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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

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PRESS COMMUNIQUE

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CITU OFFICER BEARERS CRITICISE THE ORDINANCE TO TAKE
OVER INDUSTRIAL UNITS

The extended meeting of the Office-bearers of the CITU held in Calcutta on 7th November strongly criticised some of the retrograde provisions of the Ordinance and demanded changes in them when the Ordinance is brought before Parliament for enactment.

The trade union movement in India has been demanding take-over of closed factories by the Government and restore the jobs to those thrown out of employment. Through this Ordinance the Government has belatedly accepted the responsibility in this direction but has loaded it with so many conditions adverse to the interests of the working class.

The Ordinance does not make it obligatory on the Government to take over every closed or mismanaged unit. On the contrary it enables the Government to suspend implementation of all Labour Legislation and to curtail trade union and democratic rights. It fails to protect the workers from retrenchment measures and from offensive of reduction in wages, D.A. and of increased workload and working hours.

The Ordinance provides the non-payment of liabilities of the companies for 5 years. It however does not ensure that the wages, PF arrears of leave and other claims of the workers will not be affected by this provision of the Ordinance.

In the name of reopening of the closed units and giving relief to the workers the authorities seek to launch unprecedented attacks on the living conditions of the workers which the private sector employers have been demanding all these days. This amounts to exploiting the miserable conditions of unemployed workers to reduce the cost of labour.

The meeting therefore called upon the working class to campaign unitedly so that the Government is forced to withdraw the retrograde provisions of the Ordinance and modify them in favour of the workers.

Com. B.T. Ranadive, President CITU presided over the meeting. Apart from the office-bearers the working committee members of the CITU available in Calcutta were invited to participate in the meeting.

The CITU considers the appointment of the HMS leader Sri Bagaram Tulpule by the Government as General Manager of Durgapur Steel Plant as an attempt to corrupt and divide the trade union movement. It is amazing to see a trade union leader accepting a paid job of the Government and confronting the workers on behalf of the employing authority. The CITU is shocked to find that HMS allowed him to accept this position by which Sri Tulpule will be used by the Steel Ministry to carry forward its anti-working class policy.

The CITU office-bearers condemned the murderous attacks on the CITU leaders in Durgapur and called upon the CITU units to campaign all over India against these attacks.

Com. P. Ramamurti, General Secretary gave a report on the unity talks with different trade union organisations. The meeting decided to redouble the efforts to build a powerful unity in various States on the basis of 8-point programme chalked out by the Convention held in Delhi in May last. The office-bearers however sharply attacked the talks between AITUC, HMS and INTUC leaders behind the backs of workers on the question of recognition of trade unions wherein an attempt is being made to give up the settlement of recognition issue through **secret** ballot.

The office-bearers whole-heartedly supported the demand of private college teachers in Kerala that their salary should be paid directly by the Government and condemns the Achutha Menon Government for not conceding the just demand. The Kerala Government which accepted this demand earlier is only protecting the irregular practice of the management of the Education Institutions in the State. The CITU calls upon all the trade unions to rally behind the Kerala private college teachers so that the Achutha Menon Government is forced to concede their just demands.

The office-bearers decided to hold the next meeting of the working committee of the CITU in the last week of January next year. The date and venue of the meeting will be finalised by the office-bearers in consultation with various State Committees.

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

For

To

The Chief Correspondent,
