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THE WORKING CLASS

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RALLY AT GHAZIABAD ON 27.5.99

WORKING WOMEN: 20 YEARS' REVIEW

One session of the General Council of CITU at Ghaziabad was devoted for discussion on the work among working women since the last 20 years, after the formation of the AICCWW. A note was presented which formed the basis for the discussion.

The note briefly reviewed the efforts made and the experience gained in the last two decades. It was observed that the efforts of the AICCWW have contributed in getting more attention to the specific issues of the working women. These issues are now more frequently discussed in various fora of the central TUs, office employees' organisations, NGOs, as well as the government. Many trade unions and employees' association have formed women's sub-committees.

The awareness of the many State and some district committees of CITU, towards the issue has increased to some extent. Some State committees have discussed the issue and prepared a plan. A few State committees have allotted full time cadre for the work. Some unions include the demands of working women in their charter of demands. Issues like sexual harassment and equal remuneration are taken up by some CITU affiliated unions and CITU committees. Almost all the State committees of CITU have women members and many have 1 or 2 office bearers. The representation of women in the committees of the federations in industries with large number of women has also increased, though marginally. Formation of the All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers has helped in starting the anganwadi union in many States, which in turn helped in the increased participation of women in the activities of the CITU. 'The Voice of the Working Women' is being published continuously for the last 19 years and efforts are on to improve its quality and circulation. Efforts are being made to start a Hindi newsletter.

PERSISTING WEAKNESSES

But, the note pointed out that in spite of these achievements, weaknesses do persist. The membership of women in CITU has only increased marginally. Many States elect women to the committees because of pressure from the Centre but do not make efforts to ensure their presence in the meetings or to develop their trade union skills and organisational abilities. In many federations

in industries with substantial strength of women, the leadership is largely dominated by men. Lack of sufficient women cadre hampers organising the large sections of women who are left entirely unorganised. Besides, the continuation of the attitude of underestimating the capacities of women, lack of clarity on the functioning of the Coordination Committees also contributes to the apathy of many committees in paying attention to organise the working women.

FUTURE TASKS

The circulation of 'The Voice of the Working Women' is also far below the available opportunities.

After emphasising the importance of organising working women by CITU, particularly in the present situation, by overcoming these weaknesses, the note has suggested the following tasks:

i) All the CITU State Committees should discuss the issue of working women, identify priorities and prepare a time bound plan and review the work periodically.

ii) State Coordination Committees should be formed wherever they do not exist and should be activated where they already exist.

iii) Industrial federations, guided directly by the All India centre, in industries with large women workforce like beedi, plantation, construction, steel and coal, etc., should hold special conventions and form sub-committees.

iv) Special classes should be conducted for working women activists at the State and industry levels.

v) Wherever possible, a full timer, preferably woman, should be allotted for work among working women.

vi) An office bearer of the State committee, working from the State Centre should be given the responsibility of this work. Suggestions were placed for increasing the circulation of "The Voice of the Working Women" with the CITU unions subscribing at least one copy and enrolling subscribers from middle class women utilising our fraternal contacts.

All the States present in the General Council meeting participated in the discussion that followed and endorsed the observations made in the note and agreed to undertake the tasks suggested.

THE WORKING CLASS

CITU MONTHLY

JULY 1999

Here & Now
Sudhir Tailang



Courtesy: The Hindustan Times

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The war-like situation on the actual line of control on Indo-Pak border in Kargil sector is met by our armed forces in a heroic - yet restrained - manner.

The Pakistan effort to alter the LOC by pushing in the infiltrators backed by armed regulars has to be defeated squarely and decisively.

Hundreds of our valiant jawans have become martyrs in the process. Stories of tearful *adieu* to their mortal remains in different parts of the country—from where they hailed—and the names on the roll call of honour, convey a distinct and categorical message: **sons of our great Indian soil from every State in east west south and north and Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians, are united in defending the country, repulsing the enemy attack and making the supreme sacrifices!** It is this unity in purpose and action that needs to be preserved—not only on the borders and the armed forces but also throughout the country.

Political parties, institutions, mass organisations have all come out in full throated support to the national effort to throw the infiltrators out and expressed solidarity with the armed forces.

It is only hoped that the limited conflict in the Kargil sector will end sooner than later and both Pakistan and India will exercise restraint to ensure that the situation is not allowed to drift and escalate further. And vigilance must be exercised so as not to allow space to imperialist power to built in and play their game!

But there are disquieting questions surfacing, which the BJP Govt is duty bound to answer, if not today, tomorrow.

Why there was let up on the part of defence ministry and intelligence agencies, that the infiltration, normally attempted in this part of the year when the icy peaks start melting, was not noticed in time?

Who was responsible for allowing the infiltrators to get control of around 50 sq.km of our territory, setting up camps and bunkers with a solid back-up supply line, our own air force to resort to aerial bombing of our own territory ?

What was the necessity for the irrepressible defence minister George Fernandes to indulge in irresponsible statements, first issuing an unsolicited clean chit to the Nawaz Sharif Govt and its killer outfit, the ISI, and next to offer to consider safe passage of exit to the militants-infiltrators who had crossed the LOC?

Why the constitutional impropriety of senior officers of the armed forces being asked to brief a BJP meet, bypassing the Army-Chief? Will the BJP rulers honestly admit that their much hyped Bus Diplomacy and Bomb Deterrance have floundered in Kargil?

These questions, when answered, will establish clearly that the BJP rule is utterly irresponsible and totally incapable of putting its acts together, even in such a sensitive matter, over which the entire nation is united.

Let these things wait for the time being. Let us all unitedly back our warriors in the front and extend our moral and material support to the families of martyrs!

CITU GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING AT GHAZIABAD

The General Council session of CITU has given the clarion call to the working class to build up broadest unity of the workers and common people in the fight against the ruinous policy of the BJP led Govt at the Centre.

The General Council held its session on 28-30 May 1999 at Ghaziabad and deliberated in detail the tasks before the working class and the trade union movement.

The three day long session of the General Council took many important decisions and adopted resolutions. 270 members from all corners of the country attended the session, besides, invitees from the fraternal organisations and federations from Bank, Insurance, pharmaceuticals and other sectors.

The meeting commenced with the condolence resolution offering homage to the martyrdom of the three women tea garden workers of Assam, who were killed by the gangsters engaged by the management. The meeting also condoled the demise of the leaders of the working class and democratic movement both at home and

abroad.

In his presidential address, E Balanandan, President of CITU detailed out the developments in the international arena.

Jean Pierre Page, head of the International Dept. of Confederation of French Trade Unions (CGT-France) also attended the General Council session of CITU. Greeting the CITU General Council, Page congratulated the CITU for its initiative to unite the working class in the struggle against globalisation and imperialism and stated about the struggle of French workers against neo-liberal onslaught.

The General Secretary's report placed by M K Pandhe, General Secretary CITU reviewed the activities and struggles conducted by the CITU units during last one year against the twin attacks of the liberalisation policy and the communal forces in governance. It emphasised on redoubling the initiative of the trade union movement, to build up broadest unity of the class against this govt's anti-national and anti-people policies.

Thirty nine members participated in the deliberations on the General Secretary's

report. The speakers, while making a self-critical review of the report and the activities in various sectors, stressed the need to unleash a series of campaigns and agitations against the attacks on the working class.

Pandhe also reported to the General Council regarding the decision of CITU Working Committee on setting up of an Institute of Labour Studies and Education to be operated from BTR Memorial Bhawan. The Institute is expected to build up a TU Library and carry on studies/research on various aspects related to labour and conduct regular trade union education programmes.

The General Council also made a thorough review of 20 years' work of CITU on the working women's front. All India Coordination Committee of Working Women was formed by CITU 20 years before, to organise the working women in trade union movement in a bigger way to ensure greater participation and involvement of women workers at all levels of the trade union movement. A separate discussion paper on the subject was introduced by K



Hemalata.

Twenty five members from various States took part in the deliberations on the paper and endorsed its conclusions.

The General Council adopted unanimously resolutions against NATO bombardment on Yugoslavia and on recent developments on Indo-Pak border.

The last day of the session on 30th May was also the 29th foundation day of CITU. Hence the concluding session of the General Council was devoted to observance of the Foundation Day. It was addressed by Samar Mukherjee, (Vice President), Chittabrata Mazumdar and K N Ravindranath (both Secretaries) and also Jean P Page of CGT-France.

E Balanandan delivered the concluding speech and stressed on vigorous initiatives to be taken by the CITU affiliates to build up broadest unity of the working class to prepare for fulfilment of its historic task.

The General Council also decided to co-opt Ardhendu Dakshi and K Hemalata in the CITU Secretariat as Secretaries. A massive rally was held at Ghaziabad on the 27th May 1999, participated by thousands of workers, including a large section of women. The meeting was addressed by E Balanandan, M K Pandhe, S B Bhardwaj, Mohanlal, Tiwari and others.

The Working Committee of the CITU met at the same venue on 27th morning and approved the agenda of the General Council meeting, besides giving a final shape to the proposal for setting up a Research and Training Institute.

COMRADE SAROJ CHAUDHURY PASSES AWAY A VACUUM DIFFICULT TO FILL UP

Comrade Saroj Chaudhury passed away at Calcutta in the early hours of 16th June '99 at the age of 72 years leaving behind his wife and two daughters and a large number of admirers in the entire spectrum of trade union movement, particularly in the insurance industry all over the country.

Sarojda, as he was fondly and respectfully called by friends and colleagues alike, had endeared himself with his amiable nature, his vast knowledge in almost every subject, his oratory, his flair of writing, to anybody who had come in contact with him, friend or foe alike. In leisure hours, he kept his company of friends spell bound by his vast source of information and deep analyses in the subjects of discussion.

He has left behind All India Insurance Employees' Association, as an epitome of his outstanding organising capabilities. He was General Secretary of the organisation that he, along with Com. Sunil Maitra had built from the scratch, for 29 years and made it the most powerful organisation of Insurance Employees. Later he played a leading role in organising the employees of General Insurance, to build a strong all India organisation.

He was born in 1927 near Dhaka, now in Bangladesh. At an early age he joined Hindustan Insurance Company and engaged himself to organise the insurance employees. He was among those who built up a strong movement for nationalisation of hundreds of private insurance companies notorious for their dishonesty and malpractices. Birth of LIC is the result of that movement. At a later stage, in the anti automation struggle, and the movement against the move for splitting up of Insurance Corporation and the recent struggle against privatisation of Insurance Sector, which created sensation in the entire trade union movement, Comrade Saroj Choudhury was one of the central personalities.

Even at an advanced age, he joined the CITU headquarters and took up the job as Treasurer while continuing his regular contributions to PD and other journals and also organisational work.

In the last two years he was suffering from blood cancer and retired from active organisational work.

The CITU and the working people will for ever remember his great contribution in organising the office employees, the struggle for bonus, the struggle against wage freeze and lately the great struggle against privatisation.

The legacy will be inherited but the vacuum is difficult to fill up.

The CITU and 'The Working Class' pay homage to the memory of Com. Sarojda and offer condolences to the bereaved members of the family.

PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES PREPARE FOR STRIKE

An extended meeting of the Committee of Public Sector Unions (CPSTU), consisting of AITUC, CITU, HMS, Joint Action Front Bangalore and PSU Trade Union Co-ordination Committee, Hyderabad and also some independent trade unions held on 15-16 June '99 at New Delhi called upon the public sector workers all over the country to unitedly fight the anti-PSU and anti-worker policy of the Govt of India

The meeting was presided over by a Presidium comprising of Jibon Roy (CITU), J.Chittaranjan (AITUC), R.A.Mital, (HMS), Michael B Fernandes (JAF, Bangalore) and Y.Adinarayana (PSU Co-ordination Committee/ Hyderabad) and was attended by around 200 delegates.

The meeting offered heartfelt condolences and respectful homage to the valiant martyrs of Indian armed forces who laid down their lives in the Kargil front. CPSTU called upon the public sector workers to stand by our armed forces extending moral and generous material support.

The CPSTU session expressed serious concern and indignation at the vigorous pursuance of anti-public sector policy by the Govt. of India. Sick Public Sector units are being pushed towards closure and liquidation and workers are not even getting their salaries, sometimes for months together. On the other hand profit making PSUs are pushed to serious cash crunch crisis situation being robbed of resources in the name of disinvestment/cross-holding of shares by the Government.

Discriminatory policies against PSUs are continuously intensified and concessions are liberally granted to the Indian and foreign private sector at the cost of our public sector. While remaining silent onlooker to wide spread dumping of foreign products in Indian market, the Govt. of India is also slashing down import duties much to the detriment of the interest of the domestic industries. In totality, PSUs in the country are confronting a suicidal and liquidationist policy of the Govt. of the day sacrificing national interests.

Public Sector Workers are also worst affected by the policy of the Govt., on the question of their service conditions, compensation package and trade union rights. The DPE guidelines for the wage revision already delayed by more than two and a half year have re-imposed ban on wage revision for the workers of Sick PSUs and have practically put an embargo on meaningful wage negotiations for others. The recommendations of Justice Mohan Committee for wage of PSU executives have added fuel to the already complicated situation by proposing 10 years' term wage revision which has also been prescribed for the workers by the DPE guidelines. All these taken together, the situation is one of practically denying wage revision to overwhelming majority of the PSU workers.

In such a background, the extended session of the CPSTU resolved to launch once again a countrywide united vigorous

struggle. The meeting adopted the following specific burning demands of the PSU workers.

1. Expeditious revival of and not closure of the sick PSUs and withdrawal of closure order of eight PSUs and regular payment of salaries to the workers.
2. Immediate stoppage of privatisation/disinvestment in PSUs
3. Immediate commencement of meaningful wage negotiations process in all PSUs, including the sick PSUs without any pre-condition.
4. No extension of wage revision period beyond five years and all other anti-worker recommendations of Justice Mohan Committee regarding wage differentials of 1:10 etc. must be scrapped.
5. Removal of the ceilings under Payment of Bonus Act.
6. Separate Pension Scheme for PSU workers.
7. Withdrawal of ban on recruitment and regularization of contractor workers in permanent nature of jobs

In addition to local level programmes of agitation and campaign the following programmes were adopted by the extended meeting of the CPSTU :-

1. State/Region/Industrywise joint conventions to be completed by the 1st week of July, 1999
2. Observance of 'All India Demand Day' by wearing demands badge and massive dharna/demonstration before Factory/office on 13th July, 1999
3. Mass Signature Campaign in

defence of public sector to be concluded by August'99

CPSTU further decided to jointly address an open letter asking all the political parties to come out in clear and concrete terms without any ambiguity in their respective Election Manifesto for the forthcoming Parliamentary election their stand, on protecting the public sector without any dilution and distortion, on privatisation, divestment, on revamping and rehabilitation of sick units and also all other related issues. The Core Group of CPSTU shall prepare the letter. The CPSTU constituent unions were asked to circulate the letter in local language in thousands among the workers and public.

CPSTU resolved not to sign any wage revision agreement having the tenure beyond the existing periodicity (not more than five years) and called upon the public sector trade unions irrespective of affiliation to support and adhere to the resolution.

CPSTU appealed to the INTUC and the BMS leadership and their affiliate unions to join the united countrywide movement of the public sector workers to ensure broadest unity of the PSU workers in the national interest and in defence of the right of the workers.

CPSTU appealed public sector workers all over the country irrespective of affiliations to make the programmes a massive success and be prepared for going on a further vigorous struggle including all India strike action at an appropriate time for which the Core Group of CPSTU was authorised to decide the date of strike.

DEFEAT THE ANTI-PSU POLICIES

When anti-public sector policy pursued by the Government of the day is in its peak, it is obvious that the PSU employees are worst affected on the question of their service conditions, compensation package and trade union rights. Notable in these regards are: non-payment or irregular payment of salary in many PSUs, disastrous guidelines by DPE hurdling effective wage negotiations in PSUs along with re-imposition of ban on wage negotiations in sick PSUs, rampant contracterisation of permanent and perennial jobs and the anti-worker recommendations of Justice Mohan Committee having adverse bearing on the wages of the PSU workers as well.

The Govt has finally declared that they are not going to do anything for revival of sick Public Sector Units and decision of closure of eight public sector units have already been announced. The irony is that the govt is hell-bent to close down those eight PSUs despite the fact that the cost of closing down (only on account of VRS to workers - Rs 517 crores) is much more than the cost of revival (around 300 crores) as per proposals lying with BIFR.

So far as the healthy, well run, efficient and profit making PSUs are concerned, the Govt has taken a policy of liquidation of those PSUs as well, in a phased manner. For instance, true to their 'proud' declaration in the budget for 1998-99, the Government of India has done robbery on the oil PSUs for realising the target of disinvestment. Having failed to allure the share brokers, the Banks and Financial Institutions to purchase PSU shares, the Government compelled the oil PSUs to go for cross holding of shares. In the process the Government has snatched from the profit making PSUs sum of Rs.6,500 crore in the financial year 1998-99 which include Rs.2,280 crore from IOC, Rs.1,500 crore from ONGC.

By this mechanism Govt have drained out precious investible resources from the PSUs which are needed for updating/improving their technology in the competitive and hostile market environment. Some PSU management have been quoted: "they would have to take recourse to high cost debt to finance new projects as liquidity reserves with them have been significantly reduced." (*Hindustan Times* 07.06.1999). The policy of sickening out the profit making PSUs being pursued by the Govt of India is destined to make them weaker, non-competitive and sick much to the advantage of the foreign companies in the respective fields.

The budget for 1999-2000 has reduced the annual Plan outlay for many public sector industries, budgetary support withdrawn, leaving the concerned PSUs fully dependent on internal generation and borrowings, while the target for disinvestment from PSUs has been doubled to a whopping Rs.10,000 crore.

Disinvestment initiative of the Govt of India proved our point that privatisation drive is not guided by financial or managerial prudence but because of the ideological position taken by IMF/WB/WTO with United States leading from behind, that there would be no public sector

(Cont. on page 8)

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anywhere in the world. Private oligarchies want complete command over the entire world economy and they wouldn't tolerate even a token presence of PSU on their way. The Government is more than obliging to meet their dictates.

GROWING RESISTANCE

One important aspect is to note that such assertions by the Govt have come when the resistance to privatise is also growing stronger. The decision to close down 8 PSU's met with strong protest by united trade union movement including BMS. The decision to close down 64 collieries and decision to privatise ports, and airports, also faced similar protests all over. The massive countrywide strike by the PSU workers on 11th December, 1998 (14th December, 1998 in Bangalore PSUs) was the reflection of the anger and disapproval of the PSU workers to the anti-PSU policy of the Government.

THE BAN & BARRIERS ON WAGE NEGOTIATIONS

Anti-public sector policy of the Govt has also been hitting the PSU workers hardest. The workers of most of the sick PSUs have been deprived of wage revision almost for a decade. Even they have been denied of the revised dearness allowance rates. In many sick PSUs like HSCL, NPCC, Cement Corporation, NTC, IDPL etc, the workers are not getting salary for months together and have been passing days in severe hardship. And such great sacrifice by the workers of sick PSUs could not revive the sick PSUs owing to pro-MNC and anti-PSU policy of the Govt.

The wage revision for other PSUs although falling overdue since 1.1.97 has not taken off even after passage of more than two and half years. The circular of DPE on wage revision of PSE workers has re-imposed ban on wage revision to the workers of sick and loss making PSUs. Further the conditionalities of 10 years' tenure for wage agreement as mentioned in the DPE circular has posed a serious challenge before the PSU workers.

CPSTU has the task to evolve a common strategy demanding a uniform wage revision pattern effective from the same date or due dates as it had been done in the past. The demand for wage revision is bound to be louder. CPSTU has to take a position that the govt cannot avoid its responsibilities in the matters of additional liabilities to be borne by PSE's while implementing Mohan Committee's report. It is the Govt, which has accepted the committee's recommendations. Furthermore, DPE's directives indicate that Govt has washed its hands in the matters of workers' wage rise. This position cannot be accepted.

THE TASK AHEAD

In the above background, CPSTU, the united forum of the public sector workers, must unite the workers of all the public sector with varying priorities together and intensify our struggle. The political battle ahead is the biggest scope before us to leave no stone unturned to ensure a crushing defeat of the forces notoriously loyal to the Fund-Bank dictates for dismantling our public sector.

(Excerpts from the discussion paper)

DEMONSTRATION BEFORE DPE OFFICE

After the CPSTU session, as decided by CPSTU, a massive demonstration of public sector workers of Delhi and adjoining areas alongwith the public sector union leaders assembled from all over the country was held before the office of Department of Public Enterprises on 16th June at 1:30 PM. The workers from the public sector units located in Delhi and nearby areas like Bharat Electronics, Central Electronics, BHEL, NTPC, BPCL, Powergrid Corporation, Fertilizer Corporation etc. mobilised in hundreds for the demonstrations. The procession of the public sector workers rallied round the SCOPE complex and marched towards the DPE office at CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi. From the rally a team of delegation consisting of J Chittaranjan, AITUC, Jibon Roy, Tapan Sen, CITU, R A Mittal, HMS, Michael Fernandez, JAF, Bangalore and Y Adinarayana, Hyderabad met the Joint Secretary of DPE and submitted the memorandum protesting the retrograde guidelines of DPE regarding wage revision in PSUs and demanding reversal of the same. Thereafter, the demonstration was addressed by Com. J Chittaranjan, AITUC, S Dev Roye, Tapan Sen, CITU and Michael Fernandez, JAF, Bangalore.

ESIC : PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS RAISED

(Kali Ghosh, Secretary, CITU is our nominee in the ESI Corporation. In a recent letter to the Director General of ESI Corporation, he has raised certain procedural issues, causing problems for the Insured Persons (IPs) and urged immediate solution thereof. Extracts from the letter are reproduced here. Editor)

ANOMALY ARISING OUT OF RULE 55(1) AMENDMENT

Sub-Rule (1) of the Rule-55 of ESI (Central) Rules, 1950 has been amended with effect from 19.9.98 as follows:-

"Subject to the provision of the Act and Regulation, a person shall be qualified to claim sickness benefit for sickness occurring during any benefit period, if the contribution in respect of him were payable for not less than "78 days in" of the corresponding contribution period and shall be entitled to receive such benefit at the daily standard benefit rate for the period of his sickness". But the relevant Sub-Reg.(2) of Reg.-103-A(i.e. medical benefit after contribution ceased to be payable) has not been amended till date, resulting in difficulties to determine the eligibility condition of medical benefit.

Sub-Reg.(2) of Regulation -103-A states that "the person in respect of whom contributions have been paid in a contribution period for not less than half the number of days in the said contribution period, shall be entitled to medical benefit till the end of the contribution period".

Here the anomaly arises where the Rule has been amended "not less than 78 days" in corresponding contribution period, but the Reg. has not been amended as "not less than 78 days" in place of "not less than half the number of days". As such, while an I.P. is entitled to claim sickness benefit with contribution of 78 days in a contribution period is not entitled to medical benefit, as he has paid contribution less than the half the number of days in a contribution period of 182/183 days as the case may be.

Moreover, if suitable amendment is not made to the Sub-Rule (1) of Rule-55, regarding eligibility condition for sickness benefit in respect of new entrants, cases in the insurable employment, such insured person will be deprived of the sickness benefit in their first benefit period in terms of Reg.4. An example to this effect will clear the case. Suppose a person has entered in an insurable employment in the month of Feb. '99 (i.e. on

1.2.99) and paid contribution for 59 days during the contribution period ending on 31.3.99. As per amended Sub-Rule(1) of Rule-55 and Reg. 4 of ESI(General) Reg., 1950, the I.P. is eligible to get sickness benefit during the shorter benefit period from Nov. '99 to Dec. " But, as per current amendment, as he is paying less than 78 days, the I.P. is not entitled to sickness benefit as well as medical benefit, which amounts not only to denial of existing benefit but also is discriminatory in nature, because the insured person had no opportunity to work for 78 days in the corresponding period.

Hence this problem is to be addressed properly with a suitable addition/amendment to Sub-Rule (1) of Rule-55 and Reg. 103-A.

DUPLICATE IDENTITY CARDS

ESIC headquarters had, in December 1998, issued instructions prescribing certain procedure regarding issue of Duplicate Identity Cards (DICS). The circular was issued to curb the misuse of medical benefit by impersonation caused by some unscrupulous insured persons and their family members, which ultimately leads to the strain and drainage of ESI funds. But, it appears that the circular has been mis-interpreted by the Regional Offices and they are following such a stringent policy regarding issue of duplicate identity card resulting in enormous difficulties to a section of genuine insured persons, which was not the purpose of the said circular.

It appears that the intention of the circular was to obtain approval of the Regional Director regarding issue of DIC in case of identity card which is lost or stolen by following some drills akin to that for issue of ration card etc. It is surprising to note, that due to mis-interpretation, the approval of R.D. is held necessary even for the issue of duplicate identity cards in respect of defaced/soiled/mutilated cases. This procedure is creating a lot of trouble among the genuine insured persons. It is suggested that approval of R.D. may be insisted for issue of duplicate identify card, in respect of lost/stolen cases only.

ENRON: ENDWRONG PROJECT

Shakespeare said, "All's well that ends well." By corollary, all's wrong that ends wrong. By the multinational's own standards, the Enron project, which was finally inaugurated last Tuesday by the politically lightweight power minister P R Kumaramangalam (and not by the prime minister, who was in Mumbai on 11 May, 'Technology Day'), is late by several months. Public memory is notoriously short, but many will recall the 1997 statements by the Maharashtra government and the Dabhol Power Company (DPC), that the project would be inaugurated three months before schedule, in December 1998.

WHY DELAYED START?

Though technical deficiencies have been cited for the three-month delay, it is believed that the real reason was the conscious decision of the cash-strapped Maharashtra government and the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) to start buying Enron power as late as possible. Why?

With Enron coming onstream, Maharashtra is now a power surplus state, except perhaps for the peak-load demand of a few hours in a 24-hour day. But Enron is a base-load station, with MSEB bound by the power purchase agreement to pay for approximately 90 per cent of a 365-days-a-year, 24-hours-a-day, generating capability, regardless of whether or not it requires it.

For about 14 to 16 hours every day, Maharashtra will have more power than it can use. State

Deputy Chief Minister Gopinath Munde announced a few months ago that Maharashtra would be selling power to neighbouring states, like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, at a price of Rs.2.75 per unit. He also, at around the same time, made the first public announcement of the price at which MSEB would be purchasing power from Enron: Rs.3 per unit. After factoring in the additional costs of transmission and distribution, Enron power costs MSEB around Rs.4.25 per unit.

The average price per unit recovered by MSEB today is around Rs.2.25, which means effectively that MSEB will lose approximately Rs.2 per unit of Enron power. This is in excess of the subsidy given to farmers

VIVEK MONTERIO

by MSEB, and approximately equal to the subsidy being provided to power pilferers in the state. In any case, of the official subsidies being provided by MSEB to suppliers and purchasers, Enron's is the highest. The economic consequences of this subsidy would be substantial.

UNAFFORDABLE POWER

Public memory will recall that the present Shiv Sena/Bharatiya Janata Party government had cancelled the project in August 1995, after extensive hearings and reviews, alleging fraud, misrepresentation, bribery and corruption in a suit filed against Enron in the Bombay High Court. The project was revived, a few months later, ostensibly on the grounds that a price

reduction had been achieved. Sena Chief Bal Thackeray announced that the renegotiated price of Rs. 1.89 per unit was still too high, and that at his insistence the price was being further reduced to Rs. 1.86 per unit.

The rising cost of electricity is a concern for everyone. Workers and industrialists are particularly concerned about the looming crisis of unaffordable power.

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), together with Abhay Mehta, challenged the renegotiated Enron project in a writ petition filed in the Bombay High Court, the first to be admitted. With the help of power experts and economists, we made a detailed study of available documents, and told the court under oath that, for phase 1, there would be not only no reduction in payments, but in fact an increase.

WHY PAY SO MUCH?

The difference between Thackeray's Rs.1.86 and Munde's Rs.3.00 is Rs. 1.14 per unit. Each paisa increase per unit, for a 740mw project with a 90 per cent guaranteed off-take, means an increased earning for Enron of Approximately Rs. 5.5 crore per year. A Rs. 1.14 tariff difference translates to an amount in excess of Rs.600 crore per year. This would triple if phase 2 of the project comes onstream.

In a cent article on power tariffs, Kumaramangalam has written that the power tariff of plants based on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) - like Enron's Dabhol Project - should be between 4 and 5 cents per unit (which

translates to less than Rs.2). Enron's Rebecca Mark, in a letter to former Prime Minister I K Gujral, offered to set up 10,000mw of power nationwide with a guaranteed tariff of 5 cents per unit. Why is Maharashtra paying so much for DPC power, is a question which has now come sharply into focus.

A RELOOK AT CITU PLEA?

The Bombay High Court declined to go into the issue of costs of Enron power, saying that economic policy issues were not in the purview of judicial scrutiny. On the issue of

corruption, the court said that the Maharashtra government had now withdrawn its allegations, and the petitioners had not provided any fresh evidence. The court order was completely silent on the 1,500 pages of documents, including many secret files on the DPC's tariff, filed by the petitioners.

The SS-BJP government is fortunate that elections will be held soon. It will not be many months before the unavoidable consequences of unaffordable power become manifest.

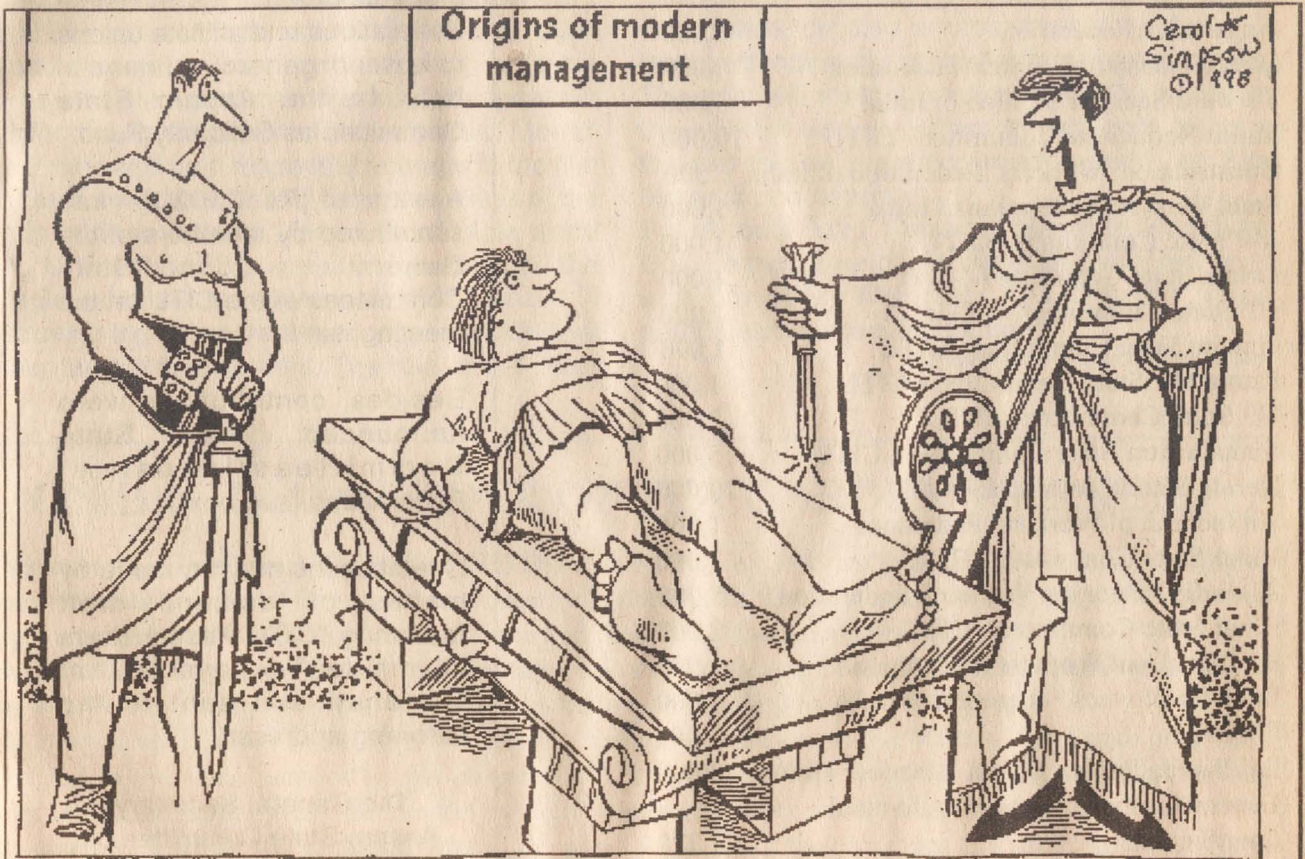
By the terms of the contract, Enron gets paid first, come what

may. As a consequences, other suppliers won't. As is happening in the North today, payment defaults are resulting in shutting off supplies.

After the addition and subtraction, the commercial introduction of Enron power may not result in more power for Maharashtra; expensive power will replace cheaper power AND to 'brown-out' due to a payment default.

At that time, no doubt, the courts will be more inclined to look into the documents filed in the CITU/ Mehta petition. (Courtesy: The Sunday Observer, June 6-12, 1999)

Origins of modern management



*"Officially this isn't a human sacrifice.
We're simply outsourcing your body parts."*

NATIONWIDE PROTEST AGAINST ASSAM MURDERS



← COM. SITA MARANDI

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASSAM STATE COMMITTEE

	Rs
CITU Centre	1,000
Haryana State Committee	1,000
Delhi State Committee	1,000
Rajasthan State Committee	2,000
Punjab State Committee - CITU	5,000
Anganwadi Federation	5,000
Water Transport Workers Federation	1,000
Forward Seamen's Union of India	5,000
Tamil Nadu State Committee - CITU	10,000
Construction Workers' Federation of India	500
Steel Workers Federation of India	5,000
MP State Committee - CITU	1,000
Orissa State Committee - CITU	1,000
HP State Committee - CITU	1,000
Gujarat State Committee - CITU	1,000
Karnataka State Committee - CITU	1,000
UP State Committee - CITU	2,000
Maharashtra State Committee - CITU	5,000
Kerala State Committee - CITU	20,000
All India Coal Workers' Federation	1,000
Bihar State Committee - CITU	2,000
All India Plantation Workers' Federation	25,000
Bihar State Committee - CITU	2,000
All India Coal Workers' Federation	1,000
Bank Employees Federation of India	1,000
FMRAI	1,000
Lal Jhanda Punjab Bhatta Mazdoor Union	2,000
General Council members- Individual	
Contributions	7,220

TOTAL 1,07,720

The West Bengal State Committee has given a call for contributions to the struggle fund at their meeting to be held in the first week of June 1999.

The meeting of the General Council of CITU held on 28-30 May 1999 at Ghaziabad condemned the brutal murder of Com. Sita Marandi and her two associates in the Mornoi Tea Estate, Assam on 16.5.1999.

At the call of the General Council, a national protest day was observed on 14.6.99.

The meeting also appealed to all the State Committees, Industrial Federations and affiliate unions to extend generous financial help to the Assam State Committee as Solidarity Fund.

A sum of Rs 25020/- was contributed by members of the General Council/State Committees of the CITU, at the meeting itself.

Besides, contributions were announced by State Committees/Industrial Federations. (see box)

Contributions may be made by means of demand draft favouring "CITU-Assam State Committee" payable at Guwahati and sent to the following address:

The General Secretary
Assam State Committee of
CITU
Anand Ram Barua Road
Near Srimant Press
Guwahati 781 001, Assam

PROTEST RALLY AT MORNOI TEA ESTATE

A massive rally under the auspices of Namoni Asom Chah Mazdoor Sangham, an affiliate of CITU, was held on June 13, '99 at Haridhura College play ground near Morno Tea Estate in Kokrajhar district of Assam to protest against the killing of Sita Marandi, a member of Assam State Committee, CITU and her two associates, namely, Bisfar Guria and Namlin Guria. It may be recalled that Sita Marandi and her two associates were shot dead by assailants hired by the management and INTUC near Morno Tea Estate on May 16 last.

The rally was addressed by Lalaji Babu, General Secretary, All India Plantation Workers' Federation; Dipankar Mukherjee, MP, Hemen Das, Secretary, Assam State Committee CPI(M); Deban Bhattacharyya, General Secretary, Assam State Committee, CITU; Udhav Barman, ex-MP, Kashi Tasa, Asit Dutta, Udhav Kjakati and Anjan Bhattacharyya - all trade union leaders representing tea garden workers. All the speakers recalled the fighting spirit of the workers of Morno Tea Estate and paid respectful homage to the five women comrades who laid down their lives at the hands of assailants at Morno Tea Estate since 1996 till this date. The speakers condemned the conspiracy of the management-INTUC nexus in destroying the democratic trade union movement of the tea garden workers. The role of the State

administration was severely criticised by the leaders for its failure to nab all the culprits and bring them to book. The speakers called the tea garden workers to build up united movement to foil the evil designs of the management and carry forward the trade union movement for the cause of the exploited tea garden workers.

Salami Soren, daughter of the departed leader Sita Marandi narrated in a choked voice the incident of killing of her mother and urged the tea garden workers to expand the organisation and keep atop the redflag of CITU. While Salami Soren was speaking, many workers particularly women, were seen bursting into tears and expressed anger and hatred against management-INTUC nexus of Morno Tea Estate.

The rally was presided over by Santosh Guha. The valiant workers, particularly women of Morno Tea Estate, created another history on June 13 last by attending the protest rally in large numbers. The rally will restore confidence in the minds of the workers and give them the strength to carry forward the movement carried forward by Sita Marandi and others.

Entire route from Tamarhat Bazar to Haridhura College playground was decorated with red-flags and banners. The rally has created much enthusiasm among the workers.

(Report from Deben Bhattacharya)

ON BRUTAL MURDER OF TEA GARDEN WORKERS

"This meeting of the General Council of CITU held on 28-30 May 1999 at Ghaziabad condemns in strongest terms the brutal murder of three women workers, of Morno Tea Estate, Assam, on 16th May 1999 by hired killers engaged by the owners of the tea estate and their INTUC-co-conspirators.

Com.Sita Marandi, gunned down in this incident, was a valiant leader of the Morno tea estate workers who have been victims of most brutal repression by the owners during the past few years.

This meeting recalls that since 1996 five leading trade union leaders in the Morno Tea Estate have been murdered in the same manner by the owners-INTUC combine. Com.Sagarika Soren, the front ranking leader in this tea garden was murdered in 1996 for leading the workers in their just struggle.

This meeting expresses its profound grief at the ghastly murder of the comrades and offers condolences to the bereaved families.

This meeting further castigates the Govt of Assam for their utter failure to bring the culprits to book. The assailants must be arrested immediately and should get exemplary punishments for their heinous crimes. Their masters who hired them to kill should also receive the severe punishment they deserve".

(Extracts from the CITU General Council Resolution)

International efforts to improve the lot of millions of child labourers while providing decent work for men and women worldwide took centre stage at the opening of the 87th International Labour Conference in Geneva on 1st June, 1999. The Conference, attended by tripartite delegations from the ILO's 174 member states, has adopted an international Convention and Recommendation on eliminating

the worst forms of child labour. "In a world where it is so difficult to come up with a cause that can unite hearts and minds, let's make the eradication of the worst forms of child labour a cause we all share", said the ILO Director General, Juan Simavia. He said "the elimination of the worst forms of child labour should become a global cause. No family in the world wants to see its children in these situations. Children everywhere

are saying to their parents "Please save me" from the abhorrent practices targeted by this Convention. We should not abandon these families."

The Conference elected its President, **Alhaji Mohammad Mumuni**, Minister of Labour of the Republic of Ghana, who presided over the session which lasted until 17 June, 1999.

In remarks accepting the presidency, **Mumuni** said that this final session of the

THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR

The worst forms of child labour include:

All forms of slavery and practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, forced or compulsory labour, debt bondage and serfdom;

The use, procurement or offering of a child for prostitution, production of pornography or pornographic performances;

The use, procurement or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs;

Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to jeopardise the health, safety or morals of children.

The capacity to eradicate the worst forms of child labour is a moral test facing all societies.

The commercial sexual exploitation of children is one of the most brutal forms of child exploitation, and appears to be worsening. Child victims suffer extreme physical, psycho-social and emotional abuse, are exposed to sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS and others, and are often introduced to drugs. Younger and younger children are being sought for the sex trade in the belief that they are more likely to be "AIDS free," while sex tourism and pornography involving young girls and boys is flourishing, especially on the Internet.

Another area where the situation appears to be worsening is in the sale and trafficking of children across national borders by organised networks.

Children are trafficked for prostitution and for hazardous jobs in construction, small shops, factories and domestic services. In many cases, children in these situations are confined to the workplace and treated like slaves.

As economies decline, more children are sent to work, trafficked or abused in other ways. Often, this affects children as young as five who thus suffer to a greater degree because of their youth, their inexperience and their vulnerability.

CHILD LABOUR WORLDWIDE

While most child labour is found in developing countries, industrialised countries are not entirely child labour-free. In Eastern and Central Europe, for example, child labour has been reappearing in the wake of social and economic dislocation caused by the transition to a market economy. And even among countries of the European Union and in North America, there is evidence that the phenomenon has not entirely disappeared.

In absolute terms, Asia, as the most densely populated region of the world, has the most child workers. Of the global total 61% are in Asia, 32% in Africa and 7% in Latin America. In relative terms, however, Africa leads in the proportion of working children, with an estimated 41% of the total number of children aged between five and 14 working, compared to 22% in Asia and 17% in Latin America.

Globally, more boys than girls work, by an average

(Cont. on page 15)

TAKES AIM AT ABUSIVE FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR

International Labour Conference in the 20th century "has the responsibility of bringing to fruition the hopes of the international community for a breakthrough in the major areas of concern, such as child labour, maternity protection and the role of the ILO in technical cooperation."

He said that "every effort should be made to ensure that the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work is

utilised to underscore labour standards and fundamental principles relating to freedom of association, freedom from forced labour and child labour as well as equal opportunities, regardless of gender, race or creed."

He insisted that the ILO should not be used "for punitive, protectionist trade purposes or other covert purposes."

Addressing the opening session, Juan Somavia said: "The main

and most important challenge is to identify the role that falls to us in a new world. It is clear that concern with the social consequences of globalisation is increasing in all countries. We are aware that a mechanical projection of current trends will not resolve the problems of insecurity and uncertainty affecting so many people and families all over the world."

(M.K. Pandhe, who attended the ILO conference, will present a detailed report in the next issue-Editor)

(Cont. from page 14)

ratio of three to two. With 37%, Africa has the highest participation rate of girls among developing regions of the world.

However, surveys do not take into account domestic work in one's own household or caring for sick or disabled family members. Girls perform this work more so than boys—many between the ages of eight and 12. If such work were included, the number of boys and girls working would be equal, and according to some estimates, might show that more girls than boys are working.

Domestic work can be as hazardous as labour outside the home. Many child domestics put in up to 15 hours per day, are frequently unpaid, must carry heavy loads, or shoulder the responsibility of caring for even younger children. They may suffer physical emotional and sexual abuse. Once their services are no longer needed, some are simply put on the street, without food, clothing or shelter.

Girls face special hazards, often bearing a triple burden of housework, school work and economic work. They are more likely to begin working at an earlier age, be paid less, and work more hours than boys. They face greater exposure to exploitation and abuse, both physical and sexual as well as dangers to their health, safety and welfare. Often girls are denied access to any form of schooling.

FACTS AND FIGURES ON GLOBAL CHILD LABOUR

Estimates on the extent of the worst forms of child labour vary widely. However, within the broad range

of estimates, there are some indications emerging, which though general provide some idea of the overall magnitude.

According to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, one million children in Asia are estimated to be involved in the sex trade, often under conditions indistinguishable from slavery.

In some countries, as many as 30% of all prostitutes are estimated to be under the age of 18.

Tens of millions of people are estimated to be subjected to various forms of slavery and bondage, a good number of them children.

In some countries, nearly 70% of working children are engaged in work which is hazardous.

PROPOSED CONVENTION

Ratifying States are to:

- Apply the Convention to children under 18;
- Take measures to prohibit and immediately eliminate the worst forms of child labour;
- Designate monitoring mechanisms;
- Adopt programmes of action;
- Ensure effective enforcement, including penal or other sanctions;
- Take measures for prevention, removal, rehabilitation and social reintegration;
- Take account of the special situation of girls;
- Take steps to assist each other through international cooperation or assistance.

(Extracts from the ILO Conference document "DECENT WORK")

IS THERE ANY ALTERNATIVE !

ARDHENDU DAKSHI

In the post soviet world scenario there was a chorus raised by the World Bank and other institutions of the west that the economies of the developing countries must pass through a process of "Reforms" to become competitive in the world. Globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation are the "musts" for them and "There is no alternative" (TINA) to those.

International and national media, funded by Americans and their partners in G-7 countries led a barrage of propaganda depicting the virtues of so called "Reforms". They filled pages after pages with distorted facts, half truths and absolute lies and scorned anybody whoever contested their line. Even Amartya Sen was ridiculed by so-called reformists as only an "expert in famine".

The processes, that went in the name of globalisation, were made to appear something very new, novel and different from the past which, they claim, would usher in an era of prosperity and growth. Such characterisations are utterly baseless and misleading. Let us analyse how far globalisation is new or different from the past.

GLOBALISATION

Did it really start in India in 1991? Certainly not, capitalist system of economy was never confined to geographical or political boundaries. It was always a globalised function from the day one. Movement of capital, machinery, raw materials and labour from one part of the globe to another was seen for more than two centuries now. If we take the case of East India Company—registered by 24 businessmen in London to import spices from India, the terms like "company", "paid up capital," and "business beyond the seven seas" etc were incorporated in the article of Association of 1599 - a good four hundred years from now. Railways, telegraph systems, steamships, steam driven machines spread out all over the world by middle of last century, simultaneously with their discovery. These developments were distinctly different from trade and commerce in old feudal societies.

The search for market also intensified alongside. Liptons Tea company and Java Sugar company together were distributing free cups of tea near Sealdah railway station early this century to develop a market for tea. Such steps were taken to find market in every part of the globe, and for

every merchandise of capitalist production. Intensive cotton cultivation in Nagpur started after 1860 when cotton mills in Manchester needed its raw materials, as the main source was blocked due to civil war of America. So the entire globe was considered to be the source of raw material even in the last century.

A feature that was common in last century was global labour mobility. Large population of Indian origin in Fiji, Mauritius, Surinam, Guyana, Sri Lanka Myanmar, large sections of Japanese in Peru etc and Africans in West Indies are all testimonies of the globe being source of labour in a capitalist system, facilitated by colonial governance.

So the presentation of "globalisation" as a new concept is a deliberate design to confuse people and projecting itself as something novel to bring life to stagnant economies.

In the pre-1991 decades, Soviet Union, China and other socialist countries were suffering from hindrances put up by USA, UK, and others to trade with outside world freely and get the benefit of it. With the collapse of Soviet system and the new regime agreeing to American terms, the chorus of so called globalisation reached its peak. Russia was included in the group which became G-8 now. This globalisation means integrating the world economy with and to the advantage of the "core" economy of G-7 (G8 being a poor relation). The developing countries should produce what G-7 want them to produce and they should buy what the G-7 want them to buy, mainly.

In the capitalist system, ups and downs are inevitable. Economies of the third world countries are to absorb the shocks of slumps while the G-7 countries remain more or less insulated or much less affected from such recessions. This brand of globalisation now being sold by World Bank, IMF etc is an instrument in the hands of G-7 countries to smoothly pass on the burdens of crisis in the capitalist system to the developing countries.

The result is obvious. The rich are becoming richer and the poor, poorer. All these methods and mechanisms of globalisation go against the national interests of the poor and developing countries. The experience and results of last two decade's Fund-Bank machination on the

developing countries have proved this point beyond doubt. But, all over the world the bourgeois political parties and the bureaucracy have been corrupted to such an extent that they dare others and claim that there is no alternative and the process is irreversible.

The neo converts are over zealous about globalisation but they conceal the fact that even the leaders and operators of the slogan in rich countries themselves do not believe in real globalisation. They direct us to open our economies while erecting hurdles in the threshold of theirs. The formation of NAFTA (North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement), APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation), ECM (European Common Market) and the birth of Euro are not for removing hurdles for free trade but just the opposite of it - to insulate the concerned group of countries from global competition by local/regional understanding. One cannot miss the fact that the leadership and initiative to form trade groups came from the rich and advanced countries only. In fact, for the poor countries, globalisation means loot by the advanced economies of the world. The developing countries are ultimately victims, not the victors in the process.

No wonder that the number of billionaires are increasing in USA and also their billions. In the last five years their assets have doubled and poor countries have become bankrupt. They cannot repay their debts, they have been bled white in the name of globalisation.

Then let us think it over. Is it really true that there is no alternative? Shall a country's interest be sacrificed to corporate interest controlled by multinationals. Can such a situation bring 'stability' to any country? It cannot. But the tragedy is that the bourgeois politicians have surrendered to such an extent that they can't stand up to it and the growing corporatisation of world politics has created a hiatus between corporate interests and the country's peoples' interests. The restlessness among the people, the lack of confidence among the investors, the fragmentation of bourgeois political parties—are all symptoms of a deep rooted malady when the role of national govts and their commitments to own subjects almost become irrelevant.

Globalisation has been a disaster for India. Today the net off-take of dollars from India in the form of profits, royalties, fees, charges, and also incomes from share markets far outstrips the foreign direct

investment in industry and infrastructure. The trend is getting worse everyday.

The plunder is going on. Speakers after speakers in seminars would declare that "There is no alternative" and the process is irreversible. A large number of so called intelligentsia are being paid, bribed for this job by the beneficiaries of the system.

It is high time also to explode the much touted myth that "there is no alternative". Yes, there is alternative to these suicidal policies of so called globalisation. To quote from the Policy paper of CITU adopted in its 9th conference: "To counter such self destroying policy, our movement must project alternative proposal of self reliant development and an alternative reform programme to strike at the very root of present structure of economy..... It is not at all a fact that the country is lacking resources. Rather the huge resource potential of the country is blockaded by the very existence of extremely unequal feudal economic relation prevailing in rural India and its impact on the industrial economy. Radical land reform can create, through altering the present income distribution pattern in rural economy and resultant multiplier effect on the entire economy as such, condition of resource generation by alternative route based on self reliance. There are other avenues of resource mobilisation through unearthing black money, recovering of Rs 40000 crores of unpaid loan by corporate and monopoly houses from nationalised banks, higher taxation on monopoly houses and MNCs and bringing the rich landlord class into the tax-net. Such internal measures can muster much more resources and place the country's economy on much stronger footing to bargain and dictate terms to foreign agencies"

Hence there is workable and practical alternative to presently touted policy of so called liberalisation and globalisation surrendering the national interests. What is not there is the political will of the Indian ruling polity of various brands to resort to those practical and workable alternatives as those will hurt their mentors - the landlords and the capitalist class. To them, the interest of their class allies is more important than the country's interest and peoples' well being.

Therefore, the task has fallen on the working class to explode of TINA and unite all concerned in the fight for ALTERNATIVE.

Tamil Nadu News letter

LOCAL BODY WORKERS' CONFERENCE

The Sixth State Conference of Local Body Workers' Federation was held at Dindigul on 22-23, May '99.

The Conference began with a massive procession of more than 4000 men and women, who had come from all parts of the State. The public meeting, presided by R.S. Rajendran, was addressed by T.K. Rengarajan, General Secretary of State CITU, S.A. Thangarajan, P. Shanmugam, Moosa and other leaders of the Federation.

These workers, mainly involved in sanitary work, are most down trodden and have a history of continuous struggles forcing the Government to issue many orders and to give assurances on their demands. But now, the problem is that many of the local bodies have no funds and many vacancies are not filled up. Added to this is the policy of the Government, announcing meagre amounts as consolidated wages and also leaving its implementation according to the financial position of the local bodies.

The Conference has decided to organise a general strike all over the state demanding settlement of the long pending demands.

The Conference elected new office bearers of the Federation with S.A. Thangarajan, the outgoing General Secretary as Honorary President, Moosa as the President and K.R. Ganesan as General Secretary.

For the co-ordination committee

of part-time workers, P. Shanmugam was elected President and K.S. Manian as General Secretary.

BEEDI WORKERS' FEDERATION

The Sixth Conference of Tamil Nadu Beedi Workers' Federation was held in Melappalayam in Thirunelveli, 6-8, June '99.

The Conference began with a massive procession of Beedi Workers on 6th evening. More than 3000 workers, nearly 2000 of them women, participated in the procession.

The meeting was addressed by C. Kannan, President of the All India Beedi Workers Federation, T.K. Rengarajan, General Secretary of State CITU, Indira, T.N. Co-ordination Committee of Working Women and others.

In 12 districts of Tamil Nadu more than 7 lakhs of beedi workers including 2 lakhs below the age of 18, are working and 80% of them are women. But in the Government reports, only 2.25 lakhs are shown as involved in the industry and P.F. records show 3 lakh workers.

These workers face various problems, including reduction in wages in various forms, non-implementation of statutory benefits, contract system etc.

The Conference elected the new office bearers with V. Kannan as president, M. Ranjagam as General Secretary and M.V. Krishnan as Treasurer. Among the office bearers three are women

and two women are in the committee.

PROTEST AGAINST POLICE ATROCITIES

The workers of the giant Central Public Sector Undertaking in the state, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, went on united strike action against the brutal attack by the police on the workers. On 18.5.99, the JAC of workers' unions had announced a picketing of the Head Office of NLC demanding settlement of long pending demands. Policemen were mobilised from various outside stations and workers and leaders in the procession were brutally attacked. More than 300 workers were injured and 160 of them had to be hospitalised. Those injured seriously included General Secretaries of CITU, LPF(DMK), ATP(AIADMK) and HMS and Presidents of LPF and ATP.

The planned brutal attack on workers forced the JAC to give a call for 48 hours strike and JAC also demanded a judicial enquiry and action against the police-officials involved. The State government announced an R.D.O. inquiry and talks were held on the demands, which included regularisation of contract workers. Certain assurances were given and some of the unions announced withdrawal of strike after 24 hours. However, the CITU continued the strike for 48 hours. Immediately after hearing of the police attack, T.K. Rengarajan and other CITU leaders visited the area

and met the injured workers and leaders in the hospital.

CITU State Committee gave a call for a protest day all over the state on 24th May. Protest meetings and demonstrations were held in various industrial centres in the State on that day.

TEXTILE WORKERS' STRIKE

The JAC of Textile workers' unions in the State, which includes all the major unions viz., CITU, AITUC, LPF, ATP, HMS, NLO and MLF, has conducted Statewide protest actions and a general strike on 8th May. The striking workers also organised Rasta Roko in various centres. On 18th May, thousands of workers participated in the Rail Roko.

The situation in Textile industry has become more serious with more than 300 mills, including small mills, closed. There is a

systematic attack on the hard won rights of the workers and even statutory rights.

It was in this background, the JAC called for united struggles.

T.N RELIEF SCHEME

The State Government has, in the meanwhile, announced a monthly relief of Rs.250/- to the workers in the closed industrial units. The State Government announced that the scheme will be fully on the lines of the West Bengal Government Scheme, except that the relief will be Rs.250/- instead of Rs.500/- in West Bengal.

The CITU and other unions, while welcoming the Government decision, have demanded that the amount be raised to Rs.500/-.

SUGAR WORKERS' STRIKE

Unions affiliated to Tamil Nadu Sugar Workers' Federation (CITU) are demanding settlement

of wage demands and opposing privatisation of State government owned sugar factories.

After the programme of sending protest telegrams to the Chief Minister, 3 days fast was organised at factory gates from 15th to 17th May and a day's strike on 18th May. The wage negotiations are being prolonged and there is simmering discontent among the workers against the attitude of SISMA and the State Government.

WORKING WOMEN MEET

More than 100 women handloom weavers participated in a meeting of women weavers in Kanchipuram, the renowned silk centre in Tamil Nadu, on 16.5.'99. T.A. Latha and Malathi Chitti Babu from WWCC and leaders of the Handloom Workers' Federation attended the meeting.

(Report from A.K. Padmanabhan)

BOKARO - WHERE MAFIA RULE SUPREME

Bokaro Steel City has progressively gone in the hands of mafia. Com. Jadav Prasad was murdered by the mafia - steel management nexus to silence the contract workers. It is 8 months now but there is no headway in arresting the actual culprits till now. On April 5 a teenage girl was raped by five

muslim criminal boys but she was also rescued and restored to her parents by a muslim gentleman. Rapists are rapists, but local BJP people tried to ship up passions on this matter. Timely and effective intervention by CITU union and other democratic organisations helped to block the BJP's game. The mafia-officers means has

become so bold that crores of rupees of worth of coal, valuable materials, products of Bokaro Steel are stolen in broad daylight under the patronage of top people of BSL and local administration. CITU is launching a relentless fight against the mafia, risking fearful reprisals from them.

(Report from G K Baksi)

DELHI: CITU EMERGING AS A MAJOR FORCE

There are over 1.2 lakh small and medium industrial units in Delhi and adjoining Ghaziabad, Noida and Faridabad. Being a major commercial and administrative centre, Delhi is also

home for lakhs of employees. Delhi has most of the small-scale units while the adjoining districts also contain medium and some big units.

CITU has been built in this area

while fighting against political interference by ruling parties, criminalisation, anti-worker Govt. policies, inherent instability of small scale sector and the reactionary ideologies of

communalism and castesim. While, on the one hand, CITU has been leading struggles of the unorganised sector workers for minimum wages and other facilities, industry-wise struggles have also been fought on the other hand, especially in engineering and textile sectors in Ghaziabad. The 7-day strike in 1988 was a historic milestone in the struggle of the unorganised sector workers. In the past few years, CITU has emerged as a major force while fighting back the attacks of police, administration and hired

hoodlums. Several of our invaluable comrades have laid down their lives in this struggle, including Com. Safdar Hashmi, Com. Harendra Pal and Com. Kishan Pal in Ghaziabad itself.

In the recent past, there has been a considerable increase in closures/lockouts, violation of labour laws, cuts in wages and D.A. and unjust intervention by police. Living standards of workers are continuously falling due to unemployment and inflation. The BJP Govts. of U.P., Haryana and (formerly) Delhi

have adopted a hostile stance vis a vis the working class. The UP Labour Minister blocked the release of Rs.500 interim relief to workers, despite the recommendation of a tripartite meeting. Similarly, the former BJP Minister of Delhi blocked release of DA installments on several occasions. These attacks, being conducted in the name of globalisation, are being fought from the mill-gates to the policy levels.

(From the welcome address to the CITU General Council by Mohan Lal, chairman Reception Committee.)

U.P: BJP GOVT. ATTACK ON NOIDA WORKERS

The BJP Govt in UP has been openly supporting the unlawful retrenchment of 54 workers by the employers of Flex company in Noida. The State Administration, instead of restraining the employers from violating the labour laws, has been openly encouraging them to do so, while imposing prohibition on workers right to fight against the illegal retrenchment.

M/s Flex Industries Ltd., have been running Nine factories in the Noida Industrial area. In one such factory at A-1, Sector 60, Noida, 54 permanent and seniormost workers have been retrenched from 3.5.1999, without notice and without showing any reason. The reasons for such atrocious action of the management is not difficult to understand. The union of the workers has not been functioning for the last few years. At CITU's initiative, the union was revived and it started functioning from

January 1999. And to nip the union in the bud, the employer resorted to retrenchment of these permanent workers, who happen to be the leaders and activists of the union.

The owner of the factory Ashoke Chaturbedi thrust the retrenchment order on 3.5.99 when the plant was working peacefully without any IR problem. On being asked, the employer cited the decline in business as the reason for retrenchment. This plea does not hold water because 250 contract workers and 80 casual workers are doing the same job in that factory but only permanent workers, who are leading the trade union, have been targeted for retrenchment. This is a pre-emptive attack on the CITU union. In protest, the workers of the factory started indefinite strike demanding withdrawal of retrenchment order. The Dy. Labour Commissioner

(Noida) has observed the action as unfair and unlawful and show cause notice was issued to the management. But from this point, the politics of the BJP-run Govt. surfaced and the District Magistrate of Noida, called the union leaders and pressurised them to accept retrenchment and withdraw the strike. The union leaders obviously could not oblige him. The District Administration threatened the union leaders of dire consequences.

This retrenchment is thoroughly illegal. But District Administration has imposed prohibition only on the strike action. On 22.5.99, the order was issued under the signature of the Labour Secretary of the State gov't. prohibiting strike and lock out in that particular factory at Noida. The 'ban' order on 'lock out' was just to confuse others and pose neutrality. But their gimmick did not work. The same Flex group of

REPORTS & EVENTS

industries has eight other factories operating in Noida area itself and three of them had been under lock out or partial lock out for a couple of months. The UP Govt's prohibition order did not ban the lock out of any those units under the same employer in the same district. Such is the loyalty of Kalayan Singh Administration to the Employers' class.

But the hypocrisy is unlimited. The prohibition order imposed on strike was justified "in public

interest and for maintaining essential services". That factory produces only "Tobacco Pouch". How this is related to general public interest or essential services, is anybody's imagination.

The workers in the Noida area came forward in thousands in solidarity with the striking Flex workers. On 14th June '99 in all the factories of Noida, protest demonstrations were staged. A three day long dharna was staged by around thousand workers

before the office of the Dy. Labour Commissioner from 21 to 23rd June '99 to protest and condemn the open support of the BJP run State Administration to the law-breaking employer. On 23rd June the concluding day of Dharna, a huge rally of several thousand workers was held which was addressed by KM Tiwari, Secretary, Ghaziabad District CITU and Tapan Sen, Secretary, CITU, among others.

EMBICHI BHAVA SMARAKA INAUGURATED

In a glittering ceremony attended by thousands of workers, the CPI(M) Politburo Member Prakash Karat on June 12, 1999 inaugurated the Embichi Bhava Smaraka Mandiram, the Malappuram District Headquarters of CITU, which was named after Com. Embichi Bhava,

one of the prominent leaders of the working class movement in Kerala.

The building was constructed in his home town, Perinthalmanna, in Malappuram district. A research and study centre for labour was also set up in the new building, which was inaugurated

by K N Ravindranath, General Secretary of Kerala CITU.

Speaking on the occasion, Prakash Karat recalled the role played by Embichi Bhava for organising and strengthening the working class movement. C Kannan, President, Kerala CITU, chaired the meeting.

KERALA: FMRAI CONFERENCE

The 40th State Conference of KMSRA was successfully held at C. Sreekumar Nagar (Panchayath Association Hall) at Trivandrum on 17-18, May 1999. M.K. Pandhe inaugurated the Conference. On 16 May, he conducted a Trade Union Workshop for the members of State Committee, District Committees and Council Convenors on the "Role of trade unions in the era of globalisation". Leaders of AITUC, Central Govt. Employees' Confederation, FSETO and local MLA

Kadakampalli Surendran greeted the conference.

Sudhir Kumar, President, FMRAI inaugurated the delegates' session. On 17th May, a seminar on "relevance of movement for protection of Indian Patent act, 1970" was conducted as a part of the conference. E.M. Sreedharan, State Planning Board Member inaugurated the programme. Dr. K.M. Shajahan addressed.

On the second day, K.N. Ravindranath, General Secretary, CITU, received the resolution of KMSRA State Committee from

KMSRA General Secretary on affiliation with the CITU.

The conference elected the new office bearers with Lindsay Mellville as President and P. Sethumadhavan as General Secretary.

(Report from P. Sethumadhavan)

**ATTENTION
AFFILIATE UNIONS!
HAVE YOU FILED
YOUR UNION'S
ANNUAL RETURNS
FOR 1998?**

SAIL: McKinsey PROPOSALS OPPOSED

The CITU condemns the move of the Govt of India and the management of SAIL to implement retrograde proposals of the American consultant firm, M/s McKinsey in the name of restructuring the public sector steel giant despite opposition from the trade unions in the steel industry.

That the report of M/s McKinsey has nothing to help SAIL confront and survive the present crisis; rather it has a single-minded purpose to dismember, dismantle and finally demolish the SAIL network.

The McKinsey report did not mention anything as to how to confront the extremely recessionary situation in Indian market and the phenomenon of indiscriminate dumping of foreign steel which are amongst the root causes of present ailment of public sector SAIL. Rather the so called

restructuring proposal articulated by the Foreign Consultant firm contains, in its operative part, a number of actions relating to closure and hiving off various depts. and units of SAIL; viz., closure of Alloy Steels plant, fertilizer and cold-rolling mills of Rourkela, hiving off the excellently performing captive power plant units to joint sector, handing over Salem Steel Plant to foreign company, and similar action on VISL, sell-out of IISCO plant alongwith its richest iron ore and coal reserves etc. The McKinsey proposal also suggested that SAIL should be bifurcated into separate companies according to product line which is aimed at dismantling the present monolithic structure of SAIL depriving the benefit of mutually complementing roles of various steel plants and units, the main sources of intrinsic strength of

SAIL.

All these actions suggested by the American Consultant Firm are designed to demolish public sector SAIL, and thoroughly anti-national in character. Obviously the Foreign Consultant Firm has their own agenda in suggesting "Free of charge" such measures on so called "Restructuring" or "demolishing" SAIL aimed at weakening/destroying the Indian Steel giant.

CITU is strongly opposed to the measures suggested by M/s McKinsey we urge the Govt and the SAIL not to implement the McKinsey proposals of closures/sell-out/hive off in the least. CITU also calls upon the steel workers to unitedly organise strong opposition against the moves already taken by the SAIL management in the McKinsey design in all the steel plants and establishments.

M. P: COAL WORKERS' CONFERENCE

The Madhya Pradesh Koyla Shramik Sangh held its conference at Vishrampur. Sunil Basu Roy, General Secretary of the All India Coal Workers' Federation inaugurated the conference, which was attended by 192 delegates including two women. S.Kumar, General Secretary, presented the report.

In M.P., several unions, including some from the AITUC, have recently merged with the CITU Shramik Sangh. The conference

discussed the problems afflicting the coal industry, Govt. move to amend Nationalisation of Coal Mines Act to allow private mining of coal and other burning issues faced by coal workers. Measures to carry forward the struggle against privatisation and widely prevalent contract system were decided upon.

The conference elected S. Sudevan as President and S.Kumar as General Secretary.

DEMONSTRATIONS IN PORT BLAIR

Port and Dock Workers' Union, A & N Islands (CITU) organised a procession and staged demonstrations on 21.6.1999 in front of the offices of the Chief port Administrator, Port Blair, for fulfillment of their demands including Payment of arrears of incentive payable to the workers of the Andaman Labour Force, Double wages for Sundays and holidays, Night Duty Allowance as per pay commission, Construction of quarters for employees etc.

(Report from B.Chandrachoodan)

AGAINST PRIVATISATION

SALEM STEEL WORKERS STRIKE ON JUNE 24

Workers of Salem Steel Plant staged one day token strike on 24th June '99 to protest against the move of the SAIL management to privatise Salem Steel Plant by handing over the majority stake to multinational companies.

Salem Steel Plant came up under SAIL in 1981 and thereafter it has passed through four phases of expansion and modernisation. An overall investment of Rs.1100 crores has been made so far in Salem Steel Plant.

Now as per the policy of the Govt. of India to privatise the public sector units, the management of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) has been compelled by the Govt. to make an exercise for

privatisation of Salem Steel Plant. The foreign consultant appointed by SAIL, M/s McKinsey and Co had already recommended selling out or hiving off not only the Salem Steel Plant but also the Alloy Steels Plant, Fertilizer plant, the captive power plants in Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro, and various other departments and stockyards. SAIL management appointed another consultant M/s Morgan Stanley to find out a prospective customer from among the multinational companies, who would be handed over majority stake of Salem Steel Plant to complete the privatisation process. Such disastrous move by Govt. of India and SAIL management to privatise Salem Steel Plant has

received condemnation from all the workers of Salem Steel Plant irrespective of affiliations. The Steel Plant Employees Union, Salem, affiliated to CITU, has taken the initiative to unite all the trade union in Salem, viz., SSNEU (INTUC), SSPTS (PTS), SSATS(ATP), SSMSA, SC/ST Welfare Associations and unions etc. to form SAVE SALEM STEEL COMMITTEE to resist the privatisation of Salem Steel Plant. The Committee had decided to stage the one day strike action on June 24, in the Salem Steel Plant. As a solidarity action Steel Workers Federation of India organised demonstrations in all plants, mines, offices on 24th June in support of Salem workers.

H.P: NAPHTHA-JHAKRI PROJECT WORKERS ON STRIKE

About 1200 construction workers of the Jhakri project under Naptha-Jhakri Power Corporation of Himachal Pradesh had gone on for continuous strike from last week of May, 99. The strike was to foil the conspiracy of the the joint venture construction company to preempt the negotiation between the management and the union and break the union there through mass scale retrenchment.

The workers of the project had been on continuous strike during February-March, 99 against the move of the company to dislodge a number of workers in

connivance with some INTUC leaders there, and demanding reasonable wage rise. The management tried to break the strike with the help of the BJP Govt in HP through mass scale arrests and police repression and refused to negotiate with the CITU union, but miserably failed to break the strike. After commitment by the management to start negotiations with the CITU union, the strike was with drawn by March end.

Now, after a few rounds of discussions, the construction company suddenly retrenched 600 workers from the project without

any prior notice nor the matter was ever raised in the discussions with the union.

Management's ploy was to create pressure on the CITU union to agree to their anti worker terms. In such a situation, 1200 workers have gone on continuous strike, again from last week of May and till date strike remained total, despite threat, intimidation and closure of company's mess. As intimidated by Rakesh Singha, President, HP state CITU, the company management had to call the CITU Union again for discussions few days back and this time the union is taking part in the

REPORTS & EVENTS

discussions with management without withdrawing the strike. Almost hundred percent workers

of the project are firmly with the CITU in the strike struggle. Meantime, at the call of CITU,

solidarity programmes were held all over the State on 14th June in support of the striking workers.

(Report dated 24-6-99)

YUGOSLAVIA: 600,000 WORKERS RENDERED JOBLESS

A trade union delegation which recently returned from a visit to Yugoslavia has reported on the severe economic and social consequences of NATO bombing. The delegation consisted of Freddy Huck, President of the Trade Unions International of Agriculture, Food, Commerce, Textile and Allied Industries and Philippe Peuchot from the Federation of Food and Agricultural Workers of France (FNAF-CGT).

The delegation was received by Zoran Malenovic, President, and Danilo Markovic, General Secretary of the Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers' Federation of Serbia as well as

Yvan Pavicevic, General Secretary of the International Department of the Trade Union Confederation of Serbia.

The Serbian trade union leaders informed the visiting delegation that over 600,000 workers out of a total labour force of two million are now unemployed because of the destruction of their working places by NATO bombs. Over 200 factories, several power plants, oil refineries and other installations have been destroyed. Serious damages have been inflicted on 190 educational institutions, 20 hospitals and 30 clinics. Sixty bridges have been destroyed and the country's transport infrastructure, including five

civilian airports and most of the national highways, severely damaged. Ecological damage is colossal and widespread. According to an estimate, the financial cost of this wanton destruction would be equal to the total budget expenditures of the State for 33 years.

The Yugoslavian trade unionists thanked the delegation for their fraternal visit as an expression of international solidarity and appealed for all possible assistance and material aid to overcome the terrible economic and social consequences of the NATO bombings.

(Courtesy: WFTU Press Release)

LABOUR LAW CHANGES:

PLIGHT OF JAPANESE WOMEN WORKERS

There is a persistent clamour by all sections of employers to change the labour related laws to deregulate the labour market. Under globalisation, this is a phenomenon not confined to India alone.

Japan responded to such pleas and enacted a revised Labour Standards Law which came into effect from April 1, 1999. Among its various provisions detrimental to workers' interests, is one that empowers company

managements to compel women to work overtime and to work at night and on holidays, the same as men.

What will this mean for Japanese women workers? Here are a few cases of women part-time workers in food production industry in Japan.

Kinue Lzuka, 33, a mother with three children, has two part time jobs. From 2.00 to 6.30 she delivers milk to 150 homes in Saitama Prefecture and from 9.00

to 12.00 she delivers 250 lunch boxes to customers in offices and factories in Tokyo. In the afternoon up to about 3 p.m. she collects empty lunch boxes. She started to work like this in October, 1998 because her husband's wages as a carpenter, were not being paid and wage payments delayed and they needed an increasing amount of money for their children's education. She gets 50,000 yen for delivering milk and 122,000 yen for

delivering the lunch boxes both of which are tough jobs. She said, "I only get five hours sleep a day and I am always sleepy and tired and on weekends I am absolutely dead tired."

Chizuko Umeda, 43, works from 12 midnight to 6.00 a.m., in a place that prepares ready-to-serve meals. From morning until about 2 p.m. she helps her husband in his noodle shop and goes to bed at 2.30 p.m. for only 4 or 5 hours sleep. In October, 1998, she was involved in a traffic accident because she fell asleep at the wheel of her car as she was returning from her cooking job. The reason why she started to work at midnight was that her husband's noodle shop's sales declined because of the economic recession and he got heart disease which required hospital treatment. **Eiko Arai**, 58, worked for six years as a part-time worker in a factory which makes salads in plastic trays for sale in super

markets and fast-food restaurants. She sometimes worked from 6.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. with only 40 minutes for lunch and a 15 minutes break at 3.00 p.m. In December, she worked for around 19 hours a day from 6.00 a.m. to midnight or 1.00 a.m. to prepare more salad trays for sale at Christmas. At the beginning, she had Sundays off. But 3 years ago when she was put in charge of the part-time workers which meant only an extra 10,000 yen a month, she has worked on Sundays and more hours than before.

Because her husband died three years ago, she had to work and said, "It was a very hard job. Many women started but soon left. After I worked for 14 hours, I was dead tired and couldn't think about anything at all. When I went home I couldn't sleep, so I drank and I became afraid of becoming an alcoholic."

She was dismissed because she refused to work on New Year's

Day and refused to tell her colleagues to work on that day.

Kyoko Lzuka, 64, worked for ten years as a part-time worker in a super market with an hourly wage rate of 776 yen, which increased only by 1 to 5 yen each year. Because of a decline in sales, the super market has cut the hours of part-time work and has made three part-time workers, which included **Lzuka**, do a job which used to be done by 5 part-time workers. She said, "Part-time workers are being told that if they don't like their working conditions and other things they can leave any time. Part-time workers need a union." This is the plight of women workers in Japan even prior to the revised law. With the coming into force of the changed labour laws, their plight will all the more be worrisome.

Should we allow such a situation to repeat in India? Resisting the proposed changes in labour laws is A MUST!

(Source: ZENROREN Newsletter from Japan, March, 1999)

PHILIPPINES-EPZ WORKERS DEFEAT 'UNION BUSTING'

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, TUCP, successfully used a code of conduct adopted by a multinational enterprise, for organising a union among 275 workers (all but 47 women) in Monasteria Knitting, Inc. The company operates in the Bataan Export Processing Zone.

Typically, the company resisted the local union from day one, warning workers that its buyers would cancel their contracts if

they learned that a union was being organised. This was not a mere threat. The first attempt at organising workers at the Monasteria Knitting Inc., back in 1991, resulted in the company's closure for a year.

This time, the union decided to take the buyers at their word. Organisers, schooled in codes of conduct by the TUCP, convinced local workers and the management that if buyers, which included the GAP company,

learned that Monasteria Knitting was violating their own codes of conduct, they would cancel their contracts with the local supplier. The workers remained loyal to the union throughout three weeks of forced leave. The company reacted angrily; 63 union activists were either transferred or retrenched. But after one week of protest and a five-day strike, Monasteria Knitting recognised the union, reinstating all dismissed activists.

Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers on base: 1982 = 100

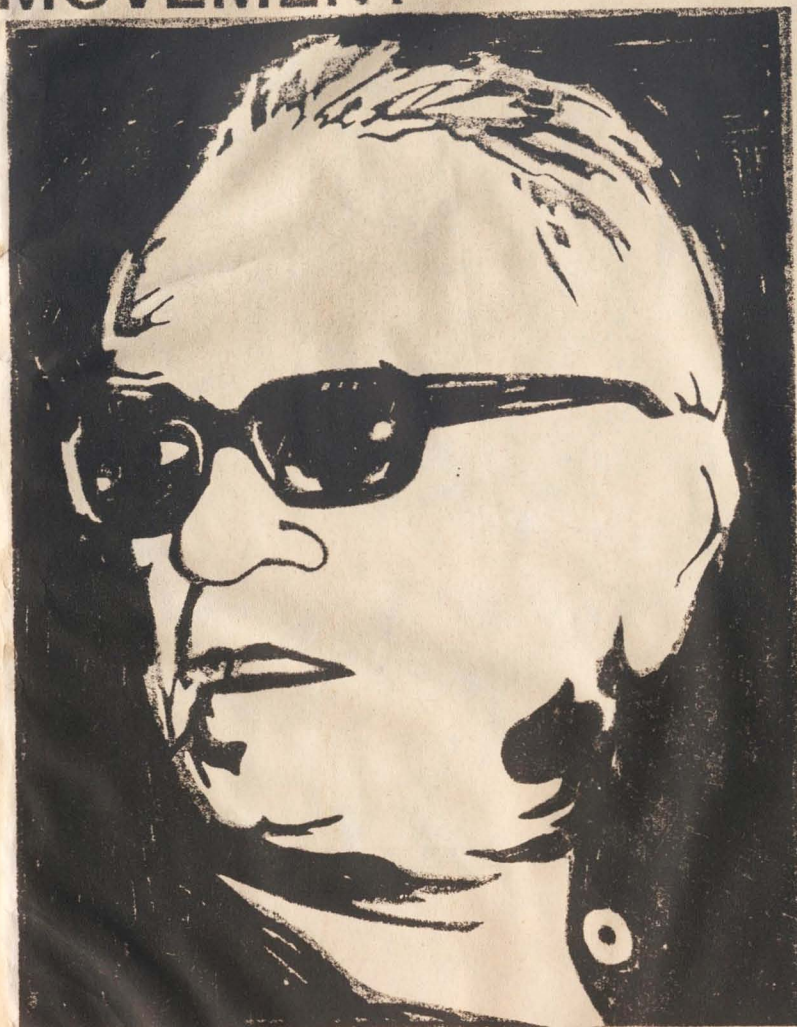
Sr. No	Centre	Feb 99	Mar 99	Apr 99	Sr. No.	Centre	Feb 99	Mar 99	Apr 99
1	Gudur	428	416	422	45	Amritsar	374	372	377
2	Guntur	406	403	406	46	Ludhiana	372	375	379
3	Hyderabad	388	386	391	47	Ajmer	399	397	396
4	Visakhapatnam	400	399	400	48	Jaipur	385	386	388
5	Warangal	403	401	408	49	Chennai	438	438	440
6	D D Tinsukia	366	365	387	50	Coimbatore	390	388	386
7	Guwahati	419	423	423	51	Coonoor	411	400	405
8	Labac-Silchar	356	361	363	52	Madurai	407	410	410
9	Mariani Jorhat	406	405	412	53	Salem	401	404	403
10	Rangapara-Tezpur	393	391	400	54	Tiruchirapally	446	449	450
11	Jamshedpur	393	387	385	55	Agra	391	392	388
12	Jharia	355	355	352	56	Ghaziabad	426	434	431
13	Kodarma	368	368	365	57	Kanpur	417	417	418
14	Monghyr Jamalpur	412	411	392	58	Saharanpur	382	383	381
15	Noamundi	368	370	368	59	Varanasi	457	457	464
16	Ranchi-Hatia	406	402	399	60	Asansol	386	385	387
17	Ahmedabad	410	405	406	61	Calcutta	419	421	422
18	Bhavnagar	432	430	434	62	Darjeeling	375	369	375
19	Rajkot	405	397	402	63	Durgapur	423	426	426
20	Surat	423	418	422	64	Haldia	446	445	450
21	Vadodra	391	394	400	65	Howrah	459	457	462
22	Faridabad	422	427	426	66	Jalpaiguri	384	382	384
23	Yamunanagar	386	381	385	67	Raniganj	366	363	369
24	Srinagar	487	495	483	68	Chandigarh	432	435	440
25	Bangalore	397	398	400	69	Delhi	472	471	471
26	Belgaum	458	452	450	70	Pondicherry	462	459	454
27	Hubli-Dharwar	432	427	425					
28	Mercara	441	440	443		All India	415	414	415
29	Alwaye	416	415	421					
30	Mundakayam	438	433	433		Additional Series of Labour Bureau			
31	Quilon	419	421	425	1	Kothagudem	410	414	415
32	Thiruvananthapuram	463	463	468	2	Himachal Pradesh	402	402	404
33	Balaghat	371	373	374	3	Bhilwara	412	419	414
34	Bhilai	360	361	362	4	Chhindwara	413	415	417
35	Bhopal	440	441	437	5	Tripura	388	391	404
36	Indore	412	424	420	6	Goa	471	474	475
37	Jabalpur	425	427	424					
38	Mumbai	462	461	464					
39	Nagpur	438	431	432					
40	Nasik	440	429	420					
41	Pune	463	459	460					
42	Solapur	449	440	439					
43	Barbil	381	374	378					
44	Rourkela	389	386	387					

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Ardhendu Dakshi, CITU Centre	380.00
W R Varada Rajan, CITU Centre	380.00
L Haque, Malda	200.00
W R Varada Rajan, CITU Centre	750.00
Tamilnadu State Committee	1,00,000.00
Bihar State Committee	1,000.00
Textile Workers Union, Rewa Unit, Haryana	12,000.00
Lal Jhanda Bhatta Mazdoor Union, Haryana	5,000.00
Darshan Singh, President, Dist. Hisar	500.00
Narsingh Sorath, Hisar, Haryana	500.00
Subhas Mistri, Haryana Roadways, Hisa	500.00
Sri Ram, Hisar	100.00
Sri Tek Chand, Hisar	500.00
A P State Committee	33,570.00
Orissa State Committee	1,000.00
Chandra Sekhar Paswan, Advocate, Bihar	1,000.00
W B State Committee of CITU	2,00,000.00
K Hemalata, CITU Centre	2,500.00
M K Kamalamma, Kerala	2,500.00
P Rosa, A P	3,500.00
Rukshana Idris, WB	3,500.00
Ranjana Nirula, CITU Centre	2,500.00
A R Sindhu, CITU Centre	1,500.00
Kerala State Committee of CITU	1,00,000.00
TTK Employees Union, Bangalore	1,800.00
G Janardan Rao, Hyderabad	200.00
Total	<u>6,85,860.00</u>
Receipts upto 25.2.99 (Published in March'99 issue of The Working Class)	<u>1,16,23,819.00</u>
Total Receipts upto 25.6.99	1,23,09,679.00

*(This and General Council photographs on page 3
courtesy: J Ballabh)*

B T R BHAVAN

The photograph below is the front elevation of B T R Bhavan, visited by the General Council members of CITU. The building is all but ready, the financial crunch forcing us to halt the final stages of work, including items of interior furnishing. The collections received so far have completely been spent. More bills are outstanding, on which interest liability also is ticking on. Even while we cannot occupy the building because of non-completion, maintenance expenses will start. Contributions are just trickling in. Quotas undertaken are far from being fulfilled, despite deadline expiring.

**IT IS AN SOS APPEAL:
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