

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Meeting of the Working Committee

DOCUMENTS

- 1. Agenda & Time Table**
- 2. Presidential Address**
- 3. General Secretary's Report**
- 4. Report on Activities**
- 5. Review of 23rd February**
- 6. Membership and PR Fund**
- 7. Resolutions**

**July 29-31, 2011
Kullu, Himachal Pradesh**

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)

Working Committee Meeting

29 - 31 July 2011, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

AGENDA

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

PROGRAMME

29.07. 2011	10.30 am	:	Flag Hoisting & Homage to Martyrs
	10.45 am - 12.30	:	OPEN SESSION Presidential Address Resolutions
	12.45 pm – 2.00 pm	:	Welcome Address Condolence Resolution Introduction of General Secretary's Report
	2.00 pm	:	Lunch
	03.45 pm - 05.30 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
	6.00pm - 8.00 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
30.07.2011	9.30 am -1.00 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report Resolutions
	1.00 pm	:	Lunch
	03.15 pm - 7.30 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
31.07.2011	7.30 pm – 8.30 pm	:	Secretariat Meeting
	9.30 am -10.30 am	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
	11.15 am – 1.30pm	:	Reply by General Secretary Report of the Credential Committee Adoption of Reports, Concluding address by President
(Breakfast : 30th &31st : 8.00am			
Tea Breaks : 30th &31st :11.am & 05.00 pm)			

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)
Working Committee Meeting
29 - 31 July 2011, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

Presidential Address

Dear Comrades,

On behalf of the CITU secretariat and on my behalf, I welcome all the working committee members and extend my warm greetings to all of you. I heartily greet the reception committee, the volunteers and all the militant and struggling comrades of CITU from Himachal Pradesh.

I pay my homage to the martyrs in different parts of the state who have laid down their lives fighting to protect the rights of the workers upholding the banner and the militant traditions of CITU. Let us all congratulate the CITU state committee of Himachal Pradesh for the sustained struggles and achievements in the last few years, notwithstanding the difficult geographical terrain and the political situation in the state, braving serious repression and torture.

This is the second meeting of our working committee after our conference in Chandigarh in March 2010. In January this year, the CITU General Council met in Nasik and took some very important decisions related to the campaigns and organisation. This meeting has to review the implementation of those decisions.

Comrades,

In the intervening period we lost several of our comrades from the trade union movement and also from our fraternal organisations.

I pay homage to Com Baidyanath Majumdar, former vice president of CITU and a veteran revolutionary from Tripura, Chaturanan Mishra, former president of AITUC and a former union minister, VG Padmanabhan from Maharashtra, R Parameswaran Pillai and KP Sugunan from Kerala who passed away recently.

During this period, the country lost the great artist MF Hussain who died in exile in London and Badal Sircar, a veteran dramatist. I pay my homage to these eminent personalities.

In West Bengal, the terror that was let loose after 2009 elections to parliament is still continuing after the setback to the Left in the elections to the state legislature in May this year. 388 comrades have been killed since 2009 and 27 comrades have been brutally murdered after the assembly elections. Cadres and supporters of Left parties are being threatened and intimidated; false cases are being foisted against them; thousands are forced to leave their homes and villages and stay outside. Planned attacks are being perpetrated by the TMC goons against the CITU and its various affiliated unions in West Bengal. CITU offices are being attacked, burnt and being occupied.

Not only leaders and cadres of the Left, particularly CPI (M) are being killed, but common people – men, women and even children, mostly belonging to toiling sections of the society are being killed; their only 'crime' is that they support the Left or belong to the families that support the Left. Baseless vicious campaign is being spread against the victims while the state government is trying to officially 'white wash' the crimes of the ruling party goons.

We have to strongly condemn these dastardly killings and attacks on its offices and demand that these be immediately stopped.

Thousands have lost their lives in the natural calamities like earthquakes, Tsunami and other disasters. Around 70 people were killed in the railway accident in Uttar Pradesh. Tens of workers are being killed every day in different industrial accidents, which are mostly avoidable but precious lives are being lost due to the negligence of the employers and the authorities concerned. We offer condolence to their family members and near and dear ones.

Dear Comrades,

As per the decision of the General Council, we have made serious efforts for the success of the historic joint trade union 'March to Parliament' on 23rd February 2011, as follow up to the successful joint general strike on 7th September 2010. CITU's presence in the 'March' was quite impressive.

On behalf of the Secretariat, I congratulate all our state committees and industrial federations and all the participants, for their contribution to the great success of one the biggest ever mobilisation of workers in the national capital. The workers in the 'March' not only raised the demands of the working people of the country but also called for a change in the policies being pursued by the UPA government. Such joint campaigns and struggles need to be continued and intensified. Efforts to develop joint trade union campaigns and struggles are being made in some states like Bihar and Punjab on certain national, state level and industry level demands, which need to be carried further. The trade unions in Bihar have planned a state bandh.

Struggles have also been conducted and also are continuing in different parts of the country on the demand of trade unions and democratic rights, industrial safety, work hazards and increasing number of accidents.

The kisans and agricultural workers in different states are on struggle path against taking over of agricultural land, against evictions and also on demands like ensuring just compensation for the acquired land and for rehabilitation measures.

CITU fully supports these struggles of rural workers as well as the struggles in different urban and industrial centres against evictions and for ensuring proper rehabilitation.

Dear comrades,

Issues like corruption, black money, the politicians – corporates - bureaucrat nexus, the Lokpal bill, National Judicial Commission etc have drawn the attention of the people during this time. A cabinet minister, members of Parliament, top level bureaucrats have been arrested and many more are

apparently involved in high level corruption cases – 2G, CWG, KG scams etc - that are coming out in the open in succession. Manmohan Singh, the much trumpeted 'clean' Prime Minister is presiding over the most corrupt government of the country.

The Prime minister, who used to complain of coalition compulsions for not acting promptly has been found to be not listening to the complaints of not only opposition leaders and MPs but also of his own cabinet ministers on complaints of misdeeds as has been clear now from revelations on CWG related charges. It is highly regretful that in stead of taking prompt action against the corrupt, he is now targeting his ire at constitutional authorities like the CAG for the disclosures of corruption.

The UPA government that claims to be working for the aam admi is in fact carrying out the dictates of neoliberal hierarchy at national and international levels with single minded determination.

At the minimum, the situation is that as Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer has noted in a write up – 'He (Prime Minister Manmohan Singh) has become a benami statesman under the thrall of a dollar economy; once a great economist, today a manager of dubious dealers; corporate big business is the winner; large corporations that thrive on harsh pollutants are being encouraged' (The Hindu – VRK-Tasks that can wait no more).

Comrades,

The defeat of the Left in West Bengal and Kerala in the recent elections to the state assemblies is bound to increase the neoliberal offensive several times.

The general secretary's report will deal in detail, the situation in these states especially in West Bengal, the lessons to be learnt, the steps to be taken now and all the other related issues. However, one aspect needs to be made very much clear. The working class in the country and the class oriented trade union organisations in particular must fully comprehend the impact of these defeats and be prepared to face the challenges. The working class must defeat the political and physical attacks and march forward with its class perspective intact. This meeting of our working committee will have to focus on discussing these issues in depth and take the necessary decisions.

Dear Comrades,

The year 2011 began with mass uprisings in Arab countries like Tunisia and Egypt; struggles are still continuing in different countries of the Middle East and Northern Africa.

I need not go into developments in all these countries. But we have to note that the issues raised by people in these countries are not confined to democratic rights and violations of human rights by authoritarian regimes. The struggles that were continuing in different countries on issues of wages, employment, food and other livelihood issues facing merciless suppressions, formed the basis for the present uprisings. The situation in different countries varies. While in Egypt and Tunisia, the dictators had to flee, struggles are continuing in Yemen, Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Bahrain, Lebanon etc.

Utilising a UN resolution on which differences still exist, US imperialism and NATO have embarked

upon military attacks on Libya. In the name of saving the people, hundreds of innocent civilians including women and children are being killed by the NATO forces as the country is being bombed heavily. The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) African Union, Arab League, the Bolivarian Alternative for Americas and countries like Italy have opposed NATO air strikes on Libya. But the USA, France and UK are continuing the attacks and supplying arms directly to the rebel forces, expecting to overrun the Gaddafi regime. 60 communist and workers' parties have issued a joint statement condemning imperialist aggression on Libya.

As in the case of Iraq, the US and NATO forces want to impose a regime change in Libya to bring the oil rich country under their control. At the same time they support the military intervention of Saudi Arabia to suppress the protesters in Bahrain, thus clearly exposing their double game.

While welcoming the upsurge of the masses on the demands of food, employment and democracy, we have to expose the dubious games of imperialism and its allies, who are trying to whip up sectarian divisions among the people so as to keep these natural resource rich countries under their hegemony.

The present political changes in Egypt, which is always treated as the gateway to the Arab world, have helped a new beginning in Palestine. Talks in Cairo have resulted in an accord between Hamas, Fatah and other forces in Palestine. By the end of this year, UN General Council is set to discuss the nationhood of Palestine and this unity, if materialised fully, will help in facing the imperialist backed belligerence of Israel.

The crisis deepens

Despite talks of recovery after the disastrous global economic crisis, the situation in the capitalist world, especially in the developed countries, continue to be critical, especially in the job front.

Unemployment in the USA continues to threaten the Obama administration. In a recent article, 'Time' magazine said – 'The worst was the unemployment figures that make you cry - a mere 54000 jobs created in May, less than half of what was expected and less than third of what was needed to lower a 9.1% unemployment rate'. (Unemployment rate has since reported to have increased to 9.2%) Mc Kinsey Global Institute estimates 'it will take 60 months for jobs to return to prerecession levels this time around'. According to 'Time', if the 'aim is to reach 5% unemployment by 2020, at the current rate of growth and job creation, USA may only reach half way by that time'.

This is happening at a time, when 'American firms generated \$1.68 trillion in profit in last quarter of 2010 alone'. 'Time' also reported that 'there is a fundamental disconnect between the fortune of American Companies, which are doing quite well, and American workers, most of whom are earning a lower hourly wage now than they did during recession. The thing is companies make plenty of money; they just do not spend it on workers'.

'Washington Post' has assessed that 'overall dissatisfaction index measuring percentage of voters who think the country is moving in the wrong direction has risen to 66%, a dangerous level to incumbent Presidents'.

This is mainly because of growing unemployment rate among youth. Youth unemployment rate in

the USA now is 24%, compared with over all rate of 9.1%. If and when these young people return to work, they will earn 20% less over the next 15 to 20 years than their peers who were employees. That increases the wealth divide – is what 'Time' can not cover up! 'Time' concludes this assessment- 'How we will deal with the larger range crisis- the crisis of growth and unemployment –will define our economic future for not the next few quarters, but next few decades'. Confirming the assessment of 'Time', 'USA Today' reported that the Gallup Poll in the 2nd week of June found that 57% say that 'economy and job are most important issues'. A report of Pew Research Centre also said that 'for 34% people the biggest economic worry is job situation and next comes inflation with 28% of people pointing it out'

Employment - A world wide Issue:

'Jobs, Jobs and Jobs' - is now the slogan not only in USA but the world over. ILO reports have pointed out that global unemployment is at record high for the third straight year since the start of economic crisis. Official global unemployment stood at 20.5 crores in 2010, essentially unchanged from 2009 and 2.76 crores more on the eve of global crisis in 2007. ILO projection for 2011 is 20.33 crores.

Developed economies are the hardest hit with 55 percent of increase in global unemployment occurring in the developed economies and EU region, while this region only accounts for 15% of the world's labour force. Another important feature is that 'financial and economic crisis has cut global wage growth by half in 2008 and 2009'.

ILO has pointed out that 'the recession has not only been dramatic for millions who lost their jobs, but has also affected those who remained in employment, by severely reducing their purchasing power and their general well being'. ILO's Global Wage Report says –'the overall short term impact of the crisis on wages should be looked at with in the context of a long term decline in the share of wages in total income, a growing disconnect between productivity growth and wages and widespread and growing wage inequality'. This has prompted ILO Director General, Dr. Juan Somavia to observe that 'macroeconomic policy makers must turn their attention to employment and wage determination to strengthen the tepid recovery and address long term social and economic imbalances'.

These concerns are reflected on the streets of Europe, where men and women are pouring in and protesting against the policies of their governments. The sovereign debt crisis is getting deepened in countries like Ireland, Greece, Portugal and Spain threatening the whole of Euro zone and also affecting the world's economic system. Attempts are being made to pass the burdens of this crisis on to the shoulders of the working people in the name of austerity, cut in public expenditure etc wreaking havoc in their lives.

There are concerted attacks on trade union rights including collective bargaining rights as seen in Wisconsin, Ohio and other states in the USA. Wages, pension and other rights are also under attack. Trade unions have been forced to go on massive countrywide action against these attacks.

Massive strike actions have taken place in Spain, Portugal, USA, France, Germany, England, Belgium and various other countries in the West as well as in other parts of the globe.

The developments in the Latin American countries continue to focus on the political fallout of the deepening crisis and the imperialist offensives. While the conspiracies, economic blockades and coercion continue, the Latin American people continue to support the anti imperialists platforms in different countries. The latest addition is Peru, where a left candidate has been elected President, despite huge campaigns against him, for the 'crime' of being friendly to Hugo Chavez of Venezuela.

These deepening crises, attacks and struggles in various countries were recently reflected in two international platforms.

WFTU Congress

The 16th Congress of WFTU held in Athens on 6 - 9 April analysed these developments with a class orientation and noted the present scenario of wealth, beyond imagination, concentrated in the pockets of a few and destruction and depreciation of the wealth producing forces – the working class with rising unemployment, growing poverty and misery for billions of people. Details about the decisions of the Congress have already been made available to our comrades through various means. The call of the WFTU Congress for united, militant class struggles has to be taken down to the workplaces, with necessary explanations; the observance of the WFTU Foundation Day and Day of Action on 3rd October 2011, as called by the Congress will be a good beginning of the campaign.

100th Session of ILC

The 100th session of International Labour Conference (ILC) held in Geneva from 1- 17 June was another occasion, where representatives of not only workers from 183 member countries, but also some of the employers' representatives and some governmental representatives spoke in detail about today's crisis and its severe impact on the 'workers world'.

The report of the Director General, Dr. Juan Somavia, gave graphic details about the impact of the crisis and listed out the ill effects, which I do not intend to repeat here. As is well known, ILO, a tripartite body, is guided by a reformist understanding of the present crisis and the bare facts which stare at us from the report and their suggestions do not lead us anywhere near to a solution! ILO wants to find a way out of the crisis from within the system, that too by working together with those who are responsible for speeding up the crisis – IMF, WB, WTO et al.

Here again, we found WFTU and those who look at things in a class perspective trying to intervene and tell the participants that it is futile to try to find a solution to the crisis without trying to identify the real culprit- the exploitative and unsustainable capitalist system!

Comrades,

Before going into some of our immediate issues, I would like to refer to developments in some of our neighbouring countries.

Killing of Osama Bin Laden of Al-Qaeda in Pakistan by the US armed forces without any information to the government of Pakistan, a strategic ally of USA in their 'war on terror', brought out certain glaring issues. Despite the target being Osama Bin Laden, whose activities or those of his

organisation can never be condoned, the manner in which the boundaries of a sovereign country have been intruded is of serious concern. The latest revelations about the nexus of terrorist organisations with those in the higher ups of administration in Pakistan are also being discussed in various forums. The recent efforts of bilateral discussions at official level between India and Pakistan should continue and should lead to better relations between India and Pakistan.

The present government in Bangladesh has taken some steps to strengthen the relations with India. Recent judgement of their Supreme Court to ensure the secular character of their constitution is also a positive development. Recent statements of our Prime Minister on instability in Bangladesh were not in the interests of good relations and even though those comments were later withdrawn from the website by the PMO, the damage has already been inflicted.

After the end of the war with LTTE in Sri Lanka a situation of possibility of finding a political solution to the problems of Tamils there has emerged. However, the government of India has not taken effective initiative to ensure this. The developments in the country continue to be worrisome. Details about atrocities and mass killings of Tamils, brought out by a report by UN have caused great concern and anger among people. Government of India should take necessary steps to pressurise the Sri Lankan government to come to political settlement on the issues and also to settle the issues facing our fishermen.

Great hopes were aroused in Nepal where monarchy was brought to an end. But the differences among the different parties continue and a solution to finalise a democratic constitution still eludes the country.

Dear comrades,

For us in India, the task is well laid out.

The ruling classes in India are determined to go ahead and complete within the shortest possible time, the task of implementing their neo-liberal Agenda.

Dr. Manmohan Singh and his team have made clear their agenda for the ensuing session of the Parliament. Their assurances to the government of USA that all steps would be taken to ensure opening up of our financial sector, retail trade and also other sectors by the end of June, are there before the people of the country. The legislative proposals on banks, insurance and pension make it clear that the UPA government is more concerned with safeguarding the interests of the world wide investors than the interests of the country and its peoples. The government is also going ahead with many of the non-legislative steps like disinvestment, dismantling of postal system etc. Trade union rights are under severe threat as seen in different parts of the country.

Wikileaks has exposed the government on various issues. The hollowness of much hyped Indo-US nuclear agreement has also been exposed with the Nuclear Suppliers Group listing out their conditions on acquiring technology on Uranium enrichment.

We should be ready to take all these issues to the people and be prepared to face attacks of this government abetted by its international advisers.

With the new state Governments of West Bengal and Kerala trying to roll back the achievements of

the Left led governments, in land reforms, decentralisation of administrative system, and various gains to the people in health, education etc and threatening to curtail the democratic and trade union rights, we should get ready to face these challenges right now.

It is our responsibility to see that we undertake our immediate organisational tasks as outlined by the last meeting of our general council and also be prepared, along with other central trade unions and national federations to take up the challenges thrown up by the ruling classes and imperialist forces. It is time that we take it down to the people, the necessity of changes in today's policies and explain a new set of alternate policies, which is highly necessary to safeguard the interests of the working people and also the country as a whole.

Working class should join hands with the rural masses, especially the poor peasants and agricultural workers, mobilise the petty traders, small and tiny entrepreneurs, cultural activists and others who can demand these changes in defence of the country's sovereignty and for social justice. Almost every day alarming reports about attacks on women, children, dalits and other sections in different parts of the country are coming into light. CITU has to take up such issues, create awareness among its members and the working class, mobilise them against these attacks so that the working class can challenge these atrocities.

The country's unity and integrity and the unity of the working people are facing severe threats from various reactionary and obscurantist forces. The attacks on women, children, Dalits, Tribals and various other oppressed sections have to be challenged; this will be possible only if the working class takes up the task.

In the trying situation of today, CITU has to strengthen its own forces and arm it with its clear cut ideological positions as enunciated in its constitution! We cannot allow this understating to get diluted or diverted for any reason!

Let us strive to unite our class – the Working Class!

Let this Unity be our tool for strengthening our struggles!

Long live CITU! Long live Working Class Unity!!

A K Padmanabhan
President

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)
Working Committee Meeting
29 - 31 July 2011, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

Report of General Secretary

Dear Comrades,

The Working Committee of CITU is meeting here at Kullu at a very crucial juncture facing the working class movement. During the intervening period since our General Council meeting was held at Nasik in January 2011, many important developments have taken place both at international and national arena.

1.1 In fact, the working class is facing a very difficult and challenging situation. In the background of global economic crisis showing no visible signs of receding in the least and fuming popular unrest in the advanced industrialised nations, the imperialist powers, the US imperialist in particular, have become all the more desperate in pushing through their aggressive hegemonist strategy to subjugate the developing countries in political, economic and even military arena, displaying scant regard to even sovereignty of the nation states. In the national theatre, the ruling polity led by bourgeois-landlord combine, have been displaying a servile and surrendering gesture to the project of the imperialists. They are pushing through a total deregulation of governance in all spheres of the economy and administration as per neoliberal designs, totally unmindful of the interests of the workers, people, the national economy and sovereignty and to perpetuate the regime of loot on the people by the bourgeois-landlord class. The ruling polity got further emboldened in the severe electoral debacle suffered by the Left forces in the recently held Assembly elections particularly in West Bengal since the Left forces have been the only consistent voice of opposition to all such anti-national pro-imperialist policies of the central govt in the political forum, representing the concerns of the working people at large.

1.2 Weakening of the mainstream Left movement in electoral terms in the political sphere would lead to a more aggressive right-wing shift and more pro-imperialist tilt in the policy-drives by the ruling combine in social, economic and political arena. Such rightward shift is destined to undermine the rights of the workers and the people and provoke such changes in the workplaces, economy and the society under neoliberal politico-economic order that the whole democratic system and institutions would be put under severe threat of attenuation.

1.3 The working class movement has to take up the task of halting such rightward tilt through building a bigger mobilisation and more vigorous resistance to such retrograde designs in order to defend themselves, the people at large and the national interests. CITU has to take the frontline role in mobilising the workers and people in the struggle and take the united countrywide movement of trade unions in that direction. The task is one of radicalising the movement with a class-orientation and heightening the consciousness in the desired direction.

1.4 This crucial task of the day demands a much stronger and proactive CITU at all levels, both

ideologically and organisationally, with enhanced capability to unify the entire working people at grass root level and lead consistent struggles on the issues facing them. We have to self critically look into ourselves and evaluate our activities for necessary corrective actions. We have to broaden many times our sphere of influence and activities in order to combat the conspiracy and the offensive of right-reaction to weaken and marginalise the Left and also the working class movement.

1.5 The working Committee must deliberate on this task of ours with all seriousness and take appropriate steps to meet the challenges unfolded by the new situation.

2. INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

2.1 The Presidential address will deal in detail the international developments. The most important developments in the intervening period had been the rising peoples' assertion in the Arab World against authoritarian rule and for democratic rights. The working class played a crucial frontline role in many of these countries in such peoples' assertion against autocracy. Unbearable sufferings of the mass of the people owing to severe economic crisis reflected in widespread joblessness, rising food prices, widening poverty among the masses, rising cost of public utilities, corruption etc and denial of rights to even voice the resentment by the repressive autocratic Govts led to such flare-up of popular uprising in Tunisia, Egypt, followed by other countries in the region.

2.2 While welcoming the mounting peoples' assertion against autocratic regime in the Arab world as a positive development in world political scenario, CITU notes with anxiety and anguish the satanic ploy of US imperialism and NATO to intervene into the situation with an aggressionist approach. In Libya, NATO's mass-scale air-strike on the vile plea of protecting civilians under the garb of UN Security Council's Resolution, has actually killed large number of civilians, besides exposing the imperialist's ploy to re-establish control on the Oil-rich Libya. The same imperialists are also lending tacit support to brutal crackdown on the protesting civilians to kill and maim them by the despots in Yemen.

2.3 CITU notes with grave concern the desperate attempts of the US administration to consolidate its global influence. The US has been attempting to tighten its grip over the ruling polity in the developing countries in the eastern hemisphere including the Indian sub continent. It has become desperate to manipulate the legislative sovereignty of these countries through its conspiratorial intervention. The strategic military cooperation and the Indo US nuclear deal are expressions of this intent. US imperialism has redoubled its conspiratorial attempts to weaken the opposition to its interventions and interference by the Left and other progressive forces in the developing countries, including India. Recent Wikileaks expose has thoroughly exposed as to how the US administration has long been monitoring and interfering in the day to day governance of our country including appointment of ministers, important policy decisions on both political, economic and foreign policy fronts while Indian ruling polity has been subjecting itself to that process obligingly.

2.4 The intervening period also witnessed widespread protest mobilizations and united actions by the toiling masses against the onslaught on their rights and livelihood following the worst-ever global crisis of the capitalist order in the form of mass-scale joblosses, lay-off, closure, wage-cut etc. The entire Europe and also USA became a theatre of militant strike actions and massive protest mobilizations by millions of workers and toiling people from all walks of life boiling in anger owing to price-rise, unemployment, cuts in wages and social security and other attacks on their life

and livelihood thereby exposing the utter inefficacy of the neoliberal capitalist order to address the basic problems of mankind. CITU garners strength and inspiration from such rising tide of the worldwide struggles by the working class, voices its solidarity which those struggles and stressed upon the urgency for sharpening those struggles to force upon reversal of neoliberal capitalist order itself.

2.5 Following global meltdown, public exchequers in these countries were liberally utilized to bail out the bankrupt banks, financial institutions and corporates which in turn plunged these countries, the European countries in particular in acute debt crisis pushing the Govts into virtual bankruptcy. In this process, under neoliberal order, corporate insolvency has turned into sovereign insolvency of the state. This resulted in the respective Governments adopting a drastic cut on all public related expenditures in the name of so called austerity measures while letting the capitalist lobby a free hand to loot the workers and the people. All aspects of the working life of the people, right to employment, social security, wages, working hours etc are under severe attack by such exercise of austerity, which in turn contributed to the deepening of recession. Despite all optimistic talks of recovery, the situation in the advanced industrialized economies of Europe and the West continued to remain critical with rising unemployment and deep-seated recession owing to their sticking to the same bankrupt finance-capital driven neoliberal path.

3. NATIONAL SITUATION

3.1 Post-Assembly Elections Situation

3.1.1 The General Council meeting of CITU held in January 2011 at Nasik noted the Assembly elections in West Bengal and Kerala along with Tamilnadu, Assam and Pudducherry to be held in April-May the most crucial events in the political scenario of the country and called upon the working class to work for strengthening the Left forces in the election battles.

3.1.2 In the elections, the Left forces faced a debacle in its strongest bastion. The severest set back came in West Bengal where the TMC-Congress alliance got a sweeping victory leaving the Left-Front with only 62 seats out of 294. Despite all out efforts by our comrades in the state braving attacks, atrocities and killings in many areas and malicious campaign by the bourgeois media against the Left, we failed to carry the majority of electorates in the state in support of the Left Front in overwhelming majority of the constituencies and thus suffer defeat. In almost all the working class belts the Left got defeated decisively. The working class movement also has its share in this failure.

3.1.3 In Kerala, the LDF lost in the election by a small margin, the fight had been neck to neck and CPI-M became the single biggest party in the assembly despite failing to form the Govt marginally. In Tamilnadu, the Left forces which allied with AIADMK got a victory in most of the seats it contested. In Assam, the Left could not win a single seat.

3.1.4 The Left movement, which is having its strongest bastion in West Bengal, had been playing a crucial role in consolidating the Left ideology within the working class movement. The Left front Govt had been a great source of inspiration as well as rousing high expectation also for a pro-working-class, pro-poor alternative in the given situation. Further, since such devastating defeat in election in West Bengal, particularly in almost all the industrial areas, cannot take place without

having its root, inter alia, in the faults and defaults in dealing the trade union movement and the working class and our approach and attitude towards class struggles and lapses and failures arising therefrom, the entire matter needs a thorough introspection and review in greatest details.

3.1.5 This report is not the place to review the elections results and the factors behind such set-back and failure. We need to introspect and review about the role of the working class movement in that respect separately. But it is relevant here to recall what the CITU General Council noted in its session held on 18-21 August 2009 in Tirupati after the set back of the Left in the Lok Sabha elections. The General Council noted, "But the election result in general and the involvement of CITU in the election campaign in particular demonstrated serious political organisational weakness of ours to carry the campaign to reach the widest section of the toiling people with the required focus, depth and commitment and also the failure to convert the mobilisation in the struggles organised by us into committed political support. In essence, our campaign failed to win the confidence of the major section of the toiling class in general and at least a sizable section of them even in our stronger states. The root of such failure has to be searched in the lapses in political-ideological and class-orientation of our work in every sphere of our activities and in every tier of our organisation— weakening and infecting our organisational initiative and capacity itself to effectively combat the political onslaught by the ruling class. And such quest is needed at all levels of the organisation." The formulation made in the General Council of August 2009 after Lok Sabha elections still hold valid. In all the working class belts, we miserably lost the elections. So deep had been their alienation from the Left that our campaign on the achievements of the Left Front Govt and also on the urgency for strengthening the Left in the context of mounting offence of neoliberal policies by the ruling class in active association of the imperialist forces could not offset the impact of the campaign for the "change of 34 years' Left rule" unleashed by our adversaries. Moreover, our adversaries actively backed by the big bourgeoisie launched their attack on the Left front in the veils of left-wing slogans, but we failed to expose the contradiction between those slogans and their visions on the policy issues and the deception underlying therein.

3.2 Unrest over Land Acquisition

3.2.1 Among other developments during the intervening period had been the widespread resentments among the people throughout the country expressed through angry protests in the matter of land-acquisition by the Govt-corporate combine for non-agricultural purposes and related issues of appropriate compensation, rehabilitation, forest-rights and environmental concerns. In fact that had been the trend for last couple of years. Long drawn agitation against handing over large tract of land including forest land in Orissa to South Korean Multinational POSCO is being sought to be bulldozed both by the State and Central Govt and the environmental clearance granted recently by the central govt for acquisition of forest land for the steel plant of POSCO has aggravated the situation further. On 3rd June 2011, in the face of opposition to forcible acquisition of farm-land for POSCO by the villagers in the concerned area, police arrested several villagers including 17 children. The Left parties organised demonstration at Bhubaneswar in protest of the forcible acquisition of land and eviction of farmers. 200 were arrested by the police. On 11th June 2011 villagers staged physical blockade by raising human-wall against forcible acquisition of land for the POSCO site. Land acquisition has since been suspended by the state government.

3.2.2 The confrontation between the aggrieved villagers and the state administration at Bhatta Parasul near Noida at Uttar Pradesh over land-acquisition for Noida Expressway followed by mass-

scale vindictive and tortuous action by the state police in those villages mercilessly beating the villagers including women and children, ransacking houses and imposing a undeclared ban on any kind of popular mobilisation and peaceful democratic action in the entire area including Noida is another notable event.

3.2.3 The move by the Govt and the Colliery management to dislodge the villagers and contract workers residing in the adjoining area of the collieries in BCCL and CCL at Jharkhand and in ECL in West Bengal and mighty resistance by the people along with the coal workers unions braving brutal police attacks injuring several people and trade union leaders are also major happenings involving land acquisition during the intervening period. The Colliery management in collaboration with state administration have been trying to evict thousands of people from the adjoining areas in order to hand over the same to private contractors for mining coal without caring for rehabilitation of the peasants, agricultural workers, bargadars and other people earning their livelihoods in those areas.

3.2.4 This demonstrates the desperate bid by the Govt-corporate combine to grab land from the farmers and common people by any means and deprive them their legitimate rights to livelihood and appropriate compensation. Similar happenings of land acquisition has been taking place at different places of the country, and the issue of defending rights to land and livelihood in the face of forcible land acquisition drive in corporate interest by the Govts is coming to the forefront in peoples' struggle against the impact of neoliberal policies. The trade union movement in collaboration with the peasants' organisations have to play a frontline role in these struggles.

3.2.5 The mass agitation in opposition to the project of a Nuclear Power Plant at Jaitapur, in the Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra had been also an important development which involved not only the issue of land-acquisition but also much bigger concern on loss of livelihood to millions of farmers, fishers, horticulturists etc in the entire adjoining areas owing to environmental impact. The agitation has been continuing in various forms braving prohibitory orders and police atrocities and one villager was killed in police firing and many were severely injured. CITU and Left parties are also actively involved in the agitation. Despite popular opposition to the nuclear plant on valid reasons, the Govt has been pushing through the project as a part of their obligation under Indo-US Nuclear deal and for obliging the foreign suppliers of equipments/reactors etc under imperialist pressure.

3.3 Popular Unrest over Corruption

3.3.1 The intervening period also witnessed agitation led by Anna Hazare and others against corruption and for Lokpal Bill on civil-society platform which has drawn huge public attention throughout the country. The Govt has ultimately entered into a truce with Anna Hazare to constitute a committee for drafting the Lokpal Bill comprising representatives from Govt and the so called civil society. This event was followed by another indefinite-fast led by Baba Ramdev from 4th June 2011 in New Delhi demanding curb on and recovery of black money drained out from the country and stashed abroad which has also drawn huge crowd at Ramlila Maidan. The Govt negotiated with Ramdev almost for a fortnight prior to commencement of the agitation but ultimately applied brute force through police action on the agitators at midnight of 6th June 2011 to break the agitation injuring 76 people. Such brutal police atrocities on peaceful agitation by the Govt is condemnable and indeed it attracted condemnation from all sections of the society. Now the committee on Lokpal Bill failed to reach any unanimity on the Bill and Anna Hazare has again announced his programme

of indefinite-fast agitation from from 16th August 2011 if the Bill of his choice is not enacted by that time.

3.3.2 Corruption at high level and black money generation have come to fore in the politico-economic scenario for quite some times following explosion of series of multi lakh crore scams in the recent period and mass of the people are visibly agitated over that. That is why the recent agitations over the issue have drawn public attention. But the root cause is being sidelined for obvious reasons. The root behind flaring up of such scandalous situation lies in the neoliberal order of economic governance where corporate and big-business lobby has virtually taken over the entire governance. The corruption and scams have attained a new dimension in the neoliberal regime. It is not merely the subjective question of a batch of politicians or top bureaucrats indulging in corruption in utter abuse of the position and power they hold in governance. It is the system, rather the paradigm that governs the system which breeds corruption.

3.3.3 In fact the entire economic and political management of the governance have already got affected by this degeneration where public property is being looted with impunity. Even before pre-liberalisation era there was corruption but the post liberalisation, the system in place always seeks to legitimise the corruption in various ways. In a system where gambling with public money is legitimised in the guise of various modes of speculative transactions, which by itself a corrupt economic practice of multiplying money directly, without creating any wealth, widespread corruption have to be a natural phenomenon where money-makers or money-takers, i.e., the greedy corporates, the fly-by-night operators, the corrupt politicians in governance, the tainted bureaucrats are seldom punished. As rightly described by noted journalist, P Sainath, "The Scams are the symptoms. A state that serves corporations, not citizens, is the disease."

3.3.4 Without addressing the systemic root, corruption cannot be fought out and eradicated. But these aspects are not coming to fore in the recent agitations led by the so called civil society groups. Rather, the exercises by so called civil-society seek to subjugate or undermine the institutions and the democratically elected parliamentary set-up established by the constitution by a batch of individuals under the garb of so called civil society. Here lies the importance and urgency for the working class movement to take up the fight against corruption and black money with greater vigour along with its determined struggle against neoliberal policies exposing the organic linkage of corruption with the neoliberal capitalist order. Otherwise, fight against corruption which involve fight for appropriate administrative, institutional, judicial and electoral reforms and a drastic course correction in economic policies, cannot remain on track facilitating bailing out the real villains of the humongous corruptions and scandals—the big corporate-big business-ruling polity combine.

3.3.5 CITU has been consistently opposing and exposing the dubious deals and contracts involving public assets and national resources by those in governance. CITU has also been categorical in putting forth its demands in all memorandums to the Govt for 1) wider tax coverage of the rich and effective and higher tax-GDP ratio, 2) concrete visible action for recovery of huge accumulated tax-arrears from the defaulter corporates and big-business groups reaching a figure of Rs 2.9 lakh crore, 3) pro-active action for realising the huge accumulated unpaid loans by the same corporate and big-business groups resulting the huge burden of non-performing assets (NPA) on the country's banking system, 4) and imposition of tax on speculative capital gains and investments through Mauritius route etc. State-funding of elections and electoral reforms should also be a part of our agenda for fighting against corruption and black-money generation and its routing through FIIs and other surreptitious means.

4. ECONOMIC SITUATION

4.1 Union Budget 2011-12

4.1.1 The Union Budget 2011-12 reflected more aggressive pursuit of neoliberal path by a Govt completely liberated from the dependence on Left support. One may well assess the politico-economic implication of a weakened Left in Parliament from the aggressiveness of the economic policy regime reflected by the Union Budget 2011-12.

4.1.2 The Budget made clear that the regime of subsidies on food, fertilizers and fuel through price-control are going to end soon. As an indication, along with deregulation of petroleum prices, the Govt announced its decision to deregulate the prices of diesel, LPG and kerosene in the days to come and the Govt has already started the process and a GoM has been working in that direction. While slashing down drastically the subsidy on fertilizers, the Govt announced its decision to replace the subsidy-regime in fertilizer by a so called cash-transfer scheme for the BPL households thereby indicating complete deregulation of fertiliser prices and to align the same with the international prices. This a sheer deception and fraud on the people since the people below poverty line(BPL) do not have land at their disposal and hence do not qualify for fertilizer subsidy. The deregulation of fertilizer prices will inevitably lead to increase in food-prices.

4.1.3 The Govt has indicated also their plan for replacement of the present food-subsidy regime also by the cash-transfer to BPL families which signals gradual dismantling of public distribution system to facilitate take-over of the food distribution machinery by the corporate retail traders, both domestic and foreign. Incidentally behind the phenomenon of continuing price-rise and rising food-inflation, the prices of food, fuel and fertilizers are the driving force and at the same time these items are the most hotly speculated commodities in the commodity market both domestic and international. Present Union Budget has clearly outlined the policy-infrastructure for control and take-over of trade on these life-line commodities of human survival by the corporate traders both domestic and foreign to facilitate encashment of hunger of millions into windfall profit of handful of traders and speculators.

4.1.4 The bias against common people stands exposed by the budgetary decision to reduce the direct tax to the tune of Rs 11500 crore while simultaneously increasing the burden of indirect tax by Rs11300 crore. This concession in direct tax is meant for benefiting those handfuls in big business and corporate houses who are already being doled huge concessions to the tune of Rs 5 lakh crore in the form of taxes foregone and despite remaining chronic defaulters in not paying their dues on account of direct tax alone to the tune of Rs three lakh crore as estimated by CAG.

4.1.5 The budget while being eloquent on GDP growth, is completely silent on the employment generation commensurate to GDP growth. It only encourages and incentivises the Indian Corporates for investing and creating assets and employment abroad, while millions of unemployed youth in the county are yearning for decent job within country.

4.1.6 Another ominous feature in the Budget is the aggressive move for complete deregulation of financial sector through encouraging private banks, liberalizing speculative FII participation in mutual fund schemes, deregulation and liberalized foreign participation in insurance sector and privatization of insurance and pension sector through various legislative and executive measures

as proposed in the Budget. All these moves are going to create disastrous consequences for the national economy, if not resisted resolutely through united countrywide action.

4.1.7 The Budget also took disastrous measures to make the employment-intensive domestic industries in-competitive through tax proposals in favour of their foreign competitors. Increase in levy on domestic garment industries, higher tax burden on domestic textile sector, drastic reduction in import-duty on raw-silk etc are the examples which, in the background totally liberalized import regime in the garments and textile sector, has made the situation critical threatening huge loss of employment in the concerned areas.

4.1.8 The assurance for Food Security Act remains on paper. Even the intervention of Supreme Court has not resulted in any changes in the floor level. Rather, in the background of deepening miseries of mass of the populace owing continuously rising prices of food and essential commodities, the Dy Chairman, Planning Commission did reiterate before the Supreme Court the utterly ridiculous formulation on poverty-line parameter of Rs 29/- per day/per head expenditure for urban poverty and Rs 15/- for the rural. Such parameter excludes even the poorest of the poor and destitutes from BPL population. Our campaign for universalisation of public distribution system should be strengthened and the hollowness of the ridiculous "poverty line" criteria must be thoroughly exposed.

4.2 Distortion, Loot and Intensive Exploitation

4.2.1 Overall economic situation betrays a distortion as well as the intensity of the loot and exploitation imposed on the mass of the people by the neoliberal regime. Despite economic growth rate remaining consistently well over 7 per cent for last more than seven years or so, incidence of poverty and miseries of the people are getting deeper and deeper on the one hand and riches of the bourgeois landlord class is growing phenomenally surpassing even the rich countries in the world. This exposes the intensity of loot in the camouflage of so called "development".

4.2.2 Biggest casualty has been in employment front. Consistent growth in GDP has been accompanied by sharp deceleration in rates of employment generation featuring continuity of jobless growth syndrome. Along with quality of employment is also deteriorating fast demonstrating intensification of exploitation process. As per latest (66th round) National Sample Survey data (2009-10), total employment growth declined drastically from an annual rate of 2.7 % prevalent during 1999-00 to 2004-05 to mere 0.8% during 2004-05 to 2009-10. And such drastic decline in employment growth has been starkly visible both in agriculture and non-agricultural sector. Even in non-agricultural employment, which is supposed to grow faster in the process of industrial development, has witnessed a sharp decline from around 4.65% in 1999-2005 five year period to 2.53% during 2004-2010. And whatever meager employment growth has taken place, casual/temporary workers' share has been the biggest –an increase of 1.82 crore out of the total increase of around 2.86 crore during last five years.

4.2.3 Despite consistent GDP growth, workers' share in net value added has been declining continuously reaching around 9% in 2008 reflecting overall decline in workers' wage-level on the average whereas the share of profit has risen to 53.8% reflecting the intense surplus-value extraction and loot on the people. The number of dollar millionaires has been increasing at a fastest rate in India and within one year during 2009-2010 their number has increased by 27000 an increase of

20.8 per cent, while GDP grew by around 9% per cent during the same period. This clearly reveals that the gains of GDP growth and rather more than that have been totally expropriated by the richer class leaving the common people high and dry.

4.2.4 The most paradoxical is that, as per 15th Annual Global Wealth Report released by Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management, India's super-rich population (High Net Worth Individuals) is 12th largest in the world and on the other hand India's position in human development has slid down to 123rd position out of 139 countries and as per Global Hunger Report, India ranked 67th much behind Sri Lanka, Pakistan and even Nepal.

4.2.5 This exposes the character of inhuman loot perpetrated on the mass of the population by the neoliberal economic regime under the Governance of a Congress-led regime loudly chanting aam admi slogans. This reflects a consistent decline of quality of living for the mass of the people, the workers in particular—in wage-level, social security, healthcare, education, food-intake and what not along with consistent increase in the GDP growth rate and also phenomenal increase in level of profit by the corporates even in the year of worst recession. And this corporate class under the leadership of finance capital has made the governments totally captive to get the policy regime tuned to ensure such loot on the people in unhindered manner.

4.2.6 The Annual Global Wealth Report laid bare the glaring fact that despite world wide recession fuelled by the global financial meltdown and its cancerous impact throughout the world in the form of rising unemployment, declining quality of employment by way of informalisation and casualisation reflecting a drastic decline in wage level on the average, and rising food-inflation thereby further impoverishing the already poor, the accumulation of wealth by the handful of richer class has been consistently expanding even in the years of worst economic crisis, when people suffered most. In 2010 such accumulation has surpassed even the pre crisis figure of 2007 in every region of the World and in Asia Pacific Region and in India in particular, the growth of such wealth accumulation is the fastest. This is the real face of neoliberalism.

4.2.7 It is curious to note as to how the ruling polity is proposing to respond to the most disturbing phenomenon of rising inflation rate which is being driven by the rising food-price-inflation rate. Ignoring the demands of the trade unions for universalisation of PDS and banning speculation in commodity market, the Govt of the day has limited itself to monetary policy management only by increasing the key interest rate through Reserve Bank of India. What is the result ? Inflation did not respond in the least. While food-inflation rate kept rising, interest rate hike made investment costlier resulting decline thereby creating unemployment besides fuelling anti-worker cost-cutting measures. But increase in profit continued unabated as the burden of costlier investment has been passed on to workers and people with the active patronage of governments.

4.2.8 The paid pen-pushers and so called intellectuals of this neoliberal bandwagon seek to paint this process as "development" and prescribe for accommodating neoliberalism to avail the so called "opportunities of development" promised by such regime. Unfortunately a section of trade union movement and also the progressive movement have fallen victim of such illusory campaign by the protagonists of neoliberalism creating problems and vacillation. Simultaneous exposure of such bankrupt ideas and preachings and their protagonists in the political forum must form an integral part of the struggle against neoliberal policy regime, if the struggle is to remain in the right track.

5. IMPENDING ATTACKS

5.1.1 However, in the changed political scenario following the Assembly elections, the attacks are expected to multiply many times and the working class movement must be in readiness to unitedly combat those attacks.

5.1.2 Offensive of neoliberal reforms are expected to gain momentum and the ruling polity will be putting in place most of their agenda for deregulation and reforms within next two years' period well before they face the next parliamentary elections in 2014.

5.1.3 The Bills for deregulating and privatising the insurance sector were already introduced in Parliament. The Bills for deregulation and phased privatisation of banking sector have been introduced in the last session of Parliament. Side by side, the Dy Chairman of Planning Commission has been aggressively advocating for complete privatisation by bringing down the Govt shares in all the nationalised banks to 33 per cent.

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

5.1.5 The Govt of India has also finalised the blue-print of their project to allow 100 per cent FDI in multi-brand retail trade. If it materialises, it is going to have disastrous consequences for the people and the economy. Retail trade is the second largest source of employment/self-employment for the people after agriculture. And foreign take over of multi-brand retail trade, apart from directly hurting the livelihood of around 11 per cent of total workforce directly depending on retail trade, would also destroy a big section of commodity manufacturing sector in our country aggravating job losses in those areas as well since the foreign corporate retailers would inevitably source their merchandise from abroad and that is precisely the experience worldwide where the retail trade corporatised and foreignised simultaneously.

5.1.6 At the same time active negotiation is afoot to unleash a free trade regime with European Union countries in order to bail out the recession stricken industries and business in Europe at the cost of domestic industries.

5.1.7 The Govt has already started disinvestments in public sector units and is expected to speed up the process further now on. Steps have already been initiated in the current financial year to disinvest shares in Power Finance Corporation, ONGC and SAIL, IOC, BHEL and other blue-chip PSUs are on the pipeline.

5.1.8 There are many other moves for neoliberal reforms. Only a few were mentioned above. And all these moves are going to have disastrous consequences on the economy and employment.

5.1.9 The most notable is that the post-elections period witnessed the steepest hike in petrol-price by Rs 5/- per litre which happened to be the ninth hike in last nine months. Moreover as soon as the

assembly elections are over, the govt announced the road map for deregulating and hiking the prices of diesel, LPG and kerosene. And thereafter, prices of diesel and kerosene have been hiked by Rs 3/- and Rs 2/- per litre respectively and cooking gas by Rs 50/- per cylinder. In the background of continuing price rise and increasing food-inflation rate in particular, such desperate move to deregulate and increase the fuel price and fertiliser price exposes the brutality of the UPA-II regime towards the miseries of the poor in the country.

5.2 Attack on Labour Rights

5.2.1 Labour rights are under constant attack through widespread violations of labour laws being promoted by the Govts themselves. Trade unions are not being registered and workers taking initiative for formation of trade unions are being victimised summarily. The employers and particularly those in multinational companies seek to audaciously dictate which union the workers should join and also dares to issue sermon that “no outsiders will be allowed to be office bearers of the plant-based trade union”, demonstrating contempt to constitutional and statutory provisions, as we have in the case of 13 day strike struggle of the Maruti-Suzuki workers of Gurgaon. The whole motto is to weaken the trade unions since the trade union movement is the major hurdle before the ruling polity in their aggressive pursuit of neoliberal policies. That is why refusal to register trade unions, vindictive action on the workers taking initiative to form trade union and refusal to talk and recognise the trade unions in the workplaces, even where a single union is operating has become the order of the day in almost all the workplaces and in all the states. In such a scenario, the united struggle of the working class must focus on the demands for mandatory recognition of trade union and recognition of trade union through secret ballot in all the workplaces. These demands are crucial for defending the fundamental right to organise and right to collective bargaining as enshrined by the core conventions of ILO.

5.2.2 The labour laws are being targeted for a thorough change in favour of the employers to legalise the violations. The Labour Laws (Exemptions from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers for Certain Establishments) Amendment Bill 2011 which was forced to be shelved during the UPA-I regime owing to Left's intervention has been reintroduced in Parliament in the last session. The Bill aims at exempting all establishments employing up to 40 persons from the purview of 16 basic labour laws covering almost all aspects of working conditions. If the bill is passed more than 78 per cent workforce in the manufacturing sector alone will be thrown out of protection under almost all the labour laws, not to speak of service sector employment at all. The changes in the Industrial Disputes Act in order to introduce “hire & fire” are also on the cards.

5.2.3 We have to build organized resistance against such designs to bring pro-employer changes in labour laws while developing widespread agitation for mandatory recognition of trade union in all workplaces through ‘secret ballot’.

5.3 Deterioration of Safety in Workplace

Proliferation of Workplace Accidents and Fatality

5.3.1 Alarming increase in number of workplace accidents and fatality as well has become a regular phenomenon in the workplaces all over the country demonstrating criminal negligence on the part of employers and managements towards basic safety norms. Virtual abandonment of inspection of the factories and other workplaces by the concerned Govt departments has emboldened the employers further to ignore all their statutory obligations relating to safety at workplace.

5.3.2 Since January 2011 till date, only the national capital at Delhi witnessed five major workplace accidents in the industrial areas killing hundreds of workers. On 10th January four child workers suffered severe burn-injury owing to chemical explosion in a factory at South east Delhi. On 25th January, 12 workers died following a boiler-blast in a factory at South Delhi. On 16th February, a plastic factory in West Delhi(Paschim Vihar) and a battery-factory in North Delhi were gutted in fire. Fortunately nobody was injured. On 26th March, a rubber factory in outer Delhi caught fire owing to electrical short circuit injuring many workers. On 27th April, in a shoe factory in Peeragarhi area of West Delhi a massive fire broke out and 11 workers were charred to death since they could not escape as the exit points were locked from outside. Besides above around sixty construction workers died, rather buried alive under a huge pile of debris that collapsed on the workers at a building construction site in North Delhi. Only Common Wealth Game construction sites more than 100 workers died due to workplace accidents.

5.3.3 Similar incidents are taking place all over the country but very few are reported or effectively taken up by the trade union movement. In the electricity sector, lot of accidents are taking place throughout the country affecting particularly those working in overhead lines but the matter is not being taken up with the required zeal in all the states. Some of the not so old workplace accidents issues taken up by CITU both at Centre and in the respective states were the accidents at Lakhani Shoe Factory at Faridabad killing more than 10 workers (in 2010), accident in colliery near Dhanbad (2010), accident in Jayant Colliery in MP and a nearby explosive factory (2009), accident due to collapse of boiler in the captive power plant of BALCO at Korba, Chhattisgarh (2010), accident in cracker factories in Sivakasi in Tamilnadu etc. But none of the cases could be followed up effectively.

5.3.4 Of the most recent ones, CITU intervened after the accident at Peeragarhi shoe factory in April 2011 and agitation could be organised demanding punitive action on the employers and compensations to victims. And the most recent ones, the CITU State Committee in West Bengal has intervened in the accidental death of three workers in the leather township at Bantala and also death of one worker hit by the dumper of Calcutta Corporation.

5.3.5 Notwithstanding above, we must admit that the issue of workplace safety could not yet be brought in our effective agenda. Even where we take up the issue, that suffer from lack of follow-up action and conscious effort to bring the issue to the consciousness of the mass of the workers and activists. As a result, most of the accidents are looked upon as mere accidents and not the result of deliberate negligence of the employers towards preventive safety and safe working arrangement.

5.3.6 Most of the workplace accidents are the results of gross negligence towards basic preventive safety provisions and unsafe work practices imposed on the workers by the management for economising cost and for quicker production. And in case of most of casualties, injuries and loss of limbs etc, worst sufferers are mostly the contract workers who also lose heavily in the matter of compensation and rehabilitation. Moreover since most of the employers are not maintaining proper employment registers as per law of the land, after accidental death or injury at workplace, workers particularly those on contract or casual are deprived of compensation and proper rehabilitation. Under neoliberal economic order the situation has aggravated further.

5.3.7 CITU unions have to take up the workplace safety issues more effectively and on a regular

basis and have to equip themselves appropriately to discharge this crucial responsibility. CITU State Committees also are required to take initiative in this matter to sensitise all the units in this crucial task.

5.4 Aftermath of Election-Result in West Bengal

Attack on CITU and other Mass Organisations, Workers and Peasants

5.4.1 Immediately following the declaration of election results, West Bengal witnessed violent attacks on trade unions, the CITU in particular and also on other mass organisations of peasants, students, youth and women by the armed TMC-Congress hoodlums with the police remaining a silent onlooker in most of the cases. Simultaneously with the active connivance of police, Left parties, CPI(M) in particular were being sought to be implicated in the charges of possessing illegal arms. Trade union offices are being set on fire and ransacked, left supporters are being physically attacked, women including the anganwadi employees are molested and tortured, houses set in fire and many of our comrades have been killed. Till date 27 leading activists of the democratic movement were killed including five from the trade unions; the number is increasing every day. Around 300 union offices were captured and hundreds were ransacked. An atmosphere of terror is being sought to be created to maim the Left opposition and democratic movement. Such a situation bears ominous portents for democracy and the fascistic design to suppress the Left opposition and the class and mass organisations in this strong bastion is aimed at weakening and marginalising any opposition to the right wing rules going to be unleashed by the TMC-Congress regime in the state.

5.4.2 The most notable feature of the post election violence in West Bengal is that the Left supporters are being forced to desert their houses in villages and towns in many parts of the state. It would be wrong to consider or comprehend such violence and brutalities against the Left as mere sporadic acts of revenges by the party in power. In many districts, tenant-peasants are forced to leave their land and in that process the land-reform done during the Left regime is being sought to be reversed and old-time landlords and jotedars are trying to gain control on lands by evicting tenant-peasants with the help of TMC and Congress led administration. In the new regime, attention on trade unions are being sought to be attacked and terrorised, the employers' class, especially in the sector in particular are becoming more aggressive in suppressing the trade union's of Manesar rights. The pro-people democratic changes in the economy and various social, economic recognition of rural institutions which led to economic and political empowerment of the countryside through the process of land-reform, operation barga, panchayati-raj with financial and administrative support of Govt of Haryana, in the form of elected panchayats, expansion of trade union rights, democratisation of most unlawful managements, social, educational and cultural institutions etc, that have been brought about by the Left, are under the target for reversal in favour of the handful of rich landlords. Such reversals are not only having bearing on the rights of the toiling people of the entire country. And this is a big challenge to the democratic movement in the state.

5.4.3 The attack on the people of West Bengal in the post election period has led to a situation where the democratic and trade union movement of the country is being used to break the strike although they had the voice of protest throughout the country against such a move.

declared the strike illegal. This brought to light the fighting mood of the entire industrial workforce at Gurgaon and the heroic strike of the Maruti Suzuki workers asserting their legitimate trade union right.

6.9 The Gurgaon incident brought to light the audacity of the Japanese management and the slave-mentality of their Indian stooges in the state govt. The Managing Director of the company dared to say initially that they will not allow any other trade union in the plant and thereafter said that they will not allow any outside leader or any union affiliated to central trade unions in the union of their plant. The Labour department and even the Chief Minister did not dare to speak any thing to such unconstitutional, unlawful and arrogant statement of the Maruti Suzuki management which exposed the servility of the state govt to Japanese company. This is not a new phenomenon. Precisely same arrogant attitude toward the laws of the land and the constitutional trade union rights of the workers was demonstrated by the management of Hyundai and Foxcon at Tamilnadu and Toyota Kirloskar at Karnataka. There is also report of militant strike by the workers on the demand of recognition of their union in General Motors in Gujarat. And same servile and slavish attitude was demonstrated by the respective state govts and police was let loose against the common workers and their leaders to mime them brutally. In all the cases the mass of the workers braved inhuman atrocities of the management and state govt combine and fought for their legitimate trade union right and their right to have a union of their choice.

6.10 A detail activity report based on the reports received from the state committees and unions is being annexed separately with the report.

7. UNITED STRUGGLES

7.1 One important feature needs to be noted in particular that during past one and half year, consistent effort by CITU to involve other trade unions in the joint campaign for central level programmes called jointly by all the Central Trade Unions has created in many states a ground for joint struggles on state level issues as well. Reports have been received from Punjab and Haryana that all the trade unions are coming together to agitate over the state level issues on minimum wages, labour law implementation etc and some programmes have already been taken. In Kerala, all the trade unions jointly went on strike against Petrol price hike and in some other states, similar initiatives are in the offing. In Bihar, Punjab, UP, Tamilnadu etc, state level conventions were and are being organized jointly by all the central trade unions to plan struggle on state level issues.

7.2 It must be noted here that prospect of united struggles in certain crucial sectors of the economy has also been surfacing which is no doubt a welcome development.

7.3 Under the all in united banner of the bank employees movement, United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), the employees and officers of all the major banks in the country are going in for strike action on 5th August 2011 against deregulation and privatization drive in the banking sector.

7.4 The postal employees unions including the unions of extra-departmental employees and gramin-dak-sewaks formed a joint platform as Postal Joint Council of Action and served notice on 14th June 2011 for indefinite strike from 5th July 2011 against the decision of the Govt to virtually dismantle the Govt-run postal network in the name of restructuring and mass-scale outsourcing of postal work and other demands. Finally in the face of countrywide strike preparation and campaign

by the postal employees, the Govt was compelled to put the so called restructuring programmes in abeyance till the matter was discussed with the unions in detail and the strike action has also been postponed for the time being.

7.5 All the Coal workers unions of all affiliations jointly held a national convention on 28th June 2011 at Ranchi and decided for countrywide joint demonstration in all the collieries and units in the country on 18th July 2011 followed by countrywide strike action on jointly agreed date on the demands for wage revision for the workers including contract workers and against outsourcing and privatization. Subsequently in a joint meeting of the coal federations held on 4th July 2011 at New Delhi, it has been decided that the coal workers will go for a three day strike action on 8th to 10th August 2011 in all the coal mines throughout the country.

7.6 During the intervening period, all the port unions jointly served notice for agitation and strike against the move of corporatisation of ports following which the port authorities called the unions to assure them to consult the federations in advance before deciding any such move. There is also bright prospect of all in united struggle by the port workers on the issue of wage revision of the workers in the months to come. The Federations of the employees of the defence production units have also been planning to undertake joint movement on the demands of the employees and against the move of the Govt to corporatise the defence production sector. Of them, the unions working in Defence Research and Development Organisations (DRDO) have already started preparing for a two-day strike on 22-23 September 2011 on their demands. Around 1.5 lakh sales promotion employees working in 126 organised sector companies in the pharmaceutical industry are going in for countrywide strike action on 17th August 2011 to press for their demands pertaining to service conditions and trade union rights at the call of Federation of Medical & Sales Representative Associations of India (FMRAI).

7.7 Initiative is also being taken by the Govt employees organizations, both in State and Central Govts for a countrywide joint movement against the so called New Pension Scheme and the PFRDA Bill which seeks to shift the pension system for the Govt employees from the 'defined benefit' system to "defined contribution" regime and also to divert the pension fund accumulations for speculative purposes. Already a national convention was organized at New Delhi on the pension issue on 22nd July 2011 jointly by All India State Govt Employees Federation and Confederation of Central Govt Employees & Workers which has given call for intensive campaign on the issue to culminate into countrywide united actions and agitations.

7.8 After the 23rd February Parliament March and after the assembly elections, discussion among the Central Trade Unions have been resumed for next course of joint action. Various ideas are emerging and it is expected that BMS also may be joining the joint programmes.

7.9 Already as decided jointly by all the central trade unions countrywide protest action against price-rise with particular focus on the rise in prices of petrol and the plan for increasing the prices of diesel, kerosene and LPG has been observed jointly through out the country covering almost all the district headquarters and industrial centres in the country on 23rd June 2011.

7.10 The Central Trade Unions again met on 7th July 2011 at New Delhi to discuss on the next course of joint movement. The joint meeting emphasized on the need for joint initiative by the trade unions at the state level also and took note of the state level joint conventions held and also being

held at Punjab, Haryana, Tamilnadu, Bihar and UP to agitate and mobilize on state specific demands also along with the demands formulated at the national level. The Joint meeting also noted the joint strike action decided in the banking sector and coal and also emerging prospect of joint movement including strike in other sectors/industries as well.

7.11 As regards next course of joint countrywide movement programmes, the joint meeting conceived the idea of holding a national convention of trade unions followed by countrywide Jail-bharo, mass squatting and various other forms of mobilization to prepare for higher form of action including countrywide strike to be decided in the subsequent phases.

7.12 There are prospects of similar joint struggles in many industries particularly in the face of aggressive disinvestment and deregulation move by the Govt and CITU unions in the concerned sector must actively work for developing such joint agitations along with their independent campaign on the issues.

7.13 CITU must take frontline initiative in promoting joint movements of all trade unions on state level issues as one of its important political-organisational tasks. The crisis being faced by the common workers at the grass-root level has been creating such opportunities for joint trade union action on burning issues of price-rise, minimum wages, labour law implementation, attack on trade union rights etc and CITU must assert itself in harnessing such opportunities to bring together all other unions in joint struggle along with its simultaneous independent campaign with a focus of reaching the new section of workers.

8.1 MOVEMENTAL PERSPECTIVE

8.1.1 The mounting onslaught on the working class and the toiling people by the neoliberal regime, ruthless attack on trade union rights throughout the country with active patronage of the governments, both state and centre and the physical attack on CITU in its strongest bastion in the post election situation have to be comprehended together to decide on our movemental perspective in the days to come.

8.1.2 The vigorous class and mass mobilizations on all the issues facing the working class and people and tuning all our initiatives in that direction is the urgent need of the hour. Through that process only the onslaught can be combated and physical attacks and accompanying terrorization tactics can be made to retreat.

8.1.3 The initiative of united movements being taken at the national level have to be seriously translated in all the states with a focus on developing work-place-level unity among the common workers of all affiliations. The State and district committees must plan and also monitor the initiatives being taken by the work-place level unions in this matter and should not leave the matter to spontaneity.

8.1.4 Secondly, CITU State Committees should also take proactive initiative in developing state-level united movement on state-specific issues and intensive independent campaign to materialize such prospects. Already in certain states like Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, UP, Tamilnadu etc, such initiatives have been taken.

8.1.5 Similar initiative for joint movement has also to be taken at sectoral level. In Banking and

postal sector joint struggles have already been planned. In coal industry, preparation for joint struggle including three-days countrywide strike is already underway. In other sectors like transport, port & dock, electricity, Anganwadi etc and many of the PSUs, conditions for joint struggle are very much prevalent and CITU must take frontline initiative to materialize the same into joint sector-wise actions and mobilizations.

8.1.6 In totality, all the avenues for mobilizing the class against the neoliberal capitalist order and its manifestation in the political forums have to be exploited and CITU must engage itself at all levels in that direction both through independent activities and through joint platform of struggles. Moot point is to build up an all pervasive counter-challenge against the ruling class and the present politico-economic order.

8.1.7 And with that target in view, the trade union movement will also have to build joint mobilization and movement along with other sections of the toiling class and democratic movement. Joint activities should also be planned along with Kisan Sabha, Agricultural Workers' Union and other democratic movements at the initiative of CITU both at state and central levels. This is an area, we have long been defaulting.

8.2 PERSPECTIVE ON ORGANISATION

8.2.1 To translate above movemental perspective in action, we have to tune the focus of our organizational initiative appropriately.

8.2.2 Our organizational position in the organized sector, or the present capacity of the trade union movement as a whole to move the workers of organized sector in action is a matter of serious concern. And the situation demands serious introspection in multi-dimensional reasons of such decline of the entire trade union movement including CITU in the organized sector industries which is the nerve centre of the capitalist production process. So called theory of decline in the organized sector employment cannot explain the situation wholly. Fact is otherwise. The shrinkage has taken place in the regular employment in the organized sector but the same was replaced by contract workers in a big way. The scale of production and operation in the organized sector has not come down in the least under neoliberal order but that has increased manifold. Our decline in organized sector reflects our incapacity of addressing the structural and technological change in the organized sector and their impact on the psyche and aspiration of the workers with a proper class understanding. We have to raise ourselves and the organization at all levels from such shortcomings and incapacities. We can ignore this urgent necessity of the time only at our peril.

8.2.3 There are positive developments too. In the organized sector, despite overall weak presence of the trade union movement in the newly emerging modern industries including those run by MNCs, a new situation is developing bringing into fore the increasing spontaneous urge among the workers for being organized in trade unions and for trade union rights. The happenings during last couple of years in Hyundai and Foxcon in Tamilnadu, Toyota Kirloskar in Karnataka, and General Motor in Gujarat, Honda and Maruti Suzuki in Gurgaon and the solidarity being expressed by the workers in industrial units of the adjoining areas are the reflections of such a situation. In most of the cases, the urge for being organized in trade unions developed from within the workers owing to right-less repressive situation prevailing inside the plants. CITU has to take note of such positive development and establish contacts with the workers in those industries and try to develop move-

ments among them focusing on constitutional trade union rights.

8.2.4 Secondly, in the organized sector industries as a whole, including the older one and in PSUs, ongoing spree of mass scale contractorisation has changed the profile of workforce in a big way with the contract workforce assuming a dominant position. Without organizing the contract workers, we will not be able to sustain whatever organized presence we are having in organized sector. And in order to expand our strength in organized sector representing the most strategic and sensitive segment of the capitalist production system, which is crucially important for increasing the intervening capacity of the trade union movement as a whole, we have to prioritise in organising the contract workers in industries. Some work has been done in this regard in a few industries/sectors but a lot more has to be done. Today's reality is that, in some public sector units like steel, a section of petroleum units, in certain units of BEL, BEML, BHEL, NTPC, NFL, BSNL, NLC and in Port & Docks contract workers could be organized in unions and could achieve some demands through struggles.

8.2.5 We have to adopt appropriate organisational strategy for our work among the contract workers in industrial sector with proper assessment of the ground-level reality. For example, in public sector industries, where the situation is comparatively less repressive than private sector, we should make effort for organizing the contract workers simultaneously in all the units of a particular PSU or in as many as possible so that an industry/company-level movement can be developed on the demand of minimum wages prevalent in the industry to be paid to contract workers. Such demands have already been raised and propagated by the public sector trade union movement. And while organizing contract workers in a particular industrial units, we should try to involve the regular workers' movement in organizing and taking up the demands of the contract workers. Side by side, the demand for payment of the industry-level regular workers' wages to contract workers has to be taken up by CITU at the state and national level and also for joint struggle by trade unions.

8.2.6 In this context we should also note the phenomenon of widespread contract work in various Govt departments both in the state and central governments. The Govt employees' movement is not organizing them in most of the states. As per reports received in centre, in Andhra Pradesh, CITU started organizing the contract employees in govt departments and received good response statewide. This is crucial area warranting our attention and we should take initiative in organizing contract employees in various govt departments and also non-regular employees in various govt schemes in all the states. We should also try to coordinate with the state govt employees' movement in this work, wherever possible.

8.2.7 Although unorganized sector represents the majority of our membership, still a large segment of unorganized sector workers is still left non-unionised. We have to decide our priorities in our work in the unorganized sector in view of shortage of cadres. In the unorganized sector, anganwadi workers movement has advanced substantially and such advancement has to be sustained and carried forward and the state and district committees must pay adequate attention to that. Substantial headway could be made in organizing ASHA and Mid-day meal workers but we are yet to stabilize their organizations in most of the states owing to which an effective all India coordination of the movement in these two sectors could not yet be developed, which is crucial necessity for advancement of movement in these women-worker dominated sectors having immense possibility of expansion. In organizing these two sectors also the district committees of CITU have to be particularly sensitized. Similarly, private transport, construction and powerloom are the areas having crucial economic and social importance which warrant priority attention of our work in the

unorganized sector.

8.2.8 Another aspect needs to be reiterated in our work in unorganized sector. Serious shortcomings still prevail in our initiative for implementation of various welfare schemes for our members in the unorganized sector unions and that speaks about the gross inadequacy of our grass-root level work of our unions and living contacts with the workers. That also hinders the task of developing leadership from among the unorganized sector workers and stabilizing the union functioning. This failure is standing in the way of releasing cadre from one segment of unorganized sector workers for work in other un-ventured areas.

9.1 ORGANISATION

9.1.1 The General Council Meeting held at Nasik in January 2011 has dealt in detail on organization elucidating the above movemental-organisational perspective in the light of Bhubaneswar document and outlined concrete tasks on almost every aspect. That document is still relevant.

9.1.2 What is important now is to review our activities in the intervening period and its reflections on the organization. Moreover, after our Conference held in March 2010, which was preceded by state conferences in most of the states, barring a few, we should undertake a mid term review of our organization in each state and industry-wise federations in identifying the improvements/problems etc in concrete terms and setting the tasks for further initiative. Some of state committees like Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu have already taken initiative of such mid term review and such review immensely helped in assessing the advances made and also in identifying the shortcomings to bring about further improvement in functioning at all levels of organization. Similar initiatives in other areas also will be useful in taking up the new challenges that are in the offing. And this organizational exercise has to be carried out simultaneously with other movemental engagements.

9.2 MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP VERIFICATION

9.2.1 The Labour Ministry has taken initiative to initiate fresh round of membership verification of the Central Trade Unions and already two rounds of meetings with the central trade unions have taken place. There has already been a consensus that the membership verification of Central Trade Unions will be made on the basis of 2011 membership.

9.2.2 CITU Centre has not yet received the annual returns of 2010 membership along with affiliation fee in full from the states/unions and in case of some states, there are dues both in respect of annual returns and affiliation fees even on 2009 account. We must note that CITU's 13th conference was held on the basis of 2008 membership (51,66,140—4429 unions). Thereafter till date CITU Centre received annual returns and affiliation fees for 45,99,841 members from 3946 unions for the year 2009 and only 23,57,474 members from 1892 unions for 2010. Separate statement on latest statewise position has been circulated to you.

9.2.3 It is obvious that membership drive for 2011 is yet to take-off in many of the states. Since membership verification will be made on 2011 membership, it is all the more important that we must go in for an aggressive membership drive in all the sectors and maintain records in proper manner in order to improve CITU's position among the Central Trade Unions.

9.2.4 But there is a huge dues for 2009 and 2010 as mentioned above. That must be squared up in

full to ensure an effective drive for membership increase for 2011. All the state committee were directed submit copies of the annual returns and affiliation fees up to the year 2010 by June 2011 but number of states failed to do that as yet. **We are yet to receive copies of annual returns and affiliation fees from more than half of our affiliated unions for 2010 and even for 2009 number of defaulting unions is more than 500. This backlog has to be cleared by the concerned state committees without any further delay.**

9.3 EDUCATION PROGRAMME

9.3.1 During the intervening period, a central school for teachers' training activists from Hindi Speaking states was held on 13-15 March 2011 at CITU Centre. 54 leading comrades from 14 states attended the school. We have now to plan for education programmes for rest of the areas. The state committees and federations have also to take up similar initiative in their respective domains.

9.3.2 During the intervening period CITU Centre has published two pamphlets on 1) Price rise 2) In support of the Left front in the context of Assembly elections that followed and sent the same to all the state committees for circulation in regional languages.

9.3.3 In this context, it is for information for the working committee members that CITU Centre has been actively pursuing for clearance and no-objection from Archeological Survey of India for constructing the P Ramamurty Bhawan for our central trade union school and research centre at Saket (since the land is in the vicinity of one Archeological monument). On receipt of the same we will start the process of construction. But still many state committees have not yet paid their quota for P R Memorial fund. A statement on P R Memorial Fund is being circulated separately and all concerned state committees are requested to send their committed contribution in terms of their 2008 membership at the earliest.

10. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

10.1 CITU's international relations have considerably widened, so also the responsibility to maintain and cultivate those relationships for strengthening international fraternity and solidarity of the working class movement. CITU has close relations of cooperation and friendship with various trade unions of many countries and sectors irrespective of international affiliations and they keep such relationship with CITU knowing well its political-ideological position. We need to cultivate those relationships as well. The CITU enjoys international reputation for its firm commitment to the doctrine of Class Struggle and also as a fighting trade union organization with more than five millions membership strength. Expectation from CITU for playing a pro-active role in the international arena is also increasing.

10.2 Particularly after our affiliation with WFTU, we are expected to play a leading role in the functioning of WFTU. Moreover, two of our comrades, A K Padmanabhan and Swadesh Dev Roye have been elected office bearers of WFTU from the Congress of WFTU held in Athens in April 2011. In the said world trade union conference a book titled "History of World Trade Union Movement" authored by Sukomal Sen, Vice President of CITU was launched at the instance and initiative of WFTU. Further, Debanjan Chakrabarti is the General Secretary of TUI (Construction) and A. Dakshi and Swadesh Dev Roye are the Presidents of TUI (metal) and TUI (Energy) respectively.

10.3 The Secretariat of WFTU met at Athens on 9th May 2011 and adopted decision on the forthcoming activities including "WFTU International Action Day" on 3rd October (the foundation day of WFTU). Secretariat has also adopted various other programmes and also allocated responsibilities to the Members of the Secretariat.

10.4 The following areas of activities will have to be attended by us on regular basis :

- 1) Regular attending of Secretariat meetings and Presidential Councils.
- 2) Implementing the campaign decisions and taking the WFTU messages down to workers all over the country in the widest possible way.
- 3) Sending regular reports on our activities in India to WFTU.
- 4) Sharing the Regional office responsibilities, both functional and financial, with AITUC and all other affiliates and friends of WFTU.
- 5) Proper functioning of the office of TUI Construction from Kolkata.

10.5 All these require serious attention, concrete planning and deployment of comrades at centre and also at state levels. Moreover these international responsibilities also involve substantial expenditure for which CITU also needs to strengthen itself financially with the cooperation of all its affiliates, state committees and friendly organisations. The working committee also must discuss these aspects seriously and take appropriate decisions.

11. TASKS

11.1 As we have already noted while dealing on our involvement in the elections campaign in support of the Left forces and also the elections result, in essence, our campaign failed to win the confidence of the major section of the toiling class in general and at least a sizable section of them even in our stronger states. The root of such failure has to be searched in the lapses in political-ideological and class-orientation of our work in every tier of our organisation— weakening and infecting our organisational initiative and capacity itself to effectively combat the political onslaught by the ruling class. And such quest is needed at all levels of the organisation. Our task in this respect is to identify the lapses and their root and take concrete measures to elevate the level of political organisational consciousness at all levels of organisation sharpen the orientation of struggle with a class approach. It is a process to be unleashed with conscious initiative and cannot be allowed to be victim of routinism and ritualism.

11.2 Secondly, post assembly elections, our comrades and unions in West Bengal have been facing severe physical attack from the ruling regime. We have to resist this physical onslaught by mobilising people and defend our organisational base. Entire CITU must lend support to our comrades in West Bengal in this resistance struggle by way of countrywide campaign against the heinous attack on CITU and the democratic people in West Bengal and its serious implication on the democratic movement in the country as a whole besides organising solidarity action.

11.3 The ultimate game plan behind such physical attack against CITU and the Left in the state is to reverse the pro-people gains of Left rule and put the entire governance and policy regime to extreme pro-rich, pro-landlord and pro-employer trajectory. Hence defending rights of the people, rights to land, rights occupation, and trade union rights, rights to democratic movement etc must remain the focus of all our efforts for mobilisation of the people against the physical onslaught let loose by the ruling TMC-Congress regime. Our campaign outside West Bengal in solidarity with

our comrades in West Bengal should also focus on these issues with a class approach. It is going to be a battle against the onslaught of the bourgeois landlord regime against the toiling class in which we have to play our role, wherever we are.

11.4 Debacle in elections in West Bengal is also going to have impact on the movements in other states as well because such debacles weakened the Left, i.e., the mainstream political movement with the ideology of the toiling class. The ruling polity at the centre has already in its victorious mood started rushing through all anti-people measures in the economic policy front already mentioned in the foregoing chapter. The employers' class is going to be more aggressive in other states as well and we must prepare ourselves politically and organisationally for united resistance in defence of our rights and also against the aggressive policy regime. We must redouble our initiative with a focus of widening the grass-root level unity among the workers of all affiliations on the burning problems being faced by them in the work-places. Widening and consolidating class unity on every offensive of the ruling and employers' class would empower us effectively to combat all offensives, both physical and political. A heightened class-struggle can help combating the offensive of the ruling class turned jubilant owing to weakening of the Left. We must direct our organisational initiative with that direction.

11.5 The trade union movement in the country has already been in the trajectory of united struggle and the unity got widened through process of struggle. The united platform of struggles has been already in the process of carrying forward their next phase united activities. The CITU Centre is actively involved in that process. What is important in this regard is that CITU units in all the states should take special initiative in involving all the trade unions irrespective of affiliations both in the programmes decided at the national level and also in developing movements on state level issues. There will be effort, particularly in our stronger areas for imposing a partisan polarisation within the trade union movement by the ruling class thereby keeping the trade union movement divided. We have to overcome and defeat such hurdles by working for widening grass-root level unity among the workers and workplace level unions on the common issues like non-payment of minimum wages, non-implementation of labour laws etc affecting all sections of workers across the affiliations. We have to reorient and focus our organisational work in that direction.

11.6 While concluding let us recall the concluding note of the General Council meeting held at Nasik in January 2011:

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

11.7 We are confident, we will be able to definitely overcome all hurdles to carry the working class struggle to a new height.

With greetings

Long live Unity of the Working Class!

Long Live CITU!

Tapan Sen

General Secretary

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)
Working Committee Meeting
29 - 31 July 2011, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

Report on Activities

The most important activity that has been undertaken by the CITU after the meeting of its general council in Nasik in January is its contribution to the historic joint trade union 'March to Parliament' on 23rd February 2011. A detailed review of the 'March', adopted by the full secretariat of CITU is being separately circulated. As per reports from different states, 79184 workers from different sectors participated in the 'March' under the banner of CITU. Our presence in the 'March' was visible and impressive. It was the largest mobilisation by CITU in the national capital so far. Several federations affiliated to CITU and having fraternal relations with CITU organised dharnas and demonstrations a day before and a day after the 23rd February 'March'.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

During the intervening period the CITU unions and committees in West Bengal, Kerala, Tamilnadu and Assam were actively involved in the campaign in support of the Left parties in the run up to Assembly elections in the concerned states. As decided by the General Council meeting held in January 2011 at Nasik, CITU Centre published a pamphlet titled "Support the Left—The Real Alternative" in English and Hindi and sent the text of the pamphlet to all state committees for translation in local languages and wide circulation.

WFTU

After the decision of Nasik general council to affiliate CITU to WFTU was communicated, the general secretary of WFTU, George Mavrikos visited CITU headquarters in Delhi on 12th March and held discussions with the central leadership. He observed that the formal affiliation of CITU to WFTU was significant not only for CITU and WFTU but for the entire working class of the world, particularly in the background of the world economic crisis and the people's uprisings in West Asia and North America. A press meet and a meeting of CITU activists from neighbouring states were arranged on the occasion.

A 20 member delegation of CITU participated in 16th Congress of WFTU held in April in Athens. Com AKP, president of CITU was elected as a member of the presidential council and Com S Dev Roye, national secretary of CITU was elected to the secretariat of the WFTU. Earlier, Com Debanjan Chakraborty, general secretary of Construction Workers' Federation of India was elected as the general secretary of the TUI Construction.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The English and Hindi versions of the booklet on International Women's Day written by Jayati Ghosh were released at the CITU headquarters on the occasion of the conclusion of the centenary

of International Women's Day. The draft of the booklet was sent to all the state committees for translation and publication in local languages. Rallies, meetings, conventions etc were held in several states on the occasion of International Women's Day. But very few states observed the conclusion of the Centenary as decided by the 13th conference of CITU. This is a serious shortcoming on our part in implementing the decisions taken regarding our work among working women, which needs to be overcome.

MAY DAY

CITU committees all over the country mobilised workers in large numbers in the demonstrations held on the occasion of May Day. In many states joint demonstrations were held along with the other trade unions.

In West Bengal, CITU flags were hoisted at the workplaces, factory gates, union offices, approach roads to work centres etc. In addition to the cities, traditional industrial belts and townships, rural workers and workers in the unorganised sector participated in the May Day meetings in large numbers. The traditional united rally of the workers was held in Shahid Minar Maidan in Kolkata in which members of CITU, AITUC, UTUC, TUCC, 12th July Committee and other industrial federations participated.

Rallies, mostly along with other trade unions including AITUC, INTUC and TUCC were held in all the districts in Kerala. Flag hoisting, processions and massive joint rallies were held in several places in Tamil Nadu. A colourful procession of CITU, HMS, AITUC and TUCC was held in Delhi. In Haryana, joint meetings were held at factory gates in Gurgaon; later joint rallies were organised where resolutions of the demands of workers were passed. In Madhya Pradesh too May Day was observed in all parts of the state. Other sections of working people joined the workers in the rally organised in Bhopal. Prabhat pheris were organised in some cities like Indore and Jabalpur. CITU flags were hoisted at government, semi government and private offices and many district headquarters in Punjab witnessed huge joint rallies against the anti worker policies of the government. Thousands of workers, employees and other sections of toiling people joined these rallies. In Assam, while individual unions hoisted their flags and held local processions in the morning, the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions organised a central rally in Guwahati in the evening. A joint rally of trade unions including CITU and INTUC was held in Dehra Dun in Uttarakhand.

The CITU flag was hoisted and a meeting was also held at the CITU headquarters at BTR Bhawan in Delhi which was decorated with red flags.

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE & TSUNAMI

CITU sent its deep condolences and expressed solidarity with the workers and people in Japan who have been affected by the earthquake and Tsunami. CITU also sent donations through ZENROREN for rehabilitation of the victims.

PROTEST WEEK AGAINST ATTACKS IN WEST BENGAL

CITU secretariat gave a call to observe 6-12 June 2011 all over the country as campaign cum protest week against the attacks on CITU and other Left trade unions in West Bengal by the TMC goondas. Several state committees made efforts for the effective implementation of the week.

However, we should continue the campaign by educating our cadres and members on the real reasons for the attacks on CITU and the Left trade unions in West Bengal and their impact on the trade union rights and movement in the entire country. We must prepare and mobilise the working class to face this serious challenge.

In Punjab, protest actions were organised in Longowal, Ropar and Hoshiarpur on 7th June. Around 800 workers participated in these demonstrations. In Kerala, CITU, AITUC, UTUC, KTUC, TUCC, NLO and TUCI gave a call to observe protest day on 9th June. Demonstrations, public meetings and dharnas were held at the local level all over Kerala. Around 100 to 500 workers participated in each locality. In Rajasthan, protest demonstrations, rallies and dharnas were organised at the district and tehsil level on 10th June and memoranda were submitted to the authorities. Thousands of workers participated in these demonstrations. A huge procession was organised in the state capital Raipur in Chattisgarh on June 10 in which the constituents of the Trade Union Council participated along with CITU. All units of CITU in Madhya Pradesh organised demonstrations, rallies, processions and dharnas on 11th June. Workers in Tripura participated in large numbers in the rallies organised on 6th June to observe 'West Bengal Solidarity Day' as per the call of the Left Front in the state. Reports of observance of the protest week were also received from Orissa and Himachal Pradesh

23RD JUNE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST PETROL PRICE HIKE

CITU state committees took initiative for the effective implementation of joint demonstrations all over the country against the petrol price hike on 23rd June, as per the joint call of the central trade unions. However, detailed reports have not been sent by most of the state committees. As per the reports available, around 250 workers participated in the dharna before the office of the deputy labour commissioner in Lucknow. A memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister was submitted to the deputy commissioner of labour. In Maharashtra, thousands of workers gathered at August Kranti Maidan in Mumbai to protest the petrol price hike. A demonstration was also held in Nasik in front of the office of the divisional labour commissioner. Joint dharnas were held in several places in Madhya Pradesh including Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur, Rewa, Satna, Guna, Sagar, Singrauli, Andsour, Shevpuri, Hansdev, Nagda, Morena etc.

CITU Centre also published a booklet on Price Rise in English and Hindi and sent the text to all the state committees for translation and circulation in local languages.

ALL INDIA COAL WORKERS' FEDERATION

All India Coal Workers' Federation took initiative for joint movement on the issues of the inordinate delay in the wage settlement in the coal industry and against disinvestment. The joint meeting of the five major federations in the coal industry affiliated to CITU, AITUC, HMS, INTUC and BMS that was held on 4th July called for a countrywide strike on 8 – 10 August 2011. Earlier a national convention of coal unions was held in Ranchi on 28th June. It was attended by more than 500 coal workers and decided to organise a national protest day on 18th July. Rallies and demonstrations were held on the day throughout the country.

WATER TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION OF INDIA

The Federation held their working committee meeting on 9-10 July 2011 at Kolkata and decided for

industrywide campaign against the move of the Govt to corporatise the major ports and docks in the country. It was decided to publish a pamphlet on Port's functioning and the impact of Govt's policy of corporatisation, contractorisation and privatisation on the port and dock sector. On 28th July 2011 protest day was observed through demonstration in all the ports in the country in solidarity to the united struggle of the workers of Jawharlal Nehru Port Trust against the corporatisation move of the Govt. The Federation has also been preparing for joint struggle on the issue of wage-revision of the employees in the port sector.

ALL INDIA ROAD TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION OF INDIA

The Federation held their Secretariat meeting at New Delhi on 29th June 2011 and planned for countrywide campaign among the transport workers against rise in prices of petroleum products. Federation also planned to organise countrywide solidarity and campaign against attack on the trade unions, the transport workers' union in particular in West Bengal after the assembly elections. Accordingly transport workers organised countrywide demonstration and campaign on 25th July 2011 and also fund collection campaign in support of the victims of the attack and violence in West Bengal.

BSNL EMPLOYEES' UNION

Once again, BSNL Employees Union won with a margin on 26671 votes out of the 217321 votes polled in the Membership Verification conducted for electing the representative union for the non-executive employees in BSNL. This is the fourth consecutive time that BSNLEU has won. The membership verification through secret ballot was conducted on 1st February and the result declared on 4th February 2011. BSNLEU secured 46.57% of the votes polled; NFTE BSNL obtained 34.96% and INTUC 7.38%.

The victory by the BSNLEU has to be utilised to advance the united struggles of the working class, to protect their rights and advance their just demands and to defend the public sector telecommunication network.

ALL INDIA FEDERATION OF ANGANWADI WORKERS AND HELPERS

All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers and the different state unions affiliated to it campaigned for mobilising anganwadi employees in large numbers in the 23rd February 'March to Parliament'. As per reports, 10732 anganwadi employees from AIFAWH participated in the 23rd February joint trade union 'March' and 11142 participated in the joint dharna of Samyukta Morcha of Anganwadi Employees' Federations on 24th February. Ours was the largest contingent in the dharna of anganwadi employees. A delegation met the Finance Minister on 24th February. The 'March to Parliament' and the joint dharna created enthusiasm among the anganwadi employees, more so because the enhancement of their remuneration was announced just a few days later.

AIFAWH decided to observe 11th July as all India Demands' Day focussing on social security benefits including pension and gratuity and inclusion of pre school education as a Right of children in the Right to Education Act. District and project level demonstrations were held in almost all the states.

A mid term review of the implementation of the direction and decisions of the 6th conference of

AIFAWH is scheduled in Kullu on 2- 4 August. Around 125 activists including working committee members and members of the state secretariat are expected to participate in the meeting.

The Government Order on the increased remuneration has been released. All the state committees should make efforts that the arrears are paid in full at the earliest. State committees of the union have also been directed to collect fund for their organisational requirements at the time of payment of arrears.

The meeting of AIFAWH office bearers held on 24- 25 May decided to concentrate on ensuring that all the anganwadi employees willing to join the unions are enrolled as members in 2011. State committees have been directed to ensure this by allotting specific cadres at the state and district level to monitor this.

ALL INDIA FISHERS AND FISHERIES WORKERS' FEDERATION

The All India Fishers and Fisheries Workers' Federation (AIFFWF) organised a dharna near Parliament on 22nd February 2011 on the specific demands of the fishers and also mobilised fishers for the 'March to Parliament' programme of the central trade unions on 23rd February 2011. 539 fishers from 6 states participated in the dharna.

ALL INDIA COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF MID DAY MEAL WORKERS

Thousands of mid day meal workers all over the country observed 'All India Demands Day' on 24th March 2011, at the call of the All India Co ordination Committee of Mid Day Meal Workers. The mid day meal workers in Kerala wore black badges on the day; block level demonstrations and protest meetings were held demanding minimum wages and social security benefits. The mid day meal workers' union in Maharashtra held district level demonstrations opposing privatisation, regular supply of food grains etc in addition to the other demands. A dharna was held in Imphal in Manipur and memorandum submitted to the director of education. Demonstrations were held in all the districts in Himachal Pradesh demanding regularisation. District level demonstrations were held in Andhra Pradesh on 17th February demanding payment of wages and the arrears for the food purchased by the midday meal workers. Police resorted to brutal lathi charge in Visakhapatnam. Rasta roko were organised in many parts of the district on 18th February against police atrocities. A 'March to the Secretariat' was organised in Karnataka on 8th April 2011.

ACTIVITIES IN THE STATES

The period after the meeting of Nasik general council has been eventful and full of activities. However, detailed reports have not been received about the campaigns and struggles that have been organised by many state committees of CITU, except some reports about the implementation of the central calls from some states. Not sending timely reports is one of the serious shortcomings in our functioning that persists despite being repeatedly pointed out.

A brief report on activities as per information available with the CITU centre is given below.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Municipal residential areas & dalits and tribals bastis activity: CITU state committee has taken up a

programme to identify and campaign on the problems of the workers in the areas of their residence in the municipalities, concentrating on the areas with predominant presence of dalits. 79 CITU cadres participated in the municipal residential areas campaign in 14 districts.

CITU state committee also worked along with fraternal organisations among dalits, tribals in the campaign against caste discrimination and demanded allocation of adequate funds for the development of dalit and tribal bastis. The responsibility of carrying out this task was given to our activists among the village panchayat workers, village servants, anganwadi employees and community health workers. Cadres have been allotted for this work in 12 districts. 1229 CITU activists from 18 districts participated in the cycle jatha conducted as part of this campaign. 50000 leaflets were distributed by the CITU district committees in solidarity with the campaign. Reception programmes for the jathas were organised by CITU in 104 mandals. Rs 35325 was collected as solidarity fund.

International women's day: International Women's Day was observed in 121 centres, including 53 towns and 68 mandal centres in 16 districts. 4800 booklets were distributed on the occasion.

MLC election campaign: CITU state committee supported the Progressive Democratic Front candidates in the elections to the legislative council in 9 districts. 4 out of the 5 candidates we supported won. Our work among the state government departments related employees and workers in mandal and urban centres helped to win the election. Particularly anganwadi employees, midday meals workers, ASHAs, contract employees, medical & health employees etc were the backbone of our campaign in mandal centres. These results encouraged us further improve our work in mandals centres.

United activity of trade unions on issue of contract workers: United Action was conducted by CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS, TNTUC and other government employees' organisations on contract workers' issues. A state level convention was held followed by district conventions. Dharnas were held in state and district centres on March 24th as follow up of the programme.

Pension booklets: The draft from the CITU centre on 1995 pension scheme was translated into Telugu and 95000 copies were printed and distributed all over the state.

Anganwadi: During the budget session of assembly our union gave call for 'Chalo Hyderabad' on 21st March. The government resorted to severe repression on the anganwadi employees to scuttle the rally including arresting thousands of anganwadi employees from their homes and forcibly detained thousands who have boarded the trains. Despite this, around 15000 anganwadi employees participated in the march. Another 5000 who reached different railway stations were prevented from reaching the state capital.

This was preceded by mass relay hunger strike for 5 days at the district level. This struggle forced the state government to hold discussions with our union. The government agreed to pay a lump sum amount as retirement benefit, stop political interference, relax the age for promotion for helpers etc. Around 1000 anganwadi employees stayed back to participate in the state level rally of the dalits and tribals.

ASHAs: Under the leadership of our union, ASHAs picketed D&MH offices for two days on April 7th & 8th, demanding payment of remuneration as per the government order revising the starting basic wage as per the latest PRC. In some districts police resorted to lathi charge by male police. Some

of the burning immediate problems of the ASHAs were solved due to this struggle.

Midday meal workers: The mid day meal workers' union gave a call for 'Chalo Assembly' on 17th March demanding payment of pending wages & bills, provision of infrastructure facilities, issuance of identity cards by government, halt to political harassments and illegal removals and payment of wages to workers in high schools. 3000 mid day meal workers from 20 districts participated. The education minister held talks with the union representatives and promised to release pending bills amounting to Rs 203 crores, sanction of Rs 60000 each for the construction of 42000 sheds, clearance of payment of wages to high school workers and provision of eggs at wholesale rates.

Strikes in some sectors:

Village panchayat workers: Around 40000 village panchayat workers have gone on strike from 16th May demanding implementation of the agreement the government signed with our union in August 2010, providing for wage rise and other benefits. During the strike period, the government shifted the responsibility to the local bodies.

Extensive campaign was conducted to expose the stand of the government. Jeep jathas were held in all the districts. Tents were erected in all mandal centres and different types of protests like begging, tonsuring of heads, submitting memoranda to buffaloes, standing upside down on ones' head etc were continuously organised. The ministers were gheraoed by the panchayat workers in several places. The district collectorates were picketed. The strike received wide political support from the entire opposition and in some places also the ruling party leaders.

The union organised 'Chalo Hyderabad' programme in which thousands of panchayat workers participated and refused to leave till their demands were settled. Ultimately the government was forced to talk to the union and agree in writing to implement the wage rise and other facilities.

Significantly, the panchayat workers in the Telangana region refused to leave CITU at the behest of the TRS. When the MLAs of TRS visited the tents and advised them to leave CITU as they could not achieve their demands despite the prolonged strike, they replied that TRS, which was not able to achieve Telangana in the last ten years had no right to advise them to leave CITU when they have been on strike for only 30 days. They affirmed that they would continue to be with CITU. In Adilabad, a district in the Telangana region where the Telangana Gram Panchayat Workers' is strong, it merged with our union as a result of which the strike was total in the district.

Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Society Employees: Around 4000 employees working in primary agriculture coop societies went on strike for 46 days from 14th March to 28th April, demanding implementation of the government order on their wages and promotions to the vacancies of district cooperative banks. AITUC and INTUC did not agree for united action. However, the general secretary of AITUC union went on hunger strike for 3 days after the strike started and later withdrew without even any discussion with the government. INTUC opposed the strike but the members of the INTUC union in 4 districts in North Telangana joined the relay hunger strike and 'Chalo Hyderabad' programmes organised by our union.

Initially government took the stand that it has nothing to do with PACs as they are being given autonomy and are being run as per guidelines by NABARD. But due to the pressure of our struggle

the government was forced to concede some of the demands. After the strike the PAC employees in 2 north Telangana districts joined our union leaving INTUC. 3 more district unions of INTUC are in the process.

Village Servants: 44000 village servants went on strike from 20th May demanding implementation of the agreement the state government signed with our union when YS Rajashekhar Reddy was the chief minister. Attempts were made by a splinter union to mislead the village servants and prevent them from joining the strike. However, the strike was highly successful and the government was forced to increase their wages, increase the DA from Rs 50 to Rs 100, agree to implement medical invalidation scheme, enhance the death or retirement benefit from Rs 15000 to Rs 50000.

The strike strengthened the unity of the village servants and our union in some of the weak districts.

Field assistants of MGNREGA:

Field assistants working in rural employment guarantee scheme went on strike from 12th April demanding increase in their wages, implementation of HR policy, etc. We were able to recognise the dissatisfaction among the field assistants in time and gave the call for struggle. As a result, the field assistants belonging to an independent union in 4 districts joined our union. Picketing of district collectorates was organised. The government tried to sabotage the strike by resorting to vindictive actions with the support of the independent union, which called for a strike only to withdraw it on the night. Some field assistants were removed from service during the strike.

Though the government was compelled to call our union for talks, it announced increase in their wages from Rs. 2200 to 3650, which is still less than that stipulated in the government order. A committee was formed with 7 ministers to decide on allowances and other issues within one month.

Contract workers

Around 50000 contract workers in different public sector undertakings in Visakhapatnam went on strike on 17th May on the demands of minimum wages and other benefits.

IKP Animators

13500 IKP animators from 415 mandals in 16 districts organised a non cooperation agitation from 16th May demanding appointment as VAOs, implementation of wages as promised by the government, removal of the anti worker clauses etc. The collectorates in 16 districts were picketed on 23rd May; relay hunger strike was organised in 350 centres from 16 – 21 May. Ultimately the government conceded their demands but did not take follow up actions. The union organised 'Chalo Hyderabad' on 20th June in which around 3000 IKP animators participated and continued a sit in at dharna chowk. The government held discussions with the union and assured to release the concerned government order within a week.

In SEZs: Brandix, a textile company in the Vizag SEZ promised to provide employment to 3000 fishers who have been displaced by it. An agitation was conducted to implement the agreement. Government resorted to lathi charge and arrests. CITU and other mass organisations participated

in the agitation. It was led as a united movement of all organisations.

In another aluminium company of SEZ, 40 drivers went on strike for 7 days. Management filed cases and sent 23 workers to Jail. Struggle intensified thereafter and management had to continue all the workers. The union could pressurise the management to pay compensation to those who died in accidents.

In Hetro Drugs Company, workers went on strike on wages and other issues. Management entered into agreement even before formation of union. Now the union is being registered and a membership of 300 was also enrolled.

In SEZ areas, government and the managements are trying to attack CITU regularly. False cases are being foisted, leaders arrested and sent to jail. Police flag marches were held in workers colonies to threaten them. Campaign and protest rallies are being held against these atrocities.

Other struggles: In Siricilla town of Karimnagar district 1000 cotton power loom weavers and 300 owners cum workers went on strike for 25 days from March 12th and achieved enhancement in wages. Our intervention in the struggle of the Sanghi polyester company workers helped in the formation of a CITU affiliated union.

Road Transport Conference of Andhra Pradesh: The 8th state conference of Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation Staff and Workers' Federation (APSRTC SWF), affiliated to CITU and All India Road Transport Workers' Federation was held on 6-7 February 2011 in Hyderabad. A seminar on 'Impact of Government taxes on petrol and diesel on Transport Sector' was held on the occasion.

Trade union education: Trade union classes were held on 13 – 20 April for office bearers of CITU district committees; 186 from 17 districts participated. State level classes were held for activists of the mid day meal workers' union on 21 – 23 May in which 97 from 9 districts took part. 28 important cadres participated in the 8 days' state level classes cadres of the anganwadi union; 130 activists of ASHA's union from 18 districts participated in the 5 days' state level classes. 57 activists of the beedi workers' union from 5 north Telangana region participated in the 3 days' classes held for the activists of the region.

BIHAR

Private transport(auto and tom-tom workers) have held agitation at Patna. At Bhagalpur, auto workers held demonstration at CITU's initiative. State level joint convention of all trade unions was held and programme of state level agitation and price-rise against labour law violations and other issues have been planned.

CHATTISGARH

Around 500 workers including anganwadi employees and mandi workers participated in a district level rally in Rajnandgaon on 16th June to protest against the attacks on CITU and the Left by the Trinamool Congress goons in West Bengal. 3000 leaflets were distributed as preparation for the rally.

DELHI

4000 workers of Allied Nippon participated in the strike at the call of the joint committee of trade unions protesting against the termination of employment of permanent workers and for 10 point demands.

The daily wage workers of Human Resource Ministry staged dharna 20 June at Preet Vihar, Delhi demanding permanent post for all 150 workers working since 20 years.

Hindustan Photo Films workers held a Dharna in the Parliament Street New Delhi on 1st March demanding allotment of funds for revival of the factory and settlement of wage demands. A memorandum was submitted to the Minister for Heavy Industries Praful Patel and discussions were held.

Joint demonstrations

Delhi state committees of CITU, DYFI and JMS jointly organised a massive dharna on 19th April near Delhi Secretariat to focus the demand for social security for the unorganised sector workers. Hundreds of unorganised sector workers including home-based workers, vendors, construction workers, bakery salesmen and helpers, anganwadi employees, rickshaw pullers, loading and unloading workers, daily wagers and youth — participated in the dharna. Majority of them were women. Besides social security benefits and minimum wages, the workers demanded enactment of Urban Employment Guarantee Act. The dharna was held as part of the campaign launched by the three mass organisations as decided in the Joint Convention of 19th Dec 2010.

A delegation of the three organisations submitted a memorandum consisting of the five point charter of demands to the Delhi Chief Minister.

A joint demonstration was held before the labour office at Gautam Budha Nagar in Noida on 19th April demanding abolition of contract labour, implementation of labour laws, fixing of wages per with minimum wages of Delhi. The Demonstration was addressed by the leaders of CITU, AITUC, INTUC, and HMS.

GUJARAT

Around 7000 anganwadi employees from 17 districts out of the total 27 districts in Gujarat participated in a rally in Ahmedabad, the largest rally of women workers in around two decades, on 6th March 2011 under the banner of Gujarat Anganwadi Karmachari Sangathan (GAKS) affiliated to the All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers (AIFAWH). The union decided to intensify struggles on the state level demands of the anganwadi employees also.

HARYANA

Brick Kiln Workers

Lal Jhanda Bhatta Mazdoor Union affiliated to CITU launched struggle on the issue of wage rise, provision of drinking water in the brick kilns, education and health facilities and BPL cards. Strikes

were organised in different districts forcing the owners to come agreement with the union. However in some districts, the owners resorted to physical attacks on the union leaders. In Bhiwani, the meeting of the brick kiln workers on 8th March was attacked causing grievous injuries to 5 people; some workers including a woman worker and leaders of the union and kisan Sabha were kidnapped. State wide protest demonstrations were held on 9th March. On 10th March more than 3500 people participated in the dharna before the district collector's office. A massive demonstration was organised in Bhiwani on 15th March. The mobilisation of people in this agitation has been unprecedented in last 10-15 years in Bhiwani. Under pressure of the agitation and efforts made by all India CITU centre 5 out of six accused have been arrested. The owners were ultimately compelled to come to an amicable settlement with the union.

State Conference of Construction Workers Union

The fourth state conference of Construction Workers' Union, Haryana was held in Jind on 19th January. 179 delegates from 19 districts participated in the conference. A new 35 members' state committee was elected in the conference. A massive rally was held on the occasion.

Mid Day Meal Workers' Protest Against Privatisation

The mid day meal workers' union organised gherao of the state directorate of education on 7th June against the moves of the state government to privatise the programme under the pretext of public private partnership, community participation, empowerment of women etc. Preparation of mid day meals was handed over to NGOs in Faridabad, Kurukshetra etc replacing the workers. Hundreds of mid day meal workers from different parts of the state participated in the gherao. A delegation of the union met the director who agreed to withdraw handing over the programme to the NGOs and stop retrenchment of the workers.

Payment of compensation on death

The brick kiln workers' union and the construction workers' union took up the issues of death of brick kiln workers and construction workers in accidents while on work and succeeded in getting compensation to the deceased families.

Churi Udyog Workers

More than a thousand workers working in Churi Udyog in Faridabad staged dharna before the labour office on 13 June demanding wage revision and reducing the working hour to at least 8 hours.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

The state committee of CITU decided to organise one day strike and protest demonstrations on 2nd June 2011 in hydel projects, hotels and industrial units on the demands of workers. The main demands of the workers include linking the minimum wage with price index, and registration of all construction workers as members of Construction Workers Welfare Board. Similarly, the construction workers' union has decided to demonstrate before the office of welfare board in Shimla on 12th August 2011. More than one thousand construction workers are expected to participate in the

demonstration. The PWD workers will demonstrate before the office of Chief Engineer.

The state conference of the anganwadi union was held on 9-10 July in Mandi. Around 180 delegates from 8 out of the 12 districts participated. Representatives from 3 districts could not come as a result of road blockade due to landslide. The conference decided to launch a sustained struggle on the state level demands from the last week of October and make the organisational preparations in the intervening period.

JHARKHAND

Thousands of coal workers demonstrated on 20th January in front of Coal Bhawan focusing on their 30 points charter of demands.

KARNATAKA

The first state level conference of Federation of Autorikshaw Drivers' Unions was held on 31st May - 1st June 2011 in Bangalore. More than 1000 autorikshaw drivers from all over the state, majority from Bangalore district participated in the procession. The conference decided to participate in the state level protest action of the state committee CITU demanding formation of welfare board for unorganised sector workers, enhancing minimum wages to Rs 10000 for unskilled workers, introducing universal public distribution system, housing schemes for unorganised workers etc. It also decided to develop the organisational network throughout the state and increase the membership to 30000 and identified the priority districts and taluks to develop the organisation.

KERALA

The coordination committee of transport workers' federations affiliated to various trade union centres at national and state levels called for a 12 hour transport strike on 20th May in the state against the petrol price hike. All transport vehicles were off the road, all over Kerala, making it a virtual bandh. They also protested against the increase of 10% to 80% in premium on third party insurance. State transport buses, private buses and public carriers went off the road and only two wheelers and private cars plied.

On 23rd May, joint dharnas were organised at local level all over the state by CITU, AITUC, UTUC, KTUC and NLO, against increase in price of petroleum products by government of India. Large numbers of workers from different unions participated in the dharnas.

ASHAs

Around 5000 ASHAs under the banner of ASHA Workers' Union marched to Raj Bhawan on 31st January demanding monthly remuneration, regularisation, regular payment, payment through banks, travelling allowance etc. Prior to this, district level conventions were held in all the 14 districts in the state. It is reported that more than 750 ASHAs were elected to the local bodies but despite not being recognised as government employees, the NRHM officials were compelling them to quit working as ASHAs and have issued circulars to this effect.

MADHYA PRADESH

CITU affiliated union of contract workers in Vijaypur plant of National Fertilisers Limited in Madhya

Pradesh organised a struggle on the demands of the workers facing threats and intimidation of the management and their hired hoodlums. As a result, the management agreed for 40% increase in the wages and other benefits including 16% bonus, a pair of shoes and uniform to all the 700 workers in April 2011.

The first state conference of the newly formed ASHA-USHA workers' union of Madhya Pradesh was held in Bhopal on 30th May. More than 500 delegates from 14 districts attended the conference, which decided to collect 10000 signatures on the 10 point charter of demands adopted in the conference and organise demonstrations in all district headquarters on 15th July. Earlier, 192 delegates participated in the Jabalpur district conference held in Jabalpur on 1st May.

MAHARASHTRA

Around 2000 ASHAs under the leadership of Maharashtra ASHA Workers Union (CITU) staged a demonstration on 21 March at Azad Maidan in Mumbai, near the Maharashtra Assembly demanding a fixed allowance from the government. Later, a delegation of ASHAs and CITU representatives met the state health minister who agreed to hold detailed discussions within a month, after a discussion with the state administration. She also conceded some of the demands of ASHAs like issuing medical kits, separate rest places in every PHC, uniform and identity cards, inclusion of ASHAs in Village Health Committees and framing of rules for the Maharashtra Law on Patients' Rights and Medical Services.

Agitation and hunger strike was organised on implementation of minimum wages and other labour laws for the contract workers at Nasik, Dhule, Nandurbar, Jalgaon and Ahmadnagar in April 2011. The Labour Department had to intervene and assure for concrete steps in that direction. Agitation of sugarcane-cutting workers was organised. The state-level construction workers convention was held at Mumbai in June where from programme of agitation was decided to be observed in August. State level Bidi workers convention has been planned to be organised at Solapur in early August.

ODISHA

Demonstration by Mid Day Meal workers

About 4000 of Odisha Midday Meal Workers Union demonstrated before the Assembly demanding regularisation of work, better quality of food materials, free dress, payment of honorarium through bank, etc. on 7 June. A rally from rail station to Assembly was conducted before the demonstration. Radha Sarengi, Bishnu Mohanti, Kanak Das and others addressed the workers. Later, a meeting was scheduled on 27 June with the Secretary, Schools and Mass Education.

PUNJAB

On the occasion of International Women's Day, a big rally was held in Chandigarh on 8th March, in which more than 7000 employees and activists, mostly anganwadi employees and also including mid day meal workers, ICDS supervisors and CITU activists participated, despite serious hurdles created by the administration.

Joint trade union struggle on minimum wages: The state committee of CITU took initiative to launch

a joint trade union movement on the burning demands of the industrial workers in the state including minimum wages, abolition of contract labour system, effective implementation of labour laws and withdrawal of false cases against trade union activists. In the first phase of united struggles, mass deputations involving representatives of all the 6 trade unions - CITU, AITUC, INTUC, NTUI, CTU Punjab and HMS – were organised to the deputy commissioners of labour. Joint rallies were held all over the state on May Day, which evoked good response from the workers. Over 20000 workers participated in these rallies all over the state. CITU units held demonstrations at the factory gates and projects before joining the joint rallies.

A joint rally was held in Chandigarh on 11th May in which around 15000 workers participated. District committee meetings, gate meetings and general body meetings were held by the CITU as part of the campaign for the rally. This was followed by state wide 'chakka jam' on 14th June. Around 50000 workers participated in the 'chakka jam' in 100 places in all the 20 districts in the state; in many places anganwadi employees belonging to our union alone blocked the road traffic for several hours. To thwart the agitation, the government arrested 1000 workers in Amritsar; anganwadi employees were also arrested by the police in some places.

In the districts of Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Ropar, CITU organised contract drivers of Swaraj Mazda and launched struggles that resulted in a 300% increase in their wages. The brick kiln workers' union led successful struggles on the demand of wage rise. We won the struggle of the Grasim Cement factory workers in Bathinda and of the contract workers of Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering Technology.

Joint circle level dharnas were organised by the electricity employees' union against the bill curtailing the trade union rights of the workers, passed by the Punjab Assembly. Circle level demonstrations were also organised by the union on 30th April demanding regularisation of the contract workers and temporary workers and social security benefits. Intensive campaign was conducted through rallies/ meetings etc for the state level dharna in Patiala on 22nd June and for the strike on 7th July.

A joint rally was held in Chandigarh by PWD Field and Workshop workers on 11th March in which around 2000 workers were arrested.

A joint state level convention of paramedical employees was held on 15th May. Around 12000 employees participated in the joint dharna of the 3 federations of state government employees on 17th March; regional rallies were also held in Jalandhar and Patiala.

Rallies and demonstrations were organised in 20 places in the state against the attacks on the CITU and the Left in West Bengal. The state committee decided to continue the campaign.

Joint demonstrations and rallies were organised at the district level on 23rd June against the steep hike in the price of petrol; around 5000 workers participated. On 25th June demonstrations were held and effigies of the government burnt in 10 places against the hike in the price of diesel, cooking gas and kerosene.

The transport workers' union affiliated to CITU along with NTUI held a joint convention on 27th June against police repression on the agitating contract transport workers; around 100 workers participated.

Strike by state government employees and workers

10,000 workers and employees of CTU, electrical, horticulture, nursing staff, housing board, education, mechanical, road, building maintenance, sewerage, water supply, etc of the state government went to strike on 6th April at the call of the Coordination committee of government and municipal corporation employees & workers, bringing to halt the activities of all government departments. A large rally was staged on the same day at Sector-17, Chandigarh.

RAJASTHAN

Large number of workers belonging to the Cement Works Employees' Union staged a dharna before labour office protesting against the transfer of workers and for up gradation of wages from minimum wage to E Grade on 13 January.

TAMIL NADU

Public Sector Contractor Workers Convention

A state wide convention of representatives of contractor workers in CPSUs was held in Neyveli on 19th December in which more than 200 contractor workers from 13 PSUs like NLC, BHEL, SAIL and also BSNL and Railways participated. A state level contract workers' co-ordination committee was formed in the convention.

Foxconn

Workers of Foxconn resumed work after calling off the 58 day strike. The struggle made it clear that workers fully supported the CITU union. CITU approached Chennai High Court which directed to hold a secret ballot. Management has gone on appeal against it now.

State wide Campaign

CITU has conducted State wide Campaign for trade union recognition through secret ballot, minimum wages of Rs 10000, equal wages for equal work, implementation of 8 hrs' work, effective implementation of social security schemes for unorganised workers.

Campaigns, demonstrations and court arrest programmes were conducted by CITU workers from construction sector, state owned IMEL shop, beedi, water and Drainage Board, railway, state transport, electricity, Hindustan Photo Films etc during the last one month.

Successful strike in MNC in SEZ

703 regular workers including 125 women and 420 contract workers are employed in Sanmina, a multinational company in the SEZ in Oragadam in Kancheepuram district, manufacturing Tower Signal Equipments and other electronic items.

After formation of CITU union, management was not prepared to accept the right of workers to form a union, but the company was prepared to give wage increase if workers agree in writing not to have the union. At present wage paid is between Rs.3100 to Rs. 5300. Discussion with labour

department officials did not give any result and workers have gone on strike from 15th February, demanding recognition of union and wage increase. In the meanwhile, management put up advertisements in news papers for new recruitment of workers. Union approached Chennai High Court which restrained management from recruiting new workers. Despite this order, there were efforts to recruit workers, which were foiled by workers. Workers were also not allowed to go into the SEZ area and hold peaceful demonstration in front of the factory gates and on this issue also High Court directed the Development Commissioner and Police not to interfere in peaceful demonstrations inside SEZ premise and out the side factory gates of Sanmina.

The union organised a march to Chennai in 2 groups to represent to the Chief Minister on 3rd March. The police arrested around 200 workers along with CITU leaders and released them in the evening. Ultimately the management was forced to attend the discussions with the CITU union and reach an agreement on 16th March increasing the wages by Rs 1000 to 3000. The management conceded that its 40 years' tradition in 21 countries, of unilaterally increasing wages in June every year, was broken for the first time and it had to negotiate with the union on wage increase.

Other campaigns and struggles

A campaign of jathas, meetings, demonstrations and dharnas was held on the demands of a monthly minimum wage of Rs 10000, strict enforcement of 8 hours work, regularisation of contract labourers in jobs of perennial nature, trade union recognition through secret ballot etc. Around 2000 CITU activists participated in a two wheeler jathas held in different districts; thousands of workers were approached during the campaign.

A 2 days' strike against the rise in yarn price and another 2 days' strike against the increase in excise duty on garments were organised in Tiruppur by the manufacturers' associations, where around 4 lakh jobs are affected due to sudden closure of dying units by High Court order. Trade unions including CITU supported the strikes

38500 transport workers of the state transport corporation participated in the strike on 27th January called by the trade unions affiliated to CITU, ATP (ADMK), and AITUC etc against the wage agreement signed by the recognised union – LPF. 13500 participated in the hunger strike on 15th February.

300 civil supplies workers participated in a dharna organised on their demands.

A rally was held in Madurai on 8th March to observe the conclusion of the centenary of International Women's Day in which around 2000 working women from Madurai and neighbouring districts participated; seminars were held in Tiruppur (along with AIDWA) and Kancheepuram in which 350 and 500 women participated.

A District level contract workers' convention preceded by a procession demanding regularisation was held at Pudukottai on 6th March in which 2000 workers participated.

More than 1500 electricity employees participated in the meeting to celebrate 40th anniversary of CITU and the electricity union. An exhibition on the history of the union and cultural programmes were organised.

CITU affiliated union came first in the secret ballot held in Tuticorin V.O.C Port, securing 319 votes

out of the total 975 votes. SC/ST union came second and INTUC third. Our union maintained its representation as Labour Trustee in the board.

UTTAR PRADESH

Successful strike of JK Cotton Mill Workers

One day strike was observed in JK Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills Company Limited, Kanpur on January 18th January 2010 against the refusal of the management to take back all the workers after the illegal lock out was lifted by the management and demanding payment of arrears and wages.

Temporary Workers of the Noida Development Authority staged dharna continuously at Jhulelal Park in Lucknow from 23 May on demand of permanency of work, equal work equal pay, payment of salary through bank, etc.

Against lockout of JK Jute Mill

The CITU affiliated union at JK Jute Mills led a dharna on 21 April at Kanpur in front of the residence of the labour commissioner demanding lifting of lockout and implementation of labour laws.

Midday meal workers

A struggle against handing over the responsibility of cooking mid day meals to NGOs was organised in Deoria and other districts. Demonstrations were held in 7 blocks and one tehsil in Deoria district from 20th January onwards. Hundreds of midday meal workers participated in the dharna near the collectorate on 4th February despite the attempts by the police to stop them including at railway stations and bus stands. Ultimately the administration was forced to announce the cancellation of the contract to the NGOs. A victory rally was organised on the occasion in which more than 500 midday meal workers participated.

UTTARAKHAND

The Almora district conference of Uttarakhand ASHA Swasthya Karyakatri Union was held on 9th July in Almora. A procession and dharna were held on the occasion. A new district committee was elected in the conference, which decided to hold a dharna on 16th July. Asha workers are at present holding agitation at Hardwar against unilateral pay-cut by the state govt. The Anganwadi workers are also preparing for joint agitation for which state-level joint convention has been planned. During the intervening period, the state capital at Dehradun also witnessed number of demonstrations by the Anganwadi workers, industrial workers, transport workers, workers of Jal-nigam, Vikash-nigam.

WEST BENGAL

The CITU unions and committees in West Bengal have been actively busy in resisting the brutal attacks unleashed in the state by the TMC-Congress hoodlums with active patronage of police and administration. More than 300 union offices have been captured, many more attacked and ransacked and in many places workers belonging to CITU are being forcibly debarred from going to

their workplaces. In the struggle against such attacks and onslaughts already 5 CITU activists lost their lives.

Against such continuing attacks protest rallies and demonstrations have been and are being organised at district and subdivisional levels sometimes independently and sometimes jointly with other mass organisations. Sectoral mobilisations have also been organised in the area which are under direct attack. For example, Anganwadi workers demonstrated and submitted memorandums in number of districts against the attacks and disturbances being made by the TMC goons. In private transport sector also similar initiatives have been taken in many districts. State and district level rallies were also organised against price-rise and increase of petroleum prices after 23rd June.

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) Working Committee Meeting 29 - 31 July 2011, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

March to Parliament of 23rd February: A Brief Review

The joint call of the Central Trade Unions and Employees Federations for "March to parliament" on 23rd February 2011 has been responded to magnificently by the working people all over the country. The broadening of the joint platform and INTUC joining the same has created a kind of enthusiasm among common workers which got reflected in the mobilization as well.

The mobilization of 23rd February 2011 happened to be the biggest mobilization of workers in the national capital within a span of last one decade or so. More than 2.5 lakh workers got mobilized as per estimate. The major mobilization have been from AITUC and CITU and other constituents like AICCTU, AIUTUC, TUCC also took sincere effort to mobilize their strength and they might have mobilized around 7 to 10 thousand each. AITUC's mobilization has been bigger than CITU.

CITU's mobilization on 23rd February happened to be the biggest central mobilization made by CITU. This could become possible only because CITU units could be activated to a much higher extent in most of the states. Besides, there are certain political factors as well. Price rise and atrocities on labour fuelled by neoliberal policies have created serious resentment and anger among mass of the people and CITU campaigners could be made to reach a much broader section of workers with the effective campaign against the policies of the Govt and the call for united struggle. Near all in unity among the Central Trade Unions also had been a major factor in generating enthusiasm among the mass of the workers.

Another important factor has been a serious concern among the leading comrades and activists of CITU in the states in the post Parliament-election situation after the set-back suffered by the Left forces and continuing campaign and attack on the Left forces throughout the country which they conceived as a threat as well as challenge to the trade union and labour rights. This feeling of concern and the situation of challenge did really act in activating the CITU organization and heightening the level of initiative in the campaign for 23rd February March. Successive meetings of CITU since the 15th Lok Sabha elections consistently emphasized about the danger ahead and the challenges to be confronted by the working class movement in the country. Such effort has gone down well and the entire CITU organization in all levels and in most of the states took up the campaign for the March to Parliament as a challenging task to combat the challenges thrown before them by the changed political situation. This led to activation of the CITU organization in a much greater degree in most of the states.

CITU Centre took initiative to ensure active involvement of all the state committees and federations for intensive campaign on the five point demands and for mobilization on 23rd February. Two-day meeting of the Extended Secretariat involving General Secretaries of all the State Committees and Industrywise Federation was held on 26-28 November 2010 to discuss in detail the preparation for state and industry level campaign and in the said meeting the quota for statewide participation totaling a target of 1,54,000 mobilisation for the 'Parliament March' was finalized.

The meeting of the General Council of CITU held on 8-11 January 2011 also reviewed in detail the preparatory campaign for the Parliament March.

CITU Centre made advance planning for arranging camps for the participants and other logistics for the rally and also for monitoring campaign. Delhi State Committee of CITU also took part actively in making arrangements including supplying volunteers for the camps and other central requirements. Around 150 volunteers were drawn from adjoining states like UP, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. The Centre also took initiative along with other trade unions to negotiate route of the procession with Delhi Police and had to bargain hard to ensure that the procession could reach the Parliament Street. Around Rs 21 lakh have to be spent by CITU Centre alone for constructing camp at Ramlila Maidan and decorating both the camp and the procession, wall writing at Delhi and other arrangements. Besides that the State Committees and Federations also spent a lot for campaign materials and programmes and participation in the rally and total expenditure by the states also must be over crore.

The state level preparatory campaign for the Parliament March has also been comparatively better organized in all the states. All the state committees and Federations met well in advance to plan detail programmes of campaign and mobilization in Delhi rally. In Punjab, besides independent campaign by CITU, joint campaign programmes were also organized effectively. Effort for joint campaign for the mobilization was also made in other states like Orissa, Karnataka etc but it did not get much response.

But most of the state committees of CITU made serious effort to campaign on the issues and for mobilization through industrywise and regional meetings, group meetings and street corner meetings, state and district level jathas besides issuing leaflets, pamphlets, posters and other campaign materials by the state committees. As per reports received from various states committees of CITU, on the average not less than 30000 leaflets and 15000 posters were printed and circulated by the state committee in each state. Besides that district committees also printed leaflets and other campaign materials in many states. In certain states like Orissa, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi leaflets and posters circulated was well above 50000 from the state level in each state and if district level and federation/union level publications are taken into account, it has crossed lakhs.

From the reports received from various states and also information gathered by the Centre, most of the unions and district committees in the state could be activated in the campaign for the Parliament March and participation in the Delhi rally was also from almost all the districts from most of the states.

Unlike previous occasions, this time, most of the state committees also printed badges, caps, sunshade-caps etc with CITU emblems in good numbers for the participants from the respective states to ensure participation of CITU more visible. From the CITU Centre also sufficient numbers

of flags, banners, caps, badges and sunsheds-caps, slogan-placards were arranged for properly decorating our procession to ensure greater visible-impact of CITU participation in the rally. All taken together, CITU's visible participation in the rally created good enthusiasm among the comrades from all the states.

As per reports received from the states and also information gathered there-from, The total mobilization from CITU in the Delhi rally was around 76000. And estimated 40 per cent of the participants were women workers. This mobilization do not include the mobilization by State Govt and Central Govt employees and employees of Banks, insurance, defence and other sectors not affiliated with CITU.

There have been certain failures as well. As we have indicated, not all the state committees did take required initiative for the campaign due to various reasons. The mobilization and campaign and initiative taken by the concerned State Committee so far as the report with the CITU Centre is concerned is far from satisfactory in at least three states compared to their organizational capability and potential. Had not these shortcomings been there, CITU's mobilization would have been the biggest of all.

On 22nd February 2011, a demonstration before Parliament was organized by All India Fisheries workers' Federation. Around 539 workers took part in the demonstration.

On 24th February 2011, a joint demonstration of the Anganwadi workers and Helpers were held at the joint initiative of Anganwadi unions affiliated to CITU, AITUC, HMS and INTUC. Around 20000 workers participated of which CITU's mobilization was 11232.

In conclusion we must note, the initiative that could have been unleashed at all levels of CITU organization and activation of our cadres that could have been achieved up to union level in most of the states must be sustained and improved further. For that follow-up independent initiative by CITU to carry on grass root level campaign on the issues facing the working class and the five point demands of the Joint Platform must be planned carried on at the state and federation levels and that must percolate down to union level.

The focus of our initiative must be to develop unified understanding among the mass of the workers across the affiliations on the demands and issues and also on the alternative being projected by us on all issues. We must consciously make efforts to cross the barriers to address the workers not affiliated to us and also the non-unionised segment. That will facilitate developing class understanding among the workers. That will also facilitate to sustain the unity of the trade unions, broaden it further and also heighten the next course of united action.

In view of the attacks that are forthcoming on labour rights and livelihood and through neoliberal policies, conscious follow-up initiative and activation of the organization at all levels are of paramount importance.

The statewise and sectorwise participation in 23rd February 2011 "March to Parliament" is given as follows

State wise Participation in March to Parliament of 23rd February 2011

Sl no	State	Participation
1	AP	1600
2	Assam	550
3	Bihar	3000
4	Chattisgarh	513
5	Delhi	4900
6	Gujarat	1600
7	Haryana	1254
8	HP	1000
9	J&K	700
10	Jharkhand	1000
11	Karnataka	2597
12	Kerala	1950
13	MP	5160
14	Maharashtra	8650
15	Odisha	3500
16	Punjab	15000
17	Rajasthan	4500
18	Tamil Nadu	4000
19	Tripura	47
20	UP	3305
21	Uttarakhand	1065
22	West Bengal	2000
	Total	79,184

Federation wise details of participation

Confederation of Central Government Employees' And Workers	4000
All India State Government Employees' Federation	10000
Atomic Energy employees	52
BSNL employees	500
Water Transport Workers' Federation of India	1028
Electricity Employees' Federation of India	10000
All India Road Transport Workers' Federation	5000
Steel Workers Federation of India	400
All India Plantation Workers' Federation	429
All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers And Helpers	10732
ASHA Workers	3090
Mid Day Meal Workers	2833
All India Fishers and Fisheries Workers' Federation	539
FMRAI	1200
All India Defence Employees Federation	3062

(Besides this, Bank Employees Federation of India and All India Insurance Employees Federation also organized a substantial mobilization.)

STATEMENT SHOWING STATEWISE MEMBERSHIP AS PER ANNUAL RETURNS RECEIVED TILL-20/07/2011

Name of the State	Unions Submitting Returns			Position of membership according to Annual Returns					
	2008	2009	2010	2008	Female	2009	Female	2010	Female
Andaman & Nicobar	7	8	0	2992	0	2965	0	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	717	684	556	443851	131229	570358	164594	480441	173245
Assam	85	58	70	71991	31854	63647	31455	76151	34763
Bihar	18	2	1	24762	11575	4590	72	5277	32
Delhi	75	76	42	36795	1769	34617	1761	19056	1028
Goa	5	7	0	677	0	1169	46	0	0
Gujrat	25	22	0	14849	2101	14968	893	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	44	51	26	40523	24447	40824	23069	30081	22194
Haryana	46	43	36	67255	18108	79390	24243	86597	22882
Jammu & Kashmir	2	4	1	4372	32	1600	0	381	60
Karnataka	129	120	47	161228	95297	169729	101190	54858	21739
Kerala	852	739	267	1271057	377513	1224373	390176	453682	143330
Madhya Pradesh	77	74	10	31516	8683	31258	8398	11168	4321
Maharashtra	99	99	46	113732	55115	126834	64218	65627	39803
Orissa	76	53	32	108780	35807	67694	8953	22737	3670
Punjab	69	68	69	79000	15240	77050	18379	90824	18317
Rajasthan	72	62	14	40343	2971	17821	373	4604	1
Tamilnadu	596	552	4	522146	123217	519847	140469	985	680
Tripura	43	38	7	161049	46527	162716	63162	53467	25875
Uttar Pradesh	103	55	23	32258	703	12637	112	803	66
West Bengal	1182	1073	637	1793087	278084	1350339	223112	900735	223489
Uttaranchal	51	45	3	20102	5761	14110	4400	0	0
Chhatisgharh	22	2	0	21712	2830	11305	210	0	0
Jharkhand	33	11	1	99503	22759	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	1	0	0	2560	1000	0	0	0	0
Total	4429	3946	1892	5166140	1292622	4599841	1269285	2357474	735495

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

COM. P.RAMAMOORTI T.U. SCHOOL FUND as on 20.07.2011

CITU, Andaman & Nicobar	Rs.5,600.00
CITU, A.P. State Committee	Rs.1,726,399.00
CITU, Assam State Committee	Rs.15,000.00
CITU, Bihar State Committee	Rs.25,560.00
CITU, Chhattisgarh State Committee	Rs.46,321.00
CITU, Delhi State Committee	Rs.56,687.00
CITU, Goa State Committee	Rs.1,206.00
CITU, Gujarat State Committee	Rs.1,000.00
CITU, H.P. State Committee	Rs.20,000.00
CITU, Haryana State Committee	Rs.109,040.00
CITU, J & K State Committee	Rs.1,240.00
CITU, Jharkhand State Committee	Rs.6,500.00
CITU, Karnataka State Committee	Rs.315,070.00
CITU, Kerala State Committee	Rs.3,612,998.00
CITU, M.P. State Committee	Rs.69,274.00
CITU, Maharashtra State Committee	Rs.520,000.00
CITU, Orissa State Committee	Rs.54,251.00
CITU, Punjab State Committee	Rs.101,147.00
CITU, Rajasthan State Committee	Rs.27,000.00
CITU, Tamilnadu State committee	Rs.721,150.00
CITU, Tripura State Committee	Rs.210,000.00
CITU, U.P. State Committee	Rs.36,310.00
CITU, Uttarakhand State Committee	Rs.21,500.00
CITU, West Bengal State Committee	Rs.1,000,000.00
2nd World Conference of Oil, Gas, Refinery Trade Union	Rs.700,000.00
All India Co-ordination Committee of Sail Employees' Union, W.B.	Rs.20,000.00
All India Road Transport Workers Federation (towards space to be occupied)	Rs.814,000.00
All India State Government Employees Federation	Rs.1,000,000.00
Association of SAIL Employees, Kolkata, W.B.	Rs.40,000.00
Bank Employees Federation of India, Kolkata	Rs.500,000.00
Central Zone Insurance Employees Association, Chhatishgarh	Rs.50,000.00
Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India, W.B.	Rs.100,000.00
Com. E.Balanandan	Rs.11,111.00
Com. R.Vaigai	Rs.50,000.00
Electricity Employees Federation of India(towards space to be occupied)	Rs.2,500,000.00
Hindustan Steel Employees Union, Kolkata	Rs.20,000.00
Jean Pierre Page (Foreign Delegate)	Rs.1,000.00
K.Vaidyanathan, Tamilnadu	Rs.500.00
R.Rajalakshmi, Chengalpattu, T.N.	Rs.5,000.00
TOTAL	Rs.14,509,264.00

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)
Working Committee Meeting
29 - 31 July 2011, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

Resolutions

On Condolence

This Working Committee meeting of CITU being held at Kulu, Himachal Pradesh, from 29 to 31 July, 2011 deeply mourns the passing away of Comrade Baidyanath Majumdar. He was a former Vice-President of CITU and also was General Secretary of State CITU. He was elected five times as an MLA in the Tripura Assembly. He was also Transport and PWD minister of Tripura. He was a popular leader who played an important role in building harmony among the tribals, Manipuris and refugees in the post independence period.

This Working Committee mourns the death of Com. R. Parameswaran Pillai, a senior leader of Kerala state CITU and a General Council Member of CITU. This Working Committee pays homage to the memory of Com. K.P. Sugunan, a member of our General Council and Secretary of Kottayam District Committee of CITU. His was an untimely death in harness as he collapsed during a meeting on the day of a statewide bandh on the issue of endosulphan.

The Working Committee condoles the demise of Com. Laxman Bagdi a former General Council Member of CITU and a veteran leader of Coal Workers movement in West Bengal who died on 17th July 2011 at Ranigang after prolonged illness.

This meeting expresses deep sorrow on the death of veteran trade union leader Com. Chaturanan Mishra, President of AITUC during 1983-89. He was also a former Agriculture Minister in the UF Govt. at the Centre.

The Working Committee pays homage to the memory of Com. V.G. Padmanabhan, Senior leader of CITU in Maharashtra. He was a founder leader of all India Defence Employees Federation.

This meeting mourns the death of Comrade Vinayak Gaikwad, Maharashtra State Vice President of All India Kisan Sabha.

This Working Committee meeting is deeply grieved by the death of Comrade Nizamuddin Khan, former MLA in Assam. He was a popular leader and was President of the Assam State Kisan Sabha.

This Working Committee meeting expresses its deep sorrow at the death of Comrade T.K.Ghosh, President, All India Reserve Bank Employees Association.

This meeting mourns the passing away of Comrade C Bhaskaran founder president of the Student Federation of India. He was editor of the 'Chinta' publication and author of several books on left politics, ideology and history.

This meeting condoles the demise of Comrade Chandrabali Singh, A prominent literary figure, Chandrabali Singh was the founding general secretary of the Janvadi Lekhak Sangh. He made a big contribution to the progressive literary movement.

This Working Committee meeting of CITU is deeply grieved by the death of veteran West Bengal leader, Mustafa bin Kashem, a sitting MLA from West Bengal and a former Rajya Sabha member. This Working Committee meeting of the CITU, in Kulu, mourns the demise of internationally reputed painter Maqbool Fida Husain. He had made a signal contribution in reworking the aesthetic traditions of India including especially the tradition of iconographic innovation. After a decade of standing up to threats to his person and vandalising of his art works in public spaces by the Hindu fundamentalists in India, M F Husain went into a self-imposed exile in 2006 and finally breathed his last in London. We express our condolences to his family.

This meeting also mourns the death of Ma Sisulu, a legend in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. She was put behind bars several times for her participation in these struggles. She was a leader of the United Democratic Front and was President of World Peace Council from 1993 to 1996.

This meeting pays its condolences to the hundreds of people of Japan who lost their lives in the earthquakes and tsunamis in March this year. Thousands of people lost their homes and are still living in temporary shelters. The meeting also expresses solidarity with the people affected by the toxic emissions from the nuclear plant at Fukushima.

This meeting expresses sorrow at the death of scores of passengers in the Kalka Mail who lost their lives in an accident caused by sheer neglect of the rail safety system and also those who died in the earlier rail accident in Uttar Pradesh.

This Working Committee meeting of CITU also mourns the death of innocent people in Mumbai who were killed in the serial blasts by terrorists, on 13 July 2011. In the past decade there have been numerous serial blasts in this city which the administration has been unable to prevent.

On Martyrs

This Working Committee meeting of the CITU being held on 29-31 July 2011 at Kullu, Himachal Pradesh pays respectful homage to those leaders and activists of the working class, peasants and democratic movements who laid down their lives and embraced martyrdom in the fight against exploitation and tyranny braving the attacks of the ruling class all over the world.

The CITU Working Committee also salutes those peasants and villagers of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh who were killed by police firing while fighting against forcible land acquisition and construction at Jaitapur (for Nuclear Power Plant) and Bhatta-Parasul respectively.

The Working Committee meeting of CITU condemns the continuing barbaric and murderous attacks on the activists and even common members of trade unions, kisan sabha and other mass organisations in West Bengal by the Congress Trinamool hoodlums with the active patronage of police and administration after the announcement of election result. Trade union offices are being set on fire and ransacked, Left supporters are being physically attacked, women including the anganwadi employees are molested and tortured, houses set in fire. The poor peasants and

bargadars are being evicted from their lands, standing crops are being looted by the armed goons of Trinamool Congress. Many of our comrades from trade union, peasants and democratic movement and even common peasants and agricultural workers have been killed while braving such brutal attack. Till date 27 leading activists of the democratic movement were killed including five from the trade unions, CITU in particular; the number is increasing every day. The CITU Working Committee while expressing solidarity with the resistance struggle carried on by the democratic people of West Bengal against the state-sponsored brutality and onslaughts, salutes with respect those who embraced martyrdom in that struggle and conveys condolence to their bereaved friends and family members.

condemns the barbaric attacks on trade union leaders and members, and left party activists and leaders, by the Trinamul Congress hooligans, who have killed more than 27 of them, ransacked or occupied dozens of their offices, burned scores of houses and ousted hundreds from their habitations. This meeting pays its homage to those killed and expresses its heartfelt condolences to their families. It calls upon all democratic and progressive people in the country to express solidarity with the struggling people of West Bengal.

Against Price Rise

The Working Committee meeting of CITU being held in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh on 29-31 July 2011 strongly denounces Govt of India's total inaction and apathy to the sufferings of the people, caused by relentless price rise of all essential commodities and food items in particular during last three years. The Working Committee reiterates that the ongoing price rise is not merely an issue of shortage in supplies to match the demands but a result of anti poor policy of the present govt to reduce subsidy to the people for the sake of giving more and more incentives to the corporate and traders to garner as much profit as possible through speculative trading in commodity market. In fact the Govt of the day has been promoting continuing rise in prices of essential commodities including food grains to ensure windfall profit of the corporate traders, hoarders and speculators class.

Govt's arrogant refusal to accept the joint demand of all central trade unions to ban speculative trading in commodity market and to universalize Public Distribution System (PDS) clearly shows its apathy to the plight of the common man, notwithstanding repeated false assurances by Prime Minister and his team to bring down the prices. Such assurances were mere political gimmicks and govt showed its true colors by raising the price of petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG just after assembly elections in five states, knowing fully well that price rise of petroleum products would have cascading effect in the already rising prices of all essential commodities. Govt's decision to deregulate pricing of petroleum products and fertilizer is going to further refuel inflation as the food grain prices are bound to go high in such deregulated scenario.

CITU Working Committee demands that govt should immediately roll back the prices of petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG. The Working Committee further demands universalisation of Public Distribution System and a complete ban on future trading in commodity market. The working committee further calls upon the working people, all over the country to go ahead with massive united action on these demands.

Against attack on Trade Unions and Democratic Movement in West Bengal

The Working Committee meeting of CITU, being held in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh on 29th to 31st July 2011, expresses deep anguish and anger over concerted attacks on the activists of the trade union and other democratic movements by Trinamool Congress backed goons and anti-socials in West Bengal, after the change in government in the state.

The Working Committee expresses its deep concern at the planned assault on the democratic rights of the people of West Bengal in general and the trade union rights in particular. Right to work as enshrined in our Constitution is being violated as thousand of workers belonging to CITU and other left trade unions and even many of INTUC are not being allowed to join their places of work in their respective establishments, under threat, intimidation and murderous attacks of Trinamool goons. More than 300 trade union offices of CITU and other Left trade unions have been forcibly occupied or destroyed by Trinamool Congress workers. The loyalties of trade union activists are being changed through coercion and intimidation. Five CITU leaders and total 27 activists of the democratic movement have been brutally murdered ; the numbers are increasing every day. Workers of Left trade unions are being booked under false charges with the police acting at the behest of Trinamool Congress in several cases.

The Working Committee further expresses its grave concern over the attacks on the bargadars and pattadars in the rural areas of West Bengal, who are being forcibly evicted from their lands, their standing crops being either looted or destroyed. At Haroa in North 24 Paraganas district alone, 10000 poor and marginal farmers who were given around 7663 bighas of land during Left Front rule have forcibly been evicted. 2219 bargadars/pattadars have been evicted from 1199 bighas of land in Burdwan District. In other districts also similar forcible eviction is taking place every day.

The Working Committee of CITU strongly denounces the attempts of the present state government in West Bengal to snatch away the rights of workers and peasants which were achieved during the 34 years rule of the Left Front.

The Working Committee of CITU salutes CITU comrades in West Bengal who are fearlessly fighting against such dastardly attacks to uphold the trade union and other democratic rights.

The CITU Working Committee calls upon the working class and all other democratic forces throughout the country to condemn unequivocally such heinous attacks perpetrated on the trade union movement of West Bengal and demands the Trinamool Congress led government to immediately stop all such atrocities and attacks on the working class and people and restore normalcy in the state at once.
