weaker Hindi belt sent the largest contingent of the mammoth gathering. As per reports, the Bihar and U.P. contingent comprised of over two lakhs. Haryana, Rajasthan, M.P., Delhi, followed next. Despite all threats from the extremists, Comrades from Punjab were among the maximum number of participants. The far off states like Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhrapradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat etc. also swelled the number in thousands.

Prior to this, Jathas were conducted by CITU alongwith other trade unions and mass organisations

in various states. In the Hindi belt district wise Jathas were organised at U.P, Bihar, M.P, etc. Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan organised Jathas to mobilise the workers for the march. State wise Jathas with massive rallies were conducted by Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Kerala. Huge rallies were organised in Bengal. Similar programmes were organised in Assam, Tripura, Gujrat and Maharashtra. Jana Natya Manch organised street dramas against the economic policies in the industrial countries at Delhi and the adjacent areas. Similar street dramas were organised in other states also. In this way millions of people were brought into the fold of the country-wide movement against the IMF dictated policies.

The huge procession started from the Red Fort. Because of its massive nature the procession actually started much earlier the scheduled time. With innumerable number of banners, flags, and plackards the procession wound its way in a most disciplined manner throughout the route via Daryaganj, Bhadurshah Zafar Marg, Tilak Bridge, Firoz Shah Road, Windsor Place, Janpath and reached the Boat club around 12 noon. The entire sprawling area of the Boat Club on both sides and the Rajpath from Rafi Marg to the India Gate became a vast sea of human heads and red banners. (Cont'd on page 29)



The massine procession winding its way to the Boat Club

Unorganised Workers Decide for Countrywide Strike

The first all India Convention of the workers in the unorganised sector of industries was held at B.T.R. Nagar, Panihati, Calcutta from 1 to 3 November, 1992. The convention was organised by the India Co-ordination Committee of unorganised workers (CITU).

The convention was preceded by a massive open rally which was joined by over 50,000 workers from various unorganised sectors of industries. The rally was addressed by Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal, M.K. Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU, P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, CITU, Shanti Ghatak, Labour Minister of West Bengal, Subhas Chakraborty, Sports Minister of West Bengal, who was the Chairman of the Reception Committee and Gopal Bhattacharya, Secretary of the Reception Committee. The Rally was presided over by Niren Ghosh, President of West Bengal State CITU.

About 550 delegates from all the states attended the convention. The convention was conducted by a presidium consisting of V. Karmegam, Satpal Bharati, V.J.K. Nair, Paramjeet, Chandi Prasad, Arati Das gupta and Piyush Sarkar. At the outset condolence resolutions were adopted on Com. BTR, Com. Manoranjan Roy, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Md. Ismail, Com. M. Basavapunniah and others. Inaugurating the convention M.K. Pandhe drew the attention of the delegates to the new industrial policy of the Central Govt. which caused serious problems to the workers of both the organised and the unorganised sector of industries. He strongly criticised the Narasimha Rao Govt for continuation of such policies at the behest of the IMF and World Bank. It undermined the economic sovereignty of the country. He called upon the workers in the unorganised sector of industries to launch united movement demanding withdrawal of the policy.

The Convention was greeted by Subhas Chakraborty, Samar Mukherjee, Shanti Ghatak, Niren Ghosh and Chittabrata Majumdar, Gen. Secretary of the West Bengal State CITU. Progressive songs were rendered by a cultural group from Panihati during the convention.

The report of the convention was placed by Mrinal Das, the convener of the co-ordination committee. The report highlighted the deplorable conditions of the workers in the unorganised sectors. Need based wages had been denied to them. They were getting wages below the poverty line. Labour laws and social security measures were being denied to them. The report dealt with the struggles launched by the workers in these sectors in the various states for amelioration of their conditions. The re-

port also criticised the main demands of the workers in this sector and called for countrywide militant actions including strike to pressurise the govt. to concede the demands.

The report was discussed by 22 comrades namely Amar Nath, Tarsem Singh (Punjab); Ranjit Kundu, Sriharan Acharya, Jayanto Dasgupta, Mouisha Chakraborty, Ratna Bhattacharya (West Bengal); Arun Misra, Abdual Sattar (Bihar); Nityanand Swamy (Karnataka); Jagannath Bharati (MP); Vivek Monteiro (Maharashtra); Narayan Swamy, A V Valerium (Tamilnadu); Nawarang Choudhury, Waqarul Ahad (Rajasthan); K M Tiwari, Mohanlal (Delhi); M P Radhakrishna (AP); Amyo Das (Orissa); Satvir Singh (Haryana); Haribal Debnath (Tripura).

The delegates narrated the conditions of the workers in the various unorganised sectors in their states, about their struggles and the repression unleashed against them whenever they launched agitation on their various demands. They laid stress on the question of minimum wage with which it was difficult for the workers to make the both ends meet. They further emphasised on the need for implementation of all labour laws and social security measures. They demanded the coverage of the unorganised sector of industries within the Factories Act and suggested for a central legislation for the unorganised workers. They narrated the results of the new industrial policy which allowed the Indian and foreign monopolists to penetrate into the small scale and even tiny sectors of industries. Closures had crept in this sector of industry with the spectre of huge unemployment. The delegates showed great enthusiasm to participate in the march to Parliament programme against this new economic and industrial policy on 25 November at Delhi. They further suggested to launch militant movement on an All India basis which should culminate in a countrywide strike. With some amendments suggested by the delegates the report was adopted unanimously.

The convention unanimously adopted 3 resolutions: (i) On the March to Parliament on 25 November (ii) On the danger of communalism and divisive forces and (iii) On a countrywide strike by unorganised sector workers in pursuance of a 22 point charter of demands. The convention authorised the All India Co-ordination Committee to call a meeting and fix up the date of the strike. Accordingly a meeting of the Co-ordination Committee was called at Bangalore on 15th December to fix up the date of the strike.

Women's March In Lucknow Against Communalism

Vimal Ranadive

Thousands of women from different states gathered at Charbagh near Lucknow Railway Station on November 5 under the banner of Communal Harmony and Unity and marched to the famous historical place Jhandewal Park, Village and slum women with babies in arms with small bundles of clothes and 'Sathu' walked in line shouting slogans, "Let Mandir be built, let the masjid remain, all adhere to the law." As the march surged forward with the response from the common Hindu and Muslim people who lined up to watch the moving procession, women's spirit rose high, the sense of oneness on the solution of the question emerged. The slogans on the mike in the front car decorated with slogans under the banner of "Desh Todake Mandir Banana, Aise papse Ram Bachana" or "Jaat Dharm par ladne nahi dena, sun Saintalis banane nahi dena" were supported by all the women in the march.

The threat of the VHP, RSS and their Parliament of 'Sadhus' to construct the Mandir on the 6th December, with whatever consequences raised the eyebrows of all the secular minded people in our country. The Left parties issued a statement condemning their call of action and demanded negotiations and stick to the supreme court judgement. Already riots started in Sitamarhi were common people died. Under such situation the women's March in Lucknow in the state where the BJP Government rules, on 5th had added importance. The March went through the Hindu and Muslim dominated areas, in the mixed colonies of Hindus and Muslim when the public was watching this unprecedented march and also unexpected in the capital of Lucknow. When they heard the slogan, such as child of Hindu or of a muslim is nation's property, it can't be killed under the name of religion, they were moved.

The main organisations which took special efforts to organise women in the states were AIDWA and NFIW. It was surprising for all of us women, a small contingent came from Tamilnadu (3) and Karnataka (7) under the Banner of AIDWA. Delhi crossed its quota by bringing 900 women to Lucknow, while Maharashtra about 250. Bihar brought a few while Rajasthan brought 50 or so. M.P. promised 300 and brought almost the same number. West Bengal came in hundreds. From Himachal also 8-10 women arrived at the rally. From U.P. itself hundreds came from Kanpur, Lucknow, Varanasi and other places.

The rally went on along with slogans given by Com. Sarala Sharma MP and Amarjeet Kour which roused women and people who were watching and appreciating the meaning of the slogans. The songs

sung by 'Kalam' and other squad also added enthusiasm in the rally.

The huge procession reached the maidan at about 12.30 or so. The meeting began with the announcement of the presidium constituting Susheela Gopalan (AIDWA), Tara Reddy (NFIW) Grace Zaidi from (JWC) and Savita Bajpai (MDS). After the welcome speech of Ms. Kamala Pande the meeting began. The first speaker, Ms. Jostna Chattarjee (JWC) said women and children have to suffer the brunt of communal clashes and we want unity of all people belonging to all religion. Vimala Faruque (NFIW) appealed the people that under the name of religion women and children and minorities are crushed. We have come here to show our anger against these fundamentalists of both religion. The verdict of the court should be accepted by all.

Brinda Karat (AIDWA) rightly pointed out that the communal forces whichever community they may be represent, are hostile to genuine cause of women. She cited the example of Shahabanu. Have the leaders indulging in communal politics ever raised social issue such as Devadasis, she asked. She ended her speech by condemning the recent threat of BJP, VHP, RSS, Bajarang Dal and others to build the Mandir at the place of Babri Masjid. Lastely she repeated the slogan "Mandir Bane, Masjid Rahe, Sabhi Kanoon ka palan kare". Ms. Savita Bajpai of (MDS) spoke on the question of religion and how it was affecting women.

Com. Surjeet Kour announced the programme with slogans which roused the patriotic passion among women. Com. Subhashini gave thanks to all those women's organisations and their leaders who participated in the meeting and for making the rally a success. She reminded all women, that women have to suffer in communal clashes, and therefore cannot remain silent any more. They have to unitedly raise their voice for peace, unity and communal harmony, the banner under which the rally marched to the meeting place.

Captain Laxmi Saigal, Ahilya Ranganakar, Vimal Ranadive and Shyamali Gupta and others were present in the rally and meeting.

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Call of CITU Working Committee

- * Gear up the Organisation to Meet the New Challenges.
- * Launch Full Scale Preparations for Bharat Bandh.
- * Fight and Isolate the Communal Forces.

The working committee meeting of the CITU held at New Delhi on November 28th and 29th endorsed the Declaration of the rally at Boat club and called up on all its unions and federations to launch full scale preparations for the Bharath Bandh, the date of which would be fixed up by the Sponsoring Committee.

The meeting was presided over by Com. E. Balanandan and attended by 102 members of the working committee. The meeting noted that all sections of the working people and other mass organisations took part in the rally at Boat Club on 25th November in massive numbers. Participation of Central Government employees of all categories, Defence employees and State government employees apart from workers of the various public sector units was a special feature of the rally. Similarly workers of the unorganised sectors of the industries and women also participated in large numbers. The meeting also noted that the rally was preceded by State wise and District wise Jathas organised in almost all the states which could mobilize opinion of all sections of the toiling people against the IMF dictated economic and industrial policies adopted by the Narasimha Rao Government. Apart from Jathas, massive rallies were held in Bengal, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Andhrapradesh, Karnataka, Punjab and other states. The meeting noted with satisfaction the growing enthusiasm shown by the marchers for the Bharat Bandh as per the declaration of the rally. The working committee accordingly called upon all the State committees, Unions & Federations to launch full scale preparation for the Bharat Bandh and Industrial strike immediately. Gate meetings, General Body meetings, pamphlet distribution, posterage etc. should be started to mobilise the workers for the Bharath Bandh. Educative campaign should be launched simultaneously against the IMF dictated economic policies. All State committees, Unions and Federations should convene executive meetings and concretise the plan for campaign. The meeting requested the Sponsoring Committee to fix up the date of the Bharat Bandh and the General Industrial strike at an early date and appealed to all other trade unions and mass organisations of peasantry, agricultural workers, student, youth, women and other professional workers to unitedly launch the campaign for complete Bharath Bandh. The Resolution in this respect was unanimously adopted by the working committee congratulating the working class for their massive participation in the rally and calling for preparations for the Bharath Bandh.

In another resolution the meeting condemned

the BJP-VHP-RSS for fanning up communal passion in the country by their decision to start Kar Seva at Ayodhya from December 6. The meeting adopted other resolutions, namely on Cuba, British coal miners' strike, South Africa etc.

Gear up the Organisation

The meeting discussed in details the organisational functions and called for gearing up the organisation to meet the new challenges both on the national and international arenas. Report on organisation was placed by Com. M.K. Pandhe, General Secretary. 35 members discussed the report. Members noted the development of the organisation as a whole in guiding and conducting the trade union movements in the country. It was due to the initiative taken by the CITU that massive struggles could be launched against the IMF prescribed economic policies adopted by the Narasimha Rao Government. This included the two countrywide strikes of 29th November 1991 and 16th June 1992, as well as the massive rally at Boat Club on 25 November 1992. All these struggles were unprecedented. The force of the CITU had grown enormously which was deciding factor in embracing large sections of the working people in the struggles. It was the campaign launched by the CITU State committees and the Unions and Federations which revealed the conspiracies launched by imperialism headed by the USA against India by forcing the country to accept the IMF and World Bank prescriptions as well as growingly surrender to the dictates of the GATT to undermine economic and national sovereignty of the country. It was because of CITU that the workers in general have started realising the country's freedom and independence. The growing mass movement and awareness of the working class against the anti-national facets of the economic and industrial policies pointed to the development and growth of CITU as an organisation qualitatively different from any other trade unions.

The members however critically analysed the functioning of the CITU as an organisation. While the positive aspects were noted, the weaknesses and lacunae were also discussed by the members with the objective of plugging the loopholes and fortify organisation in all aspects to meet the new challenges. The members noted in a self-critical manner that this was necessary because despite all advances made by the CITU and growth in membership, the trade union movement in the country and the activities of the CITU itself was certainly lagging behind the demands of the situation. They particularly

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Jute Workers of Andhra Pradesh on to A Historic United Struggle

Ch. Narasinga Rao

Andhra Pradesh has 17 Jute Mills employing about 17000 workers and supporting about 50000 families of allied trade and agriculture, dependent on the Jute industry. Second only to West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh occupies a predominant place in Indian Jute Industry.

The industry is facing severe problems due to the stiff and adamant attitude of the managements. The Bhajarang Jute Mills at Guntur is under closure since 1985. The Krishna Jute Mills at ELURU has been in lock-out since 15 days. The Chittivalasa Jute Mills, located at Chittivalasa, about 30 Kms. from Visakhapatnam, has been in strike or lock-out for over 100 days. More than 10000 workers and their families are facing severe hardships. Though the earlier wage settlements expired in the 1st half of 1991, the Jute managements have not started negotiations for wage settlements. Instead, some managements have issued counter demands on the workers.

On 17th March, 1992, a wage settlement was successfully completed in West Bengal, after a prolonged strike of over 50 days. The settlement was made under Sec 12(3) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Bengal Jute agreement inspired the jute workers in Andhra Pradesh, and they once again renewed their struggle for a fresh wage settlement. In the Chittivalasa Jute Mills, the Staff Union of Chittivalasa Jute Mills completed a settlement, which was not implemented by the management till date. It is at such a juncture that Gangadhara Reddy, the All India President of AICTU, signed a settlement at Nellimarla Jute Mills, accepting a reduction of Rs. 150/- per month per worker, supposed to be used as running capital of the Nellimarla Jute Mill. The managements of the other Jute Mills, were jubilant with the Nellimarla settlement and they also demanded reduction of existing benefits, in their mills. Gangadhara Reddy, thereupon signed another treacherous settlement in Chittivalasa Jute mills, by which it was agreed that the D.A. triculture would be changed from Guntur to Vizianagaram. That is, of the 3 centres identified for D.A. calculation, Guntur was substituted by Vizianagaram. This change of triculture resulted in the loss of Rs. 52/- per month from August, 1992. Besides, the new agreement also agreed to reduction of sick leave by 10 days per year, to reduce piece rate, to increase work load and to increase canteen rates and to accept the wage hike of the Bengal settlement.

The CITU took strong objection to the new settlement and opposed the settlement at a public meeting held on 12th August, 1992, addressed by Com. Mohamad Ameen, MP, and the Vice-President of the JWFI. The CITU Union in the Chittivalasa Jute Mills also gave a call for indefinite strike, and was followed by the AITUC Union, from 2nd September, 1992. The AITUC did not respond to

a joint programme of action. The CITU independently gave a call for a procession to the District Collector and mobilised 5000 signatures of workers on a memorandum seeking intervention. A 'Jail Bharo' and Mass Dharnas were also organised, in front of the Mill gates. The tremendous response and determination of all the workers forced the AITUC to change its attitude towards joint programme. A joint Dharna was conducted in front of the President of the AICTU, Gangadhara Reddy, demanding his resignation. Reddy tendered his resignation to the Commissioner of Labour. In the meantime, the management tried to restart the mill with the help of about 200 workers belonging to the Congress Karmika Sangham of Gangadhara Reddy but failed in their attempts as over 2000 workers, all members of CITU and AITUC, surrounded the mill and did not allow any-entry. The management having failed in their attempts, declared lock-out, since 11-11-92.

At Eluru, the Krishna Jute Mills management demanded a settlement identical to the Chittivalasa Jute Mill settlement. Naturally, the 8 Unions in Krishna Jute Mills, rejected the demands of the management and gave a call for 'work to rule'. The management declared lock-out on 26th October, '92. Most of the other Jute managements have stopped paying D.A. by the old triculture, and are prepared to pay only as advance in lieu of a new wage settlement.

The CITU, initiated a State level meeting of all the Unions in the Jute industry, organised jointly by the CITU, IETU & AITUC, on 17th November, 1992. The meeting was a tremendous with 14 Unions from 9 mills participating in the meeting held at Visakhapatnam. The meeting unanimously resolved to stage a 'Dharna' at the State Secretariat on 23rd November, 1992, to hold a State level convention on 28th November, 1992, at Vizianagaram, and to give a call for a one day token strike throughout the State, on 1st December 1992.

Massive Left Front Rally at Brigade Parade Ground

The Left Front of West Bengal organised a massive rally at Brigade Parade Ground, Calcutta on November 29 against the economic policies of the Central Government.

The rally was attended by an estimated 15 lakh people, the biggest ever in Calcutta, and gave a fitting reply to the Congress(I) rally held a few days earlier.

Com. Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister was the main speaker. He lambasted the Congress(I) at the Centre and the State both. Other speakers included Sailen Das Gupta, the Chairman and other leaders of the Left Front.

Widespread Struggle in Tamilnadu

Bonus Struggles

Bonus struggles in Tamilnadu this year has once again proved that the Bonus Act is redundant and obsolete. The demand for basic changes in the Act, to remove all the ceilings and improve the minimum bonus amount has been justified.

On the whole, the Bonus struggles this year in October and November have been successful. Almost in all Sector, private, public and Co-operative, workers could get more bonus and ex-gratia. United actions and preparations for struggles have resulted in these gains.

Textiles

Textile Industry is the major industry, where bonus is settled at Industry level. Textile workers, especially those in Coimbatore area, have a tradition of getting more bonus through their united, militant struggles. This year also, they could get more than what the employers were prepared to give them initially. The General settlement this year was through an advice from State Labour Commissioner, which was possible after a protracted discussion. Workers who were 'eligible' only for 8.33 per cent as per Act, was given 19.5 per cent and those who were eligible to get only 20 per cent were given 35 per cent, workers from the mills in the category of sick and cashless were to be given 13 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. CITU did not accept this. Co-operative mills, under the control of State Government had to give between 15 and 19.5 per cent, NTC mills were advised to give 15 per cent to 35 per cent.

It is also noteworthy that in private sector mills in Coimbatore, Bonus is paid for the full wages earned, i.e., without applying any ceiling provisions. But the Co-operative and NTC Mills pay Bonus with ceilings.

Madurai Coats Strike

One major Textile group where workers had to go on strike was that of Madurai Coats. Gross profit of the group had increased to 88 crores from 66 crores. Even according to the 'disputed' balance sheet. But the management was prepared to give the same amount of Rs. 5500 (28.64 per cent) as last year. INTUC demanded Rs. 7000 CITU, AITUC and some other unions demanded Rs. 9000. As the management was not prepared to concede the demand, all the 14000 workers in the 4 mills in the State went on strike from 13th October. As the negotiations progressed, all unions jointly demanded Rs. 8000 as Bonus against the offer of Rs. 16.85 per cent.

The Government of Tamilnadu also came down heavily against the workers of Ambasamuthram went was fined upon by the police on 17th October. 3 workers a local resident woman was injured. Workers assembled near a union office on 17th evening to know about the details of discussions with the management when the news reached them that the talks had again failed, workers started demonstration. These workers were lathi charged and police ran amuck and resorted to firing. Local residents who were on their way to attend a temple festival were also lathi charged and fired upon.

There were protest actions all over the state. Local Bandh was organised by the Trade Unions and opposition parties. CITU state committee also gave a call for state wide protest demonstrations.

Workers in all the units of Coats went on with their united strike. No Settlement could be reached during the tripartite discussion. On 10th October, after 27 days of Strike by 14000 workers, Labour Commissioner issued an advice to the management to pay Rs. 6500/- towards Bonus and ex-gratia and unions were advised to accept it and withdraw the strike.

At this stage unanimity could not be reached among unions and decisions are to be taken by individual unions. But the fact remains that the united strike forced the management and the Government to give 35.85 per cent as Bonus.

Other Sectors

In other industries also, workers could get more Bonus. In State owned Corporations or Boards, there has been a general increase of 0.75 per cent in ex-gratia. In Co-operative sugar 20 per cent and Rs. 350 as ex-gratia was given.

In State owned Cemet factories 8.33% and Rs. 1150/- was given. In a private sector sugar factory, 42 per cent Bonus was given. In private sector cement industry the payment varied from 20 per cent + Rs. 1200 to 20 per cent + 12Gms of Gold.

In the Engeneering Industry also, workers have got more Bonus and ex-gratia payments.

Workers of Tamilnadu Water and Drainge Board, got 8.33 per cent and Rs. 1000 towards earlier dues, through a Court order.

Transport Workers get Wage Increase

One lakh and five thousand State Transport Corporation workers in Tamilnadu have achieved considerable increase in wages and other benefits including a pension scheme.

These workers, employed in 17 corporations have been conducting campaigns during the last four months. After many struggles, it has become a practice in the State owned Transport Sector to reach a new settlement before the expiry of the existing settlement. The existing settlement expired on 31st August 1992.

CITU led State Transport Employees Federation began the campaign for wage revision in its State Conference in May 1992. The successful conference and massive and impressive rally of Khaki clad Transport Workers had given a clarion call to struggle for wage increase other fringe benefits and a pension scheme as a third benefit.

CITU led Federation finalised its charter of demands after collecting opinion from workers at depot level. State wide Jathas covering all the 300 and odd depots and bus stands were organised. A massive procession was organised in Madras on 14th July, when the new charter was submitted to the Transport Minister. The Charter was also submitted to all corporations.

CITU took initiative in building up a joint movement. It has become customary in the state to hold state level discussions with 6 Federations affiliated to CITU, AITUC, LPF (DMK) INTUC, ATP (ADMK) and HMS. A common charter was finalised and the state level bipartite negotiations started on 2nd September.

On Pension

The demand for pension as a third benefit was raised by CITU during the last wage revision. Though it was agreed that discussions will continue, no proposal was concretised by the Management.

This time, CITU decided that the discussions on new charter could begin only after the pension and some other pending issues are settled. This time also management was not willing to discuss pension and CITU representatives walked out of the discussions on 7th September. Some other unions also had to join the walkout. This forced the Minister to fix up a date to discuss the pension issue.

The discussions continued till 29th September. By that time, workers could pressurise the Government to accept many of their demands. But, at the last stage of the discussions, unions were not united in their approach and if this had not happened, some more benefits could have been achieved and some of the achievements could have been concretised further.

CITU had to object to certain issues, and decided not to sign the settlement. So also AITUC and LPF raised certain objections and did not sign the settlement. INTUC, ATP and HMS took a pro-Government stand and had signed the settlement

even before the minutes detailing the clauses were finalised.

This had resulted in resentment among workers and there were local protest strikes in some of the Corporations on 1st October.

According to agreement, all workers will get increase of Rs. 250 in urban areas and Rs. 240 in rural centres. The mode of calculation for this is devised in such a way that all workers will get the same benefit disregarding the maximum years of service put in by the serious. This was one of the objections raised by CITU.

Pension Scheme

The campaign for a pension scheme, which the CITU has been conducting for the last 3 years have finally resulted in a pension scheme. The scheme, now agreed, stipulates the formation of a Trust to manage the pension fund. The workers have to contribute Rs. 50/- per month and the management will contribute Rs. 1000/- per worker. Management will contribute this amount of Rs. 1000 for the future recruits also. According to the scheme, workers will get pension ranging from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1250. 6 Slabs have been worked out on the basis of service ranging from upto 5 years to 30 years. CITU wanted a monthly contribution also from the management, which was not accepted. So also, the issue of pension to spouses of expired employees, pension benefits for those who have gone on voluntary retirement, dismissal etc were not settled. CITU wanted all these issues to be settled before the agreement was finalised. But the Government was not prepared, and CITU could not give complete approval of the schemes. The justification of the stand taken by CITU was proved when the State Minister had to announce certain modification to the scheme, for which an agreement was signed just a few days ago.

But, on the whole, State Transport Workers in Tamilnadu have achieved a Pension Scheme, which the workers can certainly improve in the coming years and the credit for this can surely be claimed by the CITU led State Transport Employees Federation and the consistent struggle by the workers.

In addition to these, certain fringe benefits including increase in fixed bhata, and other allowances, increase of Medical leave from 11 days to 12 days, 7 hour from the existing 8 hours work for staff etc have also been agreed.

The CITU led State Transport Employees in the State under the 17 corporations have been taking a leading role in all the activities of the toiling masses, With 70% of the passenger Transport being in the State Sector, they will have to further strengthen their activities in defence of their gains as well as in other struggles, in view of the severe attacks against the public sector in the Country.

Karnataka CITU 6th State Conference

The Karnataka State Committee of the CITU decided to organise picketing of all government offices in the state on November 18 to protest anti-people, anti-labour policies of the Bangarappa govt. besides sending maximum possible number to Delhi for march to Parliament on Nov. 25. These decision were made by the sixth conference of state CITU that met at Mangalore on October 18 & 19.

The conference started with a colourful procession on October 18, led by three hundred red volunteers. One hundred working women volunteers, wearing red sarees and caps, marched past at the head of the procession with a military band. This huge procession on the first day of the conference was joined by workers from different districts in the state. These included more than 500 beedi and women contract workers from Mangalore, Hubli, Harihar and Shahabad.

E. Balanandan, President of the CITU inaugurating the open session of the conference, warned that the nation is facing a very dangerous situation because of the new economic policies of Narasimha Rao's government. He said any amount of borrowing from IMF and World Bank would not solve the nation's problems but only deepen the economic crisis as is being seen today. Agricultural production has gone down while industrial production is not increasing. The rate of growth is only four per cent now while 15 years ago it was 15 per cent. Education expenditure has been cut down and allocations to public distribution system reduced, thus increasing the prices of essential commodities. Balanandan criticised withdrawal of fertiliser subsidy causing an increase in its prices and reduction in foodgrains production. By importing wheat and rice the govt. is pauperising the peasantry. It is importing fertilisers while factories in our country are closing down. Balanandan also criticised increase in petrol and diesel prices, privatisation of public sector, closure of factories, freedom to foreign capital to invest on equity terms and allowing them tax exemptions.

Balanandan lambasted Union Minister hailing from Karnataka, viz, Shankaranand and C.J. Jaffer Sherief, as well as chief minister Bangarappa for their acts of omission and commission.

Delegates session

The delegates session started on the 19th after the flag was hoisted and homage paid to martyrs. The conference condoled the death of Com. B.T. Ranadive, M. Basavapunnaiyah, Saroj Mukherjee, Manoranjan Roy, Mohammed Ismail, Kamal Sarkar, N.K. Upadhyaya, P.K. Kunjachan and others.

V.J.K. Nair, state CITU general secretary, while presenting the draft report, dealt in detail with the political developments in the world, national developments and the situation in Karnataka. Referring to developments in Karnataka the report noted dismissal of the Janata Dal government, in power at the time of last conference in 1988. The Congress(I) government of Veerendra Patil which then came to power, was also dismissed by the party bosses and the excise lobby helped Bangarappa come to power, under whose regime the working class and rural poor are the worst hit.

The report dealt with several struggles and activities conducted since the last conference—struggles against price rise and closure of factories, successful participation in the bandh call against the dismissal of Janta Dal government, All-India bandh on August 30, 1989 and so on. It also mentioned one week jail bhara programme by unorganised workers demanding a minimum wage of Rs. 1050 and collection of one lakh signatures on a memorandum to be submitted to the assembly speaker.

The report dealt in detail with the struggles of public sector employees, Dhendeli paper mill workers etc. The report narrated in detail as to how state CITU leadership took initiative to organise a sponsoring committee in the state and thus implement all the decisions taken at All-India level. The CITU in the state succeeded in bringing various trade union centres and industrial federations on a common platform and making them participate in common action.

The report also drew attention to serious weakness in the state organisation and also in state level and joint activities. Comparing the November 29, 1991 All-India strike with June 16, '92 strike, the report said the latter was better than the former for many reasons. New sections joined in. The conditions imposed by Dunkel draft, US threat on rocket technology transfer, Super 301 etc also weakened the resistance of the pro-liberalisation camp. If only the KSRTC had struck work and AITUC and agreed to observe the call, the strike would have been more effective. There are many weaknesses in public sector which are to be overcome in order to advance further. The report said the state centre should become functional. Financial constraint is coming in the way of its better functioning. Affiliation fee is coming down every year as unions pay scant regard to submitting annual returns and sending affiliation fee.

46 delegates participated in the discussion making valuable suggestions for an improvement of work.

(Cont'd on page 20)

UN Adopts Cuban Resolution Against Economic Blockade Imposed by USA

[We are publishing hereunder the Draft Resolution on the Economic Blockade imposed on Cuba by the USA, discussed by the Permanent Representative of Cuba in the UN, adopted by the UN General Assembly, on November 25, 1992. A statement made by Cuba on USA's "Cuban Democracy Act. of 1992" is also being published hereunder—Ed.]

Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

The General Assembly,

Determined to promote strict respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

Reaffirming, among other principles, the sovereign equality of states, Non-intervention and Non-interference in their internal affairs, and freedom of trade and shipping, also enshrined in numerous international legal instruments.

Concerned by the promulgation and application by member states of laws and Regulations, the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other states and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction as well as freedom of trade and shipping.

Having been informed of the recent promulgation by the government of the United States of measures of this nature, aimed at reinforcing and expanding the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba.

1. Urges all states to refrain from promulgating and implementing legislation and measures of the nature referred to in the preamble of this resolution, in compliance with their obligations under the Charter and International Law, and with the commitments they have freely entered into by subscribing International legal instruments that, inter alia, enshrine freedom of trade and shipping.

2. Calls upon all states where such legislation and measures do exist to carry-out, as soon as possible and in accordance with their legal procedures, all actions required to eliminate them or annul their effects.

3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation for considera-

tion at its forty-eighth session.

4. Decides to include the item entitled "necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session.

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Trade of the Republic of Cuba.

Regarding the so-called "Cuban Democracy Act of 1992" contained in the Defense Budget Appropriations Act 1993 of the United States of America.

The Government of the United States of America approved on October 23 the defense budget appropriations act which contains among its provisions the clause known as the Torricelli bill, whose expressed purpose is the strengthening of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on Cuba since February 3, 1962, and the extraterritorial extension of its application.

"The Cuban Democracy Act of 1992", by which name the Torricelli Bill was submitted, sets itself up as a new instrument of the unilateral policy of harassment which the United States has maintained for more than three decades against Cuba. It seeks to give the blockade a universal character in such a way that presupposes the obligation of third countries to submit themselves to the dictates of the U S administration, open interference with the sovereign decisions of these countries, by pressuring them, in this case, to restrict their commercial and credit relations with Cuba.

It is obvious that the method adopted by the United States Government to persuade its commercial partners throughout the world is once again that of threats and blackmail.

To those who either officially or as a private business executives have maintained commercial and financial relations with Cuba over the years,

such practices are nothing new. They are part of the mechanisms of the blockade against Cuba which the representatives of the United States Government repeatedly refer to as an 'Embargo' adducing that its application is bilateral and does not involve third parties.

In that which directly concerns official spheres, this new disposition grants the President of the United States the power to apply 'Sanctions' to those countries that do not succumb to the dictates of Washington and which 'provide assistance to Cuba'. The law itself expounds a unilateral and arbitrary definition of 'Assistance to Cuba', which includes practices characteristic of normal economic and commercial relations among countries. The sanctions proclaimed threaten to make these countries ineligible for assistance and for purchasing US weapons, and for any program of forgiving or reducing their debt to the United States Government.

Included among the sanctions which, by virtue of this law, the administration of the United States propose to impose on commercial firms and businessmen, whatever their nature and geographical location in the world, is the prohibition on trade with Cuba which applies to subsidiaries of US firms located in third countries. This measure was in force since the blockade was imposed in 1962 until August, 1975, when the United States Government had to lift it due to the protests of third countries interested in commerce with Cuba.

This measure, known as the Mack amendment, has been the object of debate within the framework of various legislations in recent United States Congressional Sessions, resulting in its approval by the legislative body on October 26, 1990. A month later, on November 16, President Bush applied a 'Pocket Veto' to the law in which the amendment had been inserted and the White House's memorandum of disapproval, explaining the reasons for not having signed the law, specifically cited with regard to this provision, the dilemma it would pose for commercial firms which would have to choose between obeying the laws of the countries in which they operate, or the laws of countries of their parent corporations.

Another of the sanctions it establishes consists in prohibiting the entry into US ports for a term of 180 days of ships that have

docked in Cuba or Transported Cargo or Passengers to or from Cuba. The placing of ships for an indefinite period of time on a Black List was in effect for Fourteen Years, from October, 1962, to June, 1977, when it became impractical for United States Agencies to maintain it any longer. It has been traditionally one of the aspects of the blockade which drew the most criticism.

The extra territorial reach of the laws of the United States of America, and very recent Examples demonstrate that this is not limited to that which concern Cuba, have provoked a firm repudiation by governments and organizations in the International Community since more than three years ago when some of the postulates of this law began to circulate through the halls of the Congress of the United States. The European Community, and the Governments of Canada, the United Kingdom, and Sweden, among others, have officially expressed their disapproval.

Moreover, there are national legislations in different countries aimed at opposing the extra territorial impact of foreign provisions that hinder the authority of government to set their own policy regarding third countries and corporate citizens.

In the same way this law constitutes a new violation of the principles in which the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) is inspired, and exposes the hypocritical position of the United States of America, which speaks in favour of a greater liberalization of international trade and the elimination of obstacles to the same.

For those of US who are responsible for engaging in foreign trade, whether it be from official or private perspectives, a new stage is opening up in which we must anticipate new obstacles, difficulties and pressures which, unfortunately, have also existed in the past and therefore are well known by those who are more experienced in the Avatars.

We have faith in the force of dignity and in the right of each state and each business manager in the world to adopt, without external interference, the decision which control their own destinies.

Ministry of Foreign Trade of the Republic of Cuba.

NEW DELHI, 20th NOVEMBER, 1992

Declaration Adopted in the Rally at Boat Club, New Delhi on 25th November, 1992

The human sea of several lakhs of workers and employees from all corners of India assembled in this historic rally before Parliament on 25th November 1992, firmly denounces the economic and industrial policies pursued by the Narasimha Rao Government during the last 16 months which have proved to be utter failure on all counts.

The prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed making the life of people extremely difficult and there is no sign of prices coming down in the near future. The industrial and agricultural production has become stagnant while sickness of industries has grown up phenomenally. The Exit Policy announced by the Government is threatening large scale retrenchment in large, medium, small and unorganised sectors. With already over 10 crore of people unemployed in India, it will add more than a crore of unemployed workers in private and public sectors, state and Central Govts. The small scale industries in particular will be virtually wiped out with the entry of multinationals and big business houses in their area of operation. While the youth striving to get right to work are searching in vain for jobs, the privatisation of education will make education difficult for large number of students.

The reduction in fertilizer subsidy has pushed up the prices of fertilizers and reduced foodgrain production which have further made foodgrains costlier to the people. In the absence of a law governing the condition of work of agricultural workers and in the absence of distribution of land to the landless it is only increasing pauperisation of the rural masses. Refusal to increase the level of minimum wages to the unorganised workers has eroded considerably their living standards. Already starvation deaths are occurring in some parts of India. Import of US wheat at much higher prices will only drain out country's financial resources. The women who are already being socially discriminated are further forced to bear the burnt of rising prices and are increasingly coming forward to oppose these policies.

After announcement of this policy the exports have not increased much while imports have gone up much higher making foreign exchange crisis more acute for the country. Due to costlier imports the market for automobile and other engineering industries has declined considerably.

Green signal given to multinational companies to invest and market in India has damaged our industries who are threatened with closure. Things which can be produced in India are being imported which

puts Indian industries in acute difficulties. The deregulation of economy has only strengthened the grip of big business who are now minting money when people suffer.

The share scam and the official revelations that are coming to light has not only shaken the confidence in the banking system but has brought down the credibility of the Govt. in a big way.

The disinvestment and privatisation of public sector will make our country dependent on foreign countries. The huge foreign debt incurred by the country is virtually placing the country in a debt trap.

The Government is bringing in anti-working class Bill in parliament to attack the T.U. rights, right to strike and to implement the Exit policy. Threat to freeze wages and DA is sought to be imposed while wage negotiations in public sector are banned. Several welfare schemes are being withdrawn.

The World Bank and the IMF have imposed humiliating conditions on the Govt of India which has readily accepted them. However, these conditionalities hit hard the livelihood of all sections of the society. The Dunkel proposals, if accepted will make drugs, seeds and several other goods costlier and our scientists, will have no work and to be subservient to multinationals. The economic independence and sovereignty of the country is thus at stake. Unless this serious situation is reversed the country's future will be dark.

This rally while congratulating the working class of India for two massive nationwide general strikes of 29th Nov. 1991 and 16th June 1992 emphasises the need for a still wider unity of the patriotic Indian people so that the struggle against these anti-national and anti-people economic policies can be further intensified to create conditions for its reversal. It therefore appeals to all the mass organisations of peasants, agricultural workers, students, youth, women, teachers, intellectuals, scientists and artists to join hands with the Sponsoring Committee of Indian Trade Unions so that countrywide sustained and concerted movement can be launched involving all sections of the people of India on a common platform.

Such a magnificent unity can initiate effective resistance to every evil effect of the economic policies on various sections of people in urban and rural India. It will be able to organise sectional as well

as local and regional movements and struggles to defend the vital interests of the people. It will further mobilise large sections of people in central, state, regional and local level conventions, seminars, rallies to create more awareness among the people to fight these policies and work out viable alternative policies to save the country and its economy.

This new platform will unleash a phased programme of mass actions all over India culminating in Bharat Bandh which will express the powerful voice of the Indian people against these draconian policies.

The rally demands that the Govt of India should take immediate steps to scrap the new economic policies and prepare a programme of national revival in consultation with the trade unions of India. The working class and the people of India will do their best to preserve self-reliance and to build a powerful independent Indian economy.

Resolution Against Communal and Divisive Forces Adopted at Boat Club Rally on 25th November, 1992

This mass rally of lakhs of workers from all over India expresses its grave concern at the attempts being made by communal forces in the country to create communal tension on the question of Ram Janma Bhoomi/Babri Masjid at Ayodhya (U.P.) by deciding to start Kar Seva from December 6, which is threatening the unity and integrity of the country.

When the working class and the people of India are launching a grim struggle against the economic and industrial policies of the Government of India these forces are trying to divert the attention of the people from the real issues and disrupt the unity of all sections of people.

The rally urges upon the Government of India to take firm steps against any attempt to create communal disturbances in the country and to establish the rule of law.

The rally appeals to all sections of people to fight against these communal and divisive forces so that national unity is preserved and living standards of the people are fully protected.

All India Road Transport Workers' Federation Condemns Atrocities on DTC Employees

Com. Md. Amin M.P. and K. K. Divakaran, President and General Secretary respectively of the All India Road Transport Workers' Federation has issued the following statement to the press today at New Delhi :

"The All India Road Transport Workers Federation strongly condemns the anti-employee attitude of DTC management by denying them improvement in pension scheme, threatening to retrench 16 thousand employees by way of disposing off 1000 buses and reducing the employees from 10 to 8 per bus. Over and above the management is compelling the employees to go to Ayodhya without any insurance cover and security to the employees or their families. The AIRTWF demands of the DTC management and Delhi Administration that instead of adopting atrocious behaviour with its employees, the management should immediately announce improvement in pension scheme, stoppage of retrenchment, no change in the existing norms unilaterally by the management and insurance cover to the workers despatched to Ayodhya and safety to their families."

CITU Condemns the Genocide in South Africa

The Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement to the press on 8th September 1992 :

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions condemns the military dictatorship of Ciskei for gunning down 24 ANC supporters and injuring 162 other in an indiscriminate firing on peaceful protesters. CISKEI is one of the four independent homeland vestiges of apartheid run by puppets of South Africa. Military forces resorted to firing by machine guns when thousands of ANC supporters were holding a march demanding the re-incorporation of CISKEI black homeland with South Africa.

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions while expressing warm solidarity and fraternity with the African National Congress and such other organisations fighting apartheid in South Africa, shares the sorrow of millions of people who are fighting the remnants of the severest crime over mankind. It demands the immediate withdrawal of all vestiges of apartheid and transfer of political power in South Africa to a Government elected democratically on the basis of universal franchise and also the re-incorporation of all the four black homelands, under the rule of puppet regimes of South African white regime.

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions calls upon the working class to vehemently protest the genocide in CISKEI.

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Assam CITU—Fifth Conference

The fifth State conference of Assam CITU was held at tea town Rangapara from November 8 to 10 amidst great enthusiasm. Altogether, 245 delegates including 24 women, representing 41,205 members of various unions, attended the conference.

The conference commenced on November 8 with the hoisting of red flag by M. K. Pandhe, CITU General Secretary. Floral wreaths were placed on the martyr's column.

The delegates session was presided over by Dhaniram Khosla, president of the Assam state committee of CITU which was inaugurated by M.K. Pandhe, who gave an account of the anti-people policies of the Narasimha Rao government. The election promise of Congress (I) to reduce the prices of commodities within 100 days has proved a hoax. The living conditions of common men has further worsened due to recent rise in the prices of petroleum products. Pandhe dealt in detail with budget deficit, foreign exchange crisis, exit policy, fall in production, IMF and World Bank loans and the fight of the working class to protect economic sovereignty of the country, which is threatened by the US imperialists.

Earlier condolence resolutions on Comrades B.T. Ranadive, M. Basavapunnaiiah and other departed leaders were adopted.

Amal Ghose Dastidar, general secretary of the Assam State committee of CITU, introduced the report which inter alia discussed the problems faced by the working class, successes and failures of movements, organisational problems and immediate tasks. Altogether, 39 delegates participated in the discussion, which was adopted unanimously.

E. Balanandan, CITU President, while addressing the delegates session said the recent developments in the erstwhile USSR clearly show that people have been gradually realising their mistakes. There is no alternative to socialism because socialism provided guarantees of health, education and food etc. The economic crisis has deepened in the USA and UK, which was proved by the recent coalminers' strike in the UK. While explaining the significance of November 29 and June 16 strikes, Balanandan said these two strikes were not held on any partial economic issue, but the working class had come forward to defend the country's economic and political sovereignty. Balanandan referred to the workers' march to parliament on November 25 and called upon the working class to make it a success in order to give a befitting reply to the anti-people policy of Narasimha Rao government. He called upon the delegates to make the Assam CITU a centre of resistance for the development of future movements.

A document on tea was placed in the conference. It discussed, among other things, the problems of tea workers and future tasks. It was placed by Ashit Datta, convenor of the coordination commi-

tee. Vimal Ranadive, CITU Secretary and AIPWF President, called upon the plantation workers to make the organisation strong and forge movements to achieve their demands. Altogether 19 delegates participated in the discussion on the document on tea before it was adopted.

A souvenir published on this occasion was released by Vimal Ranadive.

Resolution on industrialisation of Assam, new economic policy and new industrial policy, communalism, land reforms price rise, trade union rights and immediate tasks, among others, were adapted in the meeting.

A new state committee consisting of 31 members with Sasha Kamal Handique as President and Amal Ghose Dastidar as General Secretary, was elected.

The summing up speech was delivered by E. Balanandan.

A huge public meeting was held in the afternoon of November 10 under the presidentship of under-going president Dhaniram Khosla. It was addressed by Amal Ghose Dastidar, Sasha Kamal Handique, Vimal Randive, E. Balanandan, Samar Mukherjee. While detailing the economic situation of the country and the Government's policies, the speakers also cautioned against the activities of communal forces like Vishwa Hindu Prishad, RSS, and BJP. They also urged the people to fight against the backwardness of Assam and put emphasis on economic and industrial development of the State.

Earlier, a big and colourful procession including a large number of women with flags, festoons and placards, paraded the main streets of Rangapara. On this occasion, entire Rangapara, was beautifully decorated with welcome arches and wall writings.

Successful Students' Strike on November 18

Responding to the joint call of SFI, AISF, AISB, AIPSU & Chhatra Janta Dal, about 3.5 million students went on a countrywide strike on November 18 protesting against the education policy and IMF dictated economic policy of the Government and demanding jobs and education for all.

Despite opposition by the SNUI and ABVP, the strike was unprecedented and swept across the country from Tripura to Maharashtra and from Punjab to Kerala. Even police repression at Madhya Pradesh and other places could not deter the students from striking.

The CITU congratulated the students for the glorious strike and extended full support to their demands.

(From Page 13)

The conference also discussed the proposed jathas to be taken out from November 9 to 16. The sponsoring committee of trade union has decided to organise seven jathas in the state covering all the districts to explain the new economic policies of Rao Government and anti-people policies of Bangarappa. All jathas will terminate at Bangalore on November 16 for a big rally.

Special Features

In all, 261 delegates attended out of which 28 were women. There were 11 observers and 13 fraternal delegates.

It was for the first time that the conference decided to constitute eight commission for hotel, beedi, plantation, tile, transport, textile, engineering and public sector workers. The delegates working in these sectors met separately for four hours to discuss the problems facing their respective industries. All the eight commissions submitted detailed written reports to the conference the next day. The new state committee will study these reports and take further action. When the conference started the membership was 34,000 but when it closed, membership had gone up to 63,067. This clearly shows that the union leaders are not serious about submitting annual returns every year and thus helping the state centre financially. For the first time a state level federation of handloom workers was organised and its delegates participated in the conference. The maximum membership is in beedi and tobacco sectors (17913) followed by public sector (7644) and engineering (6955).

The new team elected by the conference will be led by S. Suryanarayana Rao as President & V.J.K. Nayar as General Secretary.

Sponsoring Committee Representatives Meet the Prime Minister

A joint delegation of the sponsoring committee met the Prime Minister at Parliament House on 26th November and submitted a copy of the declaration adopted in the massive rally of workers on 25th November before Parliament and the resolution calling upon the working class to fight communal and divisive forces. The delegation consisted of M. K. Pandhe (CITU), B. D. Joshi (AITUC) D. D. Shastri (TUCC), Susheel Bhattacharya (UTUC), Achintya Sinha (UTUC-L.S.), Subendu Sen (AICC-TU), Sukomal Sen M.P. were present during the discussion.

The members at the outset drew the attention of the Prime Minister to the blackout of the news of the 25th November rally by the Door Darshan. They pointed out that the foreign media gave adequate

publicity to the rally. The delegation also informed the Prime Minister that the rally adopted a resolution against communalism in the context of Ram Janma Bhumi/Babri Masjid dispute. By ignoring the determination of the working class to fight against this menace and uphold secularism the Door Darshan has done a great disservice to the country. The Prime Minister assured that he would enquire into the matter.

The delegation pointed out how despite claim of the Government that no retrenchment was taking place, lakhs of workers are losing jobs and workers are victims of this policy. They further noted that the special tripartite committee had not been convened despite the fact that 11 months have passed since the last meeting. The delegation further complained that even the decisions taken by the special Tripartite Committee by and large remained unimplemented.

The Prime Minister noted that he would go through the declaration and would convene a meeting of the central trade union to consider the criticism against the new economic policies.

Labour Ministers Demand Draft of New I.R. Bill

The following press hand out was issued by Shri Santi Ghatak, Labour Minister, West Bengal at New Delhi on 1.12.92 :

In the last Labour Ministers' Conference a committee consisting of labour ministers of 11 states (West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Pondichery, Rajasthan and Sikim) with Labour Minister of West Bengal as Chairman was constituted to make recommendations for submission before another meeting of state Labour Ministers on the proposal for amendment of existing labour laws suggested by different states.

The Committee of Ministers met today (i.e. on 1.12.92) at Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Labour Minister of West Bengal. The meeting was attended by the Labour Ministers of West Bengal, Gujarat, Haryana, Pondichery and Goa.

The Meeting unanimously urged upon the Central Government to send copies of the complete draft of the new I.R. bill to the State Governments and to convene early a meeting of the State Labour Ministers for discussion before finalisation of the bill.

Discussions were on several items referred to the committee of Ministers in a very congenial atmosphere. The Ministers agreed to further exchange their views on specific issues.

It was further decided that next meeting of the committee of Labour Ministers would be held at Calcutta in January, 1993.

BEFI Deposits Before JPC

The following Press statement was issued by Ashis Sen M. P., General Secretary, Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI) on November 16 :

While depositing before the Joint Parliamentary Committee the Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI) submitted an eighteen page memorandum and said that the biggest ever securities transactions scam which has rocked the country is not a case of 'systems failure' as sought to be made out by the Government and its Finance Ministry but the result of a collusive nexus between a set of cheats and criminals under the grab of stock brokers and another set of dishonest and deceitful bureaucrats and top brass of banks, financial institutions and public sector enterprises buttressed by political bigwigs. The Government's new economic liberalisation policy has contributed substantially to this state of affairs. Several other organisations of employees also appeared before the JPC and submitted memoranda.

In justification of his wrong economic policies the Finance Minister described the artificial boom in stock exchange, which has no bearing on industrial productivity, as a reflection of buoyant economy. This gave a fillip to the gang of conspirators in swindling public funds in banks, FIs and PSEs and they carried on their nefarious activities without fear of any punitive measures. These criminal economic offences and their perpetrators were not unknown to the top brass of RBI as revealed by Janakiraman Committee's report, but no timely action was taken. Mention may be made of last year's reports on State Bank of India and Bank of Karad which were practically shelved. Attempts are now being made to find scapegoats. Finance Ministry also did not act despite receipt of RBI inspection reports since mid-eighties which pointed out serious irregularities in various banks. Governmental interference to delay action in certain cases was cited. JPC should call for all the inspection reports from 1985 onwards for a scrutiny.

It is significant that no sooner the names of high-level political personages were getting exposed, CBI sleuth Madhavan was removed and Janakiraman Panel has halted further scrutiny on the question of fixing responsibility. JPC should take note of this and ensure that all those who have defrauded the banks and unwary small investors are identified, ostracised and severely punished.

It is clear now that a major share of the scandal involves the foreign banks but surprisingly when special scrutiny of investment portfolios of different banks was undertaken in April-May 1991 these banks were kept out of purview. Under whose instructions this was done is an important question requiring answer.

BEFI informed the JPC that nearly Rs. 28,000 crores out of total bank advance of Rs. 140,000 crores are treated as bad debts. Instead of creating an Assets Reconstruction Fund as proposed by Narasimham Committee, laws should be amended to enable banks to recover the dues from defaulting borrowers—mostly big business houses—by direct enforcement of the securities and attachment of their properties as has been done by the ordinance regarding those in the scam. Bank's balance sheets must disclose the amounts of bad debts and names of defaulting borrowers of Rs. 50 lakhs and above.

BEFI has urged stopping of all Mutual Funds by banking institutions as they are being used as conduits for diversion of resources for non-banking and speculative activities. JPC's attention was drawn to the imperative urgency of strengthening RBI inspection machinery by deployment of adequate manpower and bring under its purview all financial institutions like IDBI, NHB, IFCI, NABARD, ICICI, etc which at present are independent empires. RBI should be made answerable to Parliament and its working should be subject of scrutiny by a Parliamentary Committee which should submit periodical reports to Parliament. In addition, the Comptroller and Auditor General should have a separate wing exclusively to check the accounts of banks and other financial institutions. A central Vigilance Commission has also to be set up for them.

October Revolution Day Observed

At the call of the Co-ordination Committee of Unions & Associations, Patna, a Convention on relevancy of October Revolution and task ahead was held in GPO Dormitory, Patna under the Presidency of Radha Raman Sinha, Joint Secretary, Bihar State Non-Gazetted Employees Federation on the occasion of 75th Anniversary of October Revolution on 7th November. P. K. Ganguly, Secretary, CITU while inaugurating the Convention spoke that October Revolution created a new civilization and saved mankind from fascism.

The Convention was also addressed by Sachchidanand Singh, Convener, Baleshwar Pd. Singh, Joint Convener, Amresh Thakur, Confederation of Central Govt. Employees & Workers, Tarakant Prakash of UTUC and other leaders.

The Convention called upon employees and workers to go ahead with the slogan of October Revolution and work for the protection and development of socialism and struggle against imperialism.

Earlier a procession of employees & workers was
(Cont'd on page 24)

T.U. Convention on Peace & Communal Harmony in Jammu

While noticing some change in the minds of people in Kashmir Valley on the futility of subversive activities, the ISI (Inter Service Intelligence) of Pakistan is now bent upon to involve the Jammu Region to give the moral boosting to the Kashmir militants. The spreading of terrorist activities in Doda Dist, and the recent bomb explosions in Jammu city and its adjoining areas have created a panicky situation among the people.

BJP and its outfits like ABVP and VHP etc. are constantly utilising the Kashmir issue for communalising the atmosphere and is creating a situation for communal clashes, thus helping the designs of ISI.

The involvement of two Kashmiri Pandit migrant youths in a recent bomb explosion which exploded in their own hands resulting in the death of one of them is also being utilised by Shiv Sena against the whole migrant community and has issued them a warning to leave Jammu and are humiliating them through beating etc.

In this background different trade unions of Central, State and Public and Private sector employees took the initiative and organised a convention on peace and communal harmony on 1st November 1992 at ABHINAV THEATRE Jammu. The convention was attended by more than four hundred delegates despite the disturbed situation in the city and was presided over by a presidium consisting of K.K. Bakshi, B.K. Kaul and R.L. Makhnotra. Before the convention more than two hundred activists of different unions under the banner of C.I.T.U. marched through the main bazars of Jammu city raising the people to maintain peace and communal harmony.

Vaid Basin, Editor of a leading English daily 'KASHMIR TIMES' addressed the convention as the Chief guest. He while appreciating the trade unions for holding the convention said that the communal, casteist and separatist forces are bent upon to divide the people and are posing serious challenge to the secular fabric of the country. He said despite the overwhelming majority of the people being secular in the country they generally remain the simple spectators during the communal clashes. He emphasised that the ruling classes too have utilised this method to disrupt the united opposition of the working class. He urged upon the working class of Jammu region to play its needful role in this situation when peace in Jammu is being disturbed.

Mohd. Maqbool leader of the State Govt. Employees and General Secretary, (C.N.G.E.E.U.) while addressing the convention condemned the recent bomb explosions and said that the Hindu communalists like BJP, ABVP etc. are utilising the

present situation for petty political ends and this may help the designs of ISI to create trouble in Jammu. He praised the people of Jammu who despite the serious provocations maintained peace. He appealed the secular forces of the region to come forward to foil the attempts of ISI and the communalists. He called upon the working class and people of Jammu to be vigilant against these forces and maintain communal harmony.

The Convention was also addressed by Parvais Dewan, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu besides B.K. Kaul (C.C.G.E.F.), R.L. Makhnotra, Telecom Employees Union, Nanak Chand (C.W.F.I.).

Com. Bakshi, convenor C.C.T.U. in his concluding speech urged the trade union leaders to face the present situation by mobilising their ranks and be always ready to foil the attempts of communal forces.

Construction Workers March to Prime Ministers' House

At the call of Construction Workers' Federation of India, more than thousand Workers came from Punjab, Andhra-Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Rajasthan, Bihar, Maharastra, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Kerala and led a procession from Red Fort to PM House on November 24 and submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister containing 30 thousands Signatures of the Construction Workers demanding a comprehensive Central Legislation for 50 lakhs Construction Workers of India. Other demands in the memorandum were—stop Privatisation of Public Sector Construction Companies and stop infiltration of Multi-National Corporations. The memorandum further demanded reduction of prices of Construction materials.

The delegation comprising of Com. Debanjan Chakraborty, Com. Balkar Singh, Com. Uma Maheswar Rao, Com. Srinivas Mondal and Com. Lakshman Seth submitted the memorandum to the Prime Minister.

The gathering was addressed by Com. M.K. Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU and Com. Debanjan Chakraborty, G.S. of CWFI, Com. Natha Singh & Com. Balkar Singh of Punjab, Com. Uma Maheswar Rao of Andhra Pradesh and Com. Srinivas Mondal of Bihar and Com. I.K. Verma of Madhya Pradesh.

Com. Samar Mukherjee, M P, Vice President of CITU also greeted Comrades.

CITU Demands Another Tripartite Meeting to Consider IR Bill

The informal Tripartite meeting convened by the Union Minister for Coal and Labour on 23rd November could only have a general discussion on various proposals made by the Senior Officers by the Ministry of Labour. The trade unions wanted a clause by clause discussion on these proposals before the Govt takes a final view in the matter.

On enquiry Mr Sangma, Union Minister for Coal clarified that these proposals were not the proposals of the Union Labour Ministry or the Govt of India.

The trade unions demanded the full implementation of unanimous recommendations of Ramanujam Committee Report. The Bill should be prepared only on the basis of these recommendations. The CITU demanded that on issues where unanimity could not be achieved attempts should be made to come to agreement on some of them so that agreed proposals can be brought in the Bills.

The CITU and other trade unions who submitted a note of dissent to Ramanujam Committee demanded holding another meeting to consider the issues after Govt of India finalised the proposals. The employers and INTUC representatives disagreed with the suggestion and wanted the Government of India to take its decision. The CITU objected to the procedure of going ahead with the Bill without having clause by clause discussion on the Senior Officials proposals.

The CITU objected to the inclusion of the modifications in provision relating to lay off, retrenchment and closure which were not a part of Ramanujam Committee Report. It noted that the Govt of India was bringing in Exit Policy through the backdoor.

The CITU and other trade unions demanded bipartite machinery to be strengthened and the programme of employment generation should find a place in the national spheres. The Exit Policy, according to CITU was hitting at the basis of this policy.

The CITU objected to the conclusions drafted by Ministry which sought to create an impression that there was common understanding evolved in the meeting.

M.K. Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU represented CITU in the meeting.

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also taken out on 5th November 1992 from RBI Patna which after parading through Exhibition Road, Rajendra Path, Fraser Road, etc turned into a rally near Radio Station, Patna. The rally was presided over by B. Prasad, General Secretary, Bank Employees Federation, Bihar, and was addressed by Radha Raman Sinha and Sachchidanand Singh Convenor.

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referred to the uneven development of the CITU and laid stress to develop the Hindi areas in particular, despite the fact that from the Hindi areas people came in massive number in the rally. They further emphasised the need for strengthening the CITU centre and induct Hindi knowing comrades at the centre. They pointed to the urgent need of pamphlets and other publications of CITU to be made in Hindi which would help development of the entire Hindi belt. Permanent trade union school, particularly for Hindi region was necessary. Similarly the state centres, the District centres as well as the union centres are to be strengthened.

The members laid special emphasis for democratic and collective functioning and information sharing by the leadership at all levels from the all India centre to the grassroot levels. It was agreed upon by one and all that bureaucratic functioning has to be curbed at all levels.

It was also pointed out that CITU was still a weak force in the industrially advanced states like Maharashtra, Gujarat etc. Special efforts were needed to strengthen our position in the organised sectors in these states. Similarly in various public sector undertakings the CITU required to increase its force and membership further. In the unorganised sector also it was pointed out that we have only touched the tip of the iceberg.

The members pointed out that the CITU was formed to struggle for socialism. Therefore the organisation and its movements have to be carried forward in this direction making the ideological moorings strong. Therefore with political objective the organisational functionings of the CITU have to be directed to champion the cause of the minorities, women, SC/ST's and other weaker sections in the trade union movement by the looking into there specific problems alongwith the general working class problems.

Similarly the members emphasised on the struggle for trade union unity so as to bring the entire working class on to the point of class struggle. They laid stress for the necessity of the formation of a Confederation, so that the unity of the trade unions and the working class could be further consolidated.

The meeting decided to enrich the report in the light of the discussions and the valuable contributions made by the members and place a comprehensive report on organisation in the forthcoming General Council meeting to be held at Bangalore from December 16th to 18th. It was further opined that the discussions on organisation would be a continuous process in CITU to strengthen all facets of its activities from the all India Centre to the union levels to meet the new challenges. Com. E. Balanandan summed up discussions.

October Revolution—A Pledge for End of Exploitation

P.K. Ganguly

Speaking on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the October Revolution, Stalin said, "Revolutions in the past usually ended with one group of exploiters being replaced by another group. The exploiters changed but exploitation remained. Such was the case during the liberation movement of the slaves. Such was the case during the uprisings of the Serfs. Such was the case during the 'great' revolutions in England, France and Germany. The October Revolution differed from these revolutions in principle. Its aim was not to replace one form of exploitation by another, or one group of exploiters by another, but to abolish all exploitation of man by man and to abolish all groups of exploiters."

Stalin's saying still holds good during the 75th Anniversary of the October Revolution, notwithstanding the fact that socialism has got a set back at the present moment and the great land of Lenin—the USSR, the product of the October Revolution, stands disintegrated.

The October Revolution laid the basis for the establishment of a new classless society. The working class for the first time in the history of mankind rose to the position of the ruling class and established the dictatorship of the proletariat on the basis of a worker-peasant alliance which was an indispensable condition for the building and development of socialism. It wrested power from the bourgeoisie, deprived the bourgeoisie of political rights destroyed the bourgeois state apparatus, took the means of production from the landlord and capitalists and converted them into public property. The successive achievements were made possible because the working class and the state followed the scientific doctrine of Marxism—Leninism and were guided by the Communist party wedded to it.

The October Revolution was primarily noteworthy, because it breached the front of world imperialism and created a world wide spirit among the working class and the oppressed people, which ultimately undermined the rule of imperialism in the colonial and dependent countries and threw world capitalism into a phase of general crisis. It was the turning point in the history of mankind. The working class succeeded for the first time in laying the basis for accomplishing the historic and scientific mission of the proletariat—putting an end to capitalism. The working class and the oppressed people the world over therefore took it as a pledge of their own emancipation and as the beginning of an end of all exploitations.

The foreign policy of the working class state based on Lenin's Decree on peace, pronounced after

the October Revolution, which called for peace among nations and abjuration of war, annexations and enslavement of countries by others, became a powerful factor in the struggle against imperialism for peace and in the national liberation movements and progress of socialism in the Soviet union.

After the death of Lenin, Stalin upheld the Leninist principles and its anti-imperialist foundations and led the working class and the people to defend the newly born socialist state from the attacks of the imperialist countries. While successfully fighting against imperialism, the working class also carried forward the main feature of the October Revolution, the dictatorship of the proletariat for successful socialist construction with unique achievements. When the whole capitalist world was tottering under the great depression of the 1930s, it was only the Soviet Union, which was free from all crises and recorded great material uplift for the people with a growth rate and industrial output which beat all records. It was the first state which solved the problem of unemployment and enshrined the Right to Work in the Constitution. It was the first state that gave land to the tillers, free education, health, housing and all social security measures and stabilised the prices of all essential commodities. The meteoric gains of the Soviet Union boosted the struggles of the working class all over the world against capitalism.

The mighty victory of the working class, and the people of the Soviet Union against Hitler's fascism under the leadership of Stalin, led to the emergence of a number of Socialist states and victory of national liberation movements including in India. One third of the world came under socialism and millions of people liberated themselves from the yoke of imperialism. The correlation of class forces changed in favour of the working class.

During the war, 20 million Soviet people sacrificed their lives to defeat fascism. The country was ravaged. Over 50 percent of the industries and agriculture were ruined. But the creators of the October Revolution rebuilt the war ravaged economy in an astonishingly short span of time and became a world power again to challenge the US imperialists and become a deterrent to its drive for world domination. Rebuilding of such war ravaged economy in such a short time and becoming a world power was a wonder in the history of social development of the world. It was possible because throughout this period the Soviet Union unswervingly pursued the Marxist-Leninist principles and the teachings of the October Revolution and guided the working class

and the people to unitedly fight the imperialist designs as well as the internal reactionaries and revisionists.

While guiding the revolutionary struggle, Lenin relentlessly carried forward the struggle against revisionism, which sought to unscientifically revise the fundamentals of Marxism. Later Stalin carried forward this struggle in defence of Marxism-Leninism. They uncompromisingly exposed the opportunism and reformism of the revisionists Trotsky and his cohorts in Russia and others in Germany, France, Austria, Hungary, etc. They exposed the Social-Democratic Parties, their movements and the Second International. They defended the October Revolution with all its scientific and historically necessary features of dictatorship of the proletariat with changing forms during the transition period from capitalism to socialism, defended the leading role of the Communist Party and the victory of socialism as a reality in one country as against Trotsky's vision of "permanent revolution" and isolated the revisionists. They pointed to the dangers of surrendering to the revisionist theories which help and arm the imperialists and internal reactionaries in their continuous efforts to roll back to the path of capitalism.

While defending the proletarian revolution and exposing Kautsky, Lenin said, "The transition from capitalism to communism takes an entire historical epoch. Unless this epoch is over, the exploiters inevitably cherish the hope of restoration and this hope turns into attempts at restoration". Similarly on the scientific principle of the dictatorship of the proletariat Lenin said, "Classes still remain and will remain in the era of the dictatorship of the proletariat. The dictatorship will become unnecessary when the classes disappear the classes do not disappear without dictatorship of the proletariat."

But after the death of Stalin, struggle against revisionism was abandoned. With Krushchev, revisionism started making inroads into the Soviet society. With deviations from the principles of scientific socialism, fissures started in the process of socialist construction opposed to the basic tenets of Marxism-Leninism.

Revisionist ideas retarded the development of the Soviet Union and permeated into the trade union movement and blunted the socialist consciousness and ideological struggle of the workers. The process was not rectified. It helped imperialism and penetration of western concept of democracy and slowly emasculated the working class of the revolutionary spirit and scientific basis of the October Revolution. It culminated at the reforms being introduced by Gorbachev in the name of reforming socialism by Perestroika and Glasnost. As typical of modern revisionism, these alien ideas replaced Marxist-Leninist analysis of the economic structure of socialist society by petty bourgeois conceptions, and nihilistically treated the political economy of socialism. These reforms denied the decisive role of the scientific heritage of Marx,

Engles and Lenin in the development of the political economy of socialism and ignored the experience of millions of people who had built the socialist society. They got assistance from the vulgar bourgeois political economy and gave a free hand to the counter revolutionary forces in the entire socialist world. The gigantic achievements of socialism were denied. History was distorted and socialism built through the years was broken bit by bit and the Soviet Union was dismantled. The entire period gave us the lesson as to what revisionism can do and showed that unless reforms are consistent with the basic principles of socialism and are within the framework of the socialist society, they will inevitably roll back the society to the capitalist path. Principles which have to be adhered to are Marxism-Leninism, leadership of the Marxist-Leninist Party, socialist means of production and distribution and the State to be led by the working class under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the October Revolution we must however recall and reiterate that October Revolution has already laid the scientific basis of revolution and set the pre-condition for the world revolutionary process. The beacon it created, still and will permanently illuminate the path for the working class and the oppressed people. The October Revolution and the subsequent development of socialism for years together showed that by strictly following the Marxist-Leninist principles socialism can be successfully built and developed despite capitalist encirclement and despite the so called insurmountability of imperialism. The October Revolution has shaken imperialism vividly and inflicted a mortal wound on world capitalism from which it can never recover. It will never recover the much claimed stability or tranquility, despite its present dominant position and despite its devastating exploitation of the third world countries and despite all the patch work it is engaged in to heal the wound inflicted by the October Revolution. This can be seen in the present situation in the entire capitalist world and in the erstwhile socialist states including Soviet Union where the capitalist path is being resorted to.

Unemployment in all the capitalist countries is rising unabated. Following figures will show the growth of unemployment in the advanced capitalist countries from 1990.

	1990	1991	1992 (Projected)
USA	5.6	6.8	7.2
UK	5.8	8.5	10.0
Italy	9.7	9.2	10.6
France	8.9	9.5	10.0
Japan	2.1	2.2	2.4
Spain	15.0	15.6	15.8
Canada	8.3	10.6	10.8
Sweden	1.6	3.1	4.2
Australia	7.3	9.0	10.7

Inflation, price rise and recession are on the rise in all these capitalist countries. Closures and lay

offs have become the order of the day. Huge strikes are sweeping the countries. West Germany and Britain are among the worst hit countries by strike in the recent past.

Similarly in the erstwhile socialist states including the Soviet Union the euphoria of the so called market economy is dying down fast. Inflation rates in these countries have gone to 3 figures and even 4 figures. Unemployment is mounting daily in millions. The following figures will show how the capitalist path with high inflation and negative growth rates have made the lives of people miserable in the East European states.

1989 1990 1991
(In Percentage) (Estimate)

Bulgaria :

GDP	-0.4	-11.8	-17.0
Consumer Price Index	5.6	23.8	338.5
Real wages	3.0	-6.2	-42.3
Employment	-2.6	-6.1	-14.5

Czechoslovakia

GDP	0.7	-1.1	-16.0
CPI	1.0	10.0	57.9
Real Wages	1.3	-5.8	-26.3
Employment	0.3	-0.4	-7.4

Hungary

GDP	0.4	-3.3	-10.0
CPI	17.0	28.9	35.0
Real Wages	1.9	-5.1	-8.0
Employment	90.9	-2.0	-6.0

Poland

GDP	0.0	-9.0	-11.6
CPI	251.1	585.8	70.3
Real wages	9.0	-24.4	0.8
Employment	0.6	-3.6	-5.5

Romania

GDP	-5.8	-7.4	-14.0
CPI	0.9	7.4	445.5
Real Wages	3.1	2.9	-20.3
Employment	1.1	0.2	-11.6

(IMF Survey, August 17,1992)

Thus it can be seen that capitalism cannot be the answer or the last word for progress of mankind. Because of its inherent contradictions and profit motive of production it is bound to be ridden with crisis and meet its doom. With all its military might the USA is trying to create a new world order under its hegemony. But it is in the throes of deep crisis and the biggest debtor country in the world and is desperately trying to wriggle out from its deep crisis and it is trying to dictate its terms to other socialist countries and the third world countries. Its role to subjugate the other socialist countries, particularly

Cuba with its trade embargo and continued threats to Iraq and neo-colonial pressure on the entire third world countries with India as the main target are pointers to its desperate position. They forced the Narasimha Rao Govt. to formulate its policies as per the terms of the IMF, and is continuing its pressure so that the Govt. accepts the draconian Dunkel proposals.

On this 75th Anniversary of the October Revolution the CITU and the entire working class must pledge to hold high the banner of the October Revolution and its gigantic achievements. The working class must denounce the counter revolutionaries and renounce the path of capitalist development and step up its struggle unitedly for socialism, democracy and peace. In the particular context to India, the working class must step up its struggle to spoil the designs of imperialism to subvert its economic and national sovereignty. It must consolidate the achievements from the two country-wide strikes of November 29 and June 16 and the massive March to Parliament of November 25 and intensify the struggle further. The 75th Anniversary of the October Revolution must inject the spirit of united working class struggle against imperialism and their conspiracies to undermine India's independence and freedom and for the defence of scientific socialism.

Hundreds of Textile Workers Court Arrest

Hundreds of textile workers of J. C. Mills, Gwalior courted arrest on November 26 at Boat Club demanding the reopening of their mill. CPI (M) M. P. S's Masudul Hussain, Ashim Bala and CITU Secretary P. K. Ganguly were among those arrested. Birlas oldest textile mill has been closed for four months rendering 9,000 workers jobless. One worker has already committed suicide after loosing any hope of the reopening the mill.

Prior to the court arrest workers took out a procession from CITU camp behind Lal Qila. They were stopped at Janpath-Rajpath crossing by police. At this point a meeting was held which was addressed by CITU General Secretary M.K. Pandhe, Secretary P K. Ganguly and M.P.'s. Hussain and Ashim Bala. Badal Saroj, Secretary of the Madhy Pradesh CITU also addressed the workers.

The delegation of the leaders also met Union Minister Madhava Rao Sindhia as he belongs to the Gwalior Lok-Sabha Constituency. A separate memorandum was handed over to Prime Minister by CPI (M) M. P. Saifuddin Chowdhary in Parliament. Prime Minister said in the Parliament that he was eager to look into the cases of actual retrenchment.

Demonstration and court arrest programme was organised jointly by three central trade unions CITU, AITUC and HMKP.

Maastricht : Statement by the CGT (France's) Executive Commission

[One must reject the Maastricht Treaty in order to have a Europe that meets the needs of all workers']

The national debate on the Maastricht Treaty must take on a new dimension as the President of the Republic has been obliged to take into account the strong popular demand to be informed and consulted. There will be a referendum on the 20th September 1992.

The CGT intends to play its full role in order to ensure that the active and retired population can make an informed decision.

It intends to do so as trade union which is firmly attached to the defence of workers' interest—in all their diversity. The CGT represents the aspirations and demands expressed by the workers and does so in line with the policies of its last Congress (January '92).

Through the implementation of the Single European Act, the world of work in agriculture, industry and the services already have the experience of accelerated European integration and community policies which serve the big multinational groups. There are 15 millions unemployed in Europe today, including 3 million in our country. We are experiencing a Europe of job insecurity poverty and social exclusion.

Other policies are possible, which meet social needs and develop national assets and the ability for countries to be independent. Cooperation is in any case universally necessary.

The Maastricht Treaty, which was drawn up by the States without the least bit of consultation with the peoples, turns its back on these aspirations.

In fact, through the free circulations of people, capital and goods, it organises increased competition between workers. This is based on the inequalities between countries and regions. Using the pretext of harmonisation, the Treaty in fact organises the levelling down of working and living conditions by attacking existing social guarantees in each country. Thus, in the name of this harmonisation, the French government is trying to introduce night work for women and increased flexibility in relation of working time.

Jobs is one of workers' priority concerns. But

the Maastricht Treaty would open up the way to even greater and quicker industrial restructuring and export of capital to Europe and other countries. Millions of jobs would be lost and unemployment and job insecurity would increase in Europe.

Workers are also very concerned about their level of wages/salary and the recognition of their qualifications. France has already become a low wages zone in Europe. The austerity imposed by Economic and Monetary Union would put even greater pressure on wages, social protection and guarantees.

In order to meet social needs, public services must be developed in our country, but they would be exposed to privatisation logic based on selecting and discriminating against users.

The transfer of powers included in the Maastricht Treaty would strengthen European powers to the detriment of national sovereignty and would block workers' aspirations to democracy and the demand to intervene in policies that concern them.

Defence integration would not only not meet French defence needs in Europe today, but would on the contrary run the risk of military intervention in the world and thereby be of great danger to peace.

For all these reasons, the CGT's executive commission is in favour of rejecting the Maastricht Treaty, calls on workers to take action in this direction and to mobilise for a new concept of European construction, which should be based on the promotion of cooperation in order to ensure that there are European social rights which guarantee national gains, bring progress for all and enable less advanced countries to gradually catch up.

In order to promote the birth of this democratic Europe, it is in the interests of the active and retired population to add their contribution to the non ratification of the Treaty. This non ratification would not leave a vacuum, nor would it lead to the end of European construction, but, on the contrary, it would open up real possibilities for building this new Europe. The CGT calls on all workers to participate in the debate and above all, to promote labour struggle and the search for new converging demands at all levels—in France and in Europe.

Montreuil, le 20 juillet 1992

(From Page 4)

After people's song rendered by some progressive groups the meeting started. The rally was conducted by a Presidium consisting of E. Balanandan (CITU), M.S. Krishnan(AITUC), Smt. Kamala Sinha (HMS), D.D. Shastri (TUCC), S.R. Sengupta (UTUC) Tapas Dutta (UTUC-LS) and Yogeshwar Gope (AICCTU).

At the outset the rally adopted a resolution against communalism, condemning RSS-BJP-VHP alliance for their unilateral decision to start Kar seva at Ayodhya from December 6. The resolution demanded of the Central Government to establish rule of law in the country and stop any construction work at the disputed site. The resolution was moved by Ashish Sen (BEFI) and seconded by Godbole (AIBOC).

The main Declaration of the rally analysed the economic and industrial policies, pointed to their various dangerous facets as prescribed by the IMF, which undermined the economic sovereignty of the country and posed a threat to its independence and freedom. The Declaration called for a phase wise action programme throughout the country, culminating in Bharat Bandh and general industrial strike.

M.K. Pandhe, General Secretary of CITU speaking on the Declaration pointed to disastrous consequences of the policies which had already started.

Closures, joblessness, and price rise had already affected thousands of workers and the people, He pointed to the unbridled drive towards privatisation and selling off the shares of the profit making public sector units. He warned that the public sector workers were preparing to go in for an indefinite strike to safeguard the self-reliance economy of the country. He made a scathing attack against imperialism led by the USA and pointed out how the US imperialists were utilising the IMF, World Bank, the GATT etc, apart from its own Trade Laws strike Super and Special 301 to blackmail the third world countries. He drew attention of the people towards the embargoes and economic sanctions imposed by the USA against Cuba, which was rejected in the UN General Assembly on that very day through a Cuban resolution. He called for making full preparations for the Bharat Bandh and the industrial strike by all unions, federations and workers along with the peasantry, agricultural workers, students, youth, women and other sections of the toiling people.

A. B. Bardhan of AITUC congratulated the working class and trade unions for coming up as an organised force to oppose the IMF dictated policy. He urged upon all participants to carry the message of the rally to the remote corners of the country to make the Bharat Bandh and industrial



A section of the women marchers



A section of the U. P. Contingent of C I T U

strike the big success.

Umraomal Purohit of HMS said that this mammoth gathering must give a lesson to the Narasimha Rao Government and the forthcoming Bharat Bandh must force the government to withdraw the economic policies. Among others who spoke were B. D. Joshi (AITUC), Chitta Basu (TUCC), K. Pankajakshan (UTUC), Pritish Chanda (UTUC-LS), Swapan Mukherjee (AICCTU), S. K. Vyas (Central Government employees), P. K. Ganguly (Defence employees), J. P. Choubey (AIRF), T. Chakraborty (AIBEA), K. Asoka Rao (Public Sector officers), R. P. Manchanda (AIIEA), Hemant Kumar (Airlines), R. K. Pande (Fertiliser workers) etc. Other mass leaders who attended the rally were H. K. S. Surjit, Samar Mukherje, Sitaram Yechuri from (CPIM); Inderjit Gupa,

M. Farooqui from CPI, etc. Michael Fernandez of HMKP and leader of the public sector workers in Bangalore was also present.

Summing up the deliberations of behalf of the Presidium, Com. E. Balanandan, President of CITU said that with this mammoth rally the working class and other toiling sections of the country have given a challenge to the IMF dictates and warning to the Narasimha Rao Government. He said that it was the biggest demonstration of Trade Union unity, and unity of all sections of the toiling people against imperialist intervention. They demonstrated their determination to safeguard the country's sovereignty and independence. He called for further consolidation of this unity and carry it forward to make the Bharat Bandh and the industrial strike complete success. The rally ended with deafening slogans to go forward to the Bharat Bandh.



*Picture at Boat Club , Com. H.K.S. Surjeet, Vice President
of All India Kisan Sabha in the foreground*



A section of women marching ahead



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