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CITU Working Committee

Calls for All Round Mobilisation for 29th September Strike

P K Ganguly

The Working Committee meeting of the CITU held at Delhi from July 27-29 called for an all round mobilisation of all sections of workers for the success of the countrywide general strike and Hartal on September 29 against the new economic policies, as per the call given by the National Convention held at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi on 21st June.

The Presidential address delivered by E Balanandan, followed by the report of the General Secretary placed by M K Pandhe set the direction of the discussion towards the next phase of the countrywide mass actions culminating at the 29th September strike action.

Members participating in the discussion dwelt at length with the developing mass action by the trade unions and other mass organisations of peasantry, agricultural workers, students, youth and women, and their preparations for the series of action programmes culminating at the 29th September strike.

After flag hoisting by E Balanandan and placing of wreaths on the martyrs' memorial, the meeting started by adoption of condolence resolution on the comrades, who passed away during the period.

Presidential Address

E Balanandan in his address drew attention to the worsening economic situation in all the advanced capitalist countries and in the erstwhile socialist countries, now on the path of capitalism in the name of so-called market economy, which was marked by growing unemployment, closures, inflation and negative growth rate. He pointed out that reeling under such worsening conditions, while developing sharper contradictions with each other, they managed to put the burdens on the third world countries and India through the IMF, World Bank and lly the GATT agreement. The entire exercise was being done to loot the resources of the third world countries and share them among themselves to recolonise these countries. India with its vast resources and developed indigenous technologies was obviously the special target for such loots. The US imperialists with their hegemonistic aim was the leader of this diabolical game. He explained how the supine Narasimha Rao Government surrendered step by step to all the anti-national and anti-people prescriptions of the IMF and World Bank culminating at the draconian GATT agreement which mortgaged the sovereignty of the country to the imperialists. He said that although the mounting struggles in the country had forced the Government to slow down the process of restructuring in pursuance of the policies to some extent, yet they could not break the commitment of the Government to these imperialist agencies, nor stop it from signing the GATT agreement. However, the way the Government was coming out to justify its surrender, was a proof that it was fighting the masses with its back against the wall. The only way to break its knees was to further mount up the militant struggles. He referred to the call of Civil Disobedience Movement by the left parties and action programmes drawn by the National Platform of Mass Organisations and called for participation in the programmes in a massive way, culminating in the 29th September general strike and hartal to make it a historic one.

General Secretary's Report

The report placed by M K Pandhe detailed the various facets of the implementation of the economic and industrial policies. It briefed about the restructuring process, which dismantled the public sector step by step and embarked upon the path of privatisation. This privatisation, the essence of which was liberalisation and globalisation, was paving the entry of multinationals in each and every sector of the

Forward To 29th September Strike and Hartal

national economy, be it in the organised core sector, or in the unorganised sector. While the public sector units were deliberately being made sick and referred to BIFR for liquidation, disinvestment was being resorted to in the profit making units as a matter of policy. He referred to the growing closures and joblessness as the direct result of the policies and the main objective of the restructuring process. Another direct result was the standing double digit inflation and the conscious dismantling of the Public Distribution System, which hit the common people below the belt. The report also showed with datas how despite increasing foreign investments, the economy remained stagnant.

The report reviewed the 5th April rally which was a pointer to the rising discontent of all sections of the toilers and those affected by the policies like the workers, peasants, agricultural workers, students, youth, women, etc, who demonstrated their determination to force the Government to reverse the policies. The report also referred to the various mass struggles launched after the rally in various sectors and industries and the industrywise unity being forged against the policies in many cases of which the INTUC and BMS also joined the struggles.

The report reviewed the public sector strike of 14 July also, which was a success in several industries, particularly in coal industry, despite the treacherous withdrawal by the INTUC. It dwelt with the united strike against the privatisation of IISCO, which was joined by the INTUC, and it could stall the move of the Government to privatise it.

The report also dwelt with the struggle waged by the CITU in the unorganised sector and called for united struggle with other trade unions in this sector also.

It dwelt with the worsening situation in the Textile industry, which was one of the worst hit with closures and job loss, and hailed the unity developed by the trade unions in the industry including the INTUC and called for its consolidation and for struggles for implementation of the agreement on NTC mills.

The report at length reviewed the implementation of the Report on Organisation adopted by the CITU and called for carrying forward the twin task of strengthening the organisation in its democratic functioning and in membership, etc and advancing the movements. Simultaneously, it called for campaign and education of the cadres on trade union unity to culminate in the formation of a Confederation.

It called for expediting the donations of one day's wages for the BTR Memorial Trust to be completed by 19th December, 1994, the 90th birth anniversary of Com.BTR. It also focused on the growing international connections of the CITU. It further focused on the completion of 25 years of the CITU next year on 30th May, and called for celebration of the Silver Jubilee in a befitting manner.

Among the immediate tasks laid down, the report called for thorough discussions on the concrete plans for each and every action plans as chalked out by the 21st June Convention, which included a mass campaign week from August 3 to 9, all India Rail Roko on September 20, torch light processions on September 27, culminating on the 29th September countrywide strike and Hartal by forging greater unity with all other mass organisations.

Saroj Chowdhury placed the Treasurer's report.

Discussion on the Report

There was a lively discussion on the report by members. The discussion was divided on several topics, mainly on the report in general, on the implementation of thestruggle programme and on Organisation. A total number of 50 members participated in the discussions on the subjects.

Those who participated in the discussions were N Padmalochanan, M Rajan, K K Diwakaran, V G Bhaskaran Nair, V B Cherian(Kerala), Santashri Chattejree, Debanjan Chakraborty, Lakshman Seth, Sukhomoy Pal, Sunil Basu Roy, Tarit Topdar, Somen Kundu, Biren Roy, Kali Ghosh(W.Bengal), J S Majumdar, K K Tripathi, S K Bakshi, Ramnika Gupta(Bihar), R Singaralavelu, D Janakiraman, A K Padmanabhan(Tamilnadu), Sayeed Ahmed, K L Bajaj(Maharashtra), Vijay Mishra, Raghunath Singh, Balwant Singh(Punjab), S Kumar(MP), Satvir Singh(Haryana), P S Grewal, K M Tiwari(Delhi), K Venkatswaralu, N Prasad Rao, P V Ramdoss, P Satyanarayana(AP), Vijay Rawat(UP), Subodh Mehta(Gujarat), Kashmir Thakur(Himachal),, Ravindra Shukla(Rajasthan), and S Suryanarayan Rao(Karnataka).

Members pinpointed at the disastrous consequences that followed the implementation of the economic policies in various sectors of economy.

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Working Committee Meeting New Delhi, July 24-26,1994

Address By The President

E.Balanandan

Dear Comrades,

Before I proceed with my Presidential Address let us pay our respectful homage in the memory of the two great leaders of the world working class movement who passed away after our 8th Conference. Comrade Erich Honecker - an outstanding revolutionary who was heading the Democratic Republic of Germany for several years has passed away on the 29th of May, 1994 in Chile. He started his political career as an anti-Nazi fighter and finally after the defeat of fascism in the Second World War, he became the leader of the German Communist Party and later took over the governance of East Germany and he succeeded to a great extent in building socialism there. Even after the fall of Berlin wall and the overthrow of his government Comrade Honecker did not change his political convictions and stood firm in upholding the cause of the working class and refused to be bullied by the new German rulers. They fabricated charges against him and put him on trial after bringing him back from Russia inspite of his serious illness. In the course of the trial he declared in the Court in reply to the charges that he was discharging his duties and legal responsibilities in ordering the stopping the unauthorized crossing of Berlin Wall. Let us pay our respectful homage in his memory.

Comrade Kim Il Sung suddenly passed away on 8th of July, 1994 by a heart attack in Pyongyang. Comrade Kim Il Sung was a born revolutionary who led the freedom struggle of the Korean people against Japanese imperialism and after defeating them he became the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and continued to hold that position till his death. Under his leadership socialism has been built in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and ensured a prosperous life for its people. The American imperialism was given a defeat in the war of intervention during 1950-53 which was an eye-opener for world that the American imperialists can also be defeated by smaller nations provided they are able to mobilise the people and the anti-imperialist forces. Of late he could spoil the American game of forcing North Korea to disband its nuclear capability. The American pressure has been reversed by taking a resolute stand with the support of China. (I am dealing this issue separately later). The set backs suffered by socialism in Soviet Union and the East European countries did not deter him from the revolutionary path of building socialism. Comrade Kim Il Sung is no more with us. Let us pay our homage in his memory and wish all success, to the people and the government of North Korea in their endeavour for further strengthening socialism.

Let us pay our homage in memory of several of our Comrades who passed away during this period. Let us take the pledge once again that we will steadfastly uphold their cherished goal and continue our fight for socialism.

The period after, our 8th Conference was a period of hectic activities by the CITU, which are being dealt with in detail in the General Secretary's report. I am only confining myself to bring before you certain issues only.

Comrades, The big outstanding event after our Conference was the victory of African National Congress in the elections held in South Africa under the new democratic constitution wherein the blacks and whites were given equal right of franchise. This paved the way for giving a decent burial for the 3 centuries old rule of different types of imperialism including that of the hated system of apartheid. On 10th of May Dr. Nelson Mandela, the legendary figure of the South African freedom struggle became the President of South Africa which I need not say was a historic event. Out of the 22 million electorate the South African National Congress could muster nearly 65% of the votes polled. The African National Congress succeeded in persuading the different waring groups not only to participate in the elections but also could form a government giving representation to all the political parties and sections of the people. Though unity is established and a united team has taken over power still those who are in the Govt. are having their own sectarian preferences and objectives. This will be an obstacle for the smooth running of the government. The South African people especially the 27 million blacks who are denied human treatment for the last several decades during the apartheid regime are expecting immediate solution to their problems and they are holding high hopes. For them employment, food, shelter, education, health care etc., are urgent necessities. Well off sections of the whites want to keep their privileges they were enjoying hitherto and also want further improvement. Such enormous problems are to be tackled by the new government of Nelson Mandela which is a herculean task.

The emergence of a free government in South Africa is a big event in itself. The vast natural resources that are there--- they are the largest producers of gold in the world and the second biggest in platinum and diamonds and third in uranium. Also, of late they have discovered off shore oil too. Together with this the human resources if properly utilised South Africa can develop into a strong country in that region which will definitely be a contribution for the strengthening of democracy.

The CITU and the trade unions of India together with our people were on the side of the African National Congress in their glorious freedom struggle, in which the trade unions,COSATU and the South African Communist Party were major constituents. The CITU especially took the lead for mobilising financial support for the struggle. Therefore we can be legitimately proud of the victory achieved by the African National Congress together with other democratic people of the world. A strong democratic South Africa will change the face of the African continent. Comrades with your permission I wish all success to Mandela and the African National Congress in their endeavour to build a new non- racial democratic South Africa.

The US had to make a retreat from imposing sanction against North Korea for defying the United States dictates to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect their nuclear installations and its demolition in case they desire so. North Korea stood their ground with the support of China and other countries including Russia. They declared that they will opt out of the IAEA in case the IAEA denies aid for the Korean nuclear programmes and they will not allow inspection by IAEA. The US attempt to impose sanctions using the United Nations did not succeed and they had to make a hasty retreat.

So also the threat they have made against China that China will be denied the most favoured nation status in the name of the so called human rights violations. But China said that this is an interference in their internal affairs and they are not willing to discuss this issue with the US Govt. At last the American big business pressurised Mr Clinton that in this case US will be loosers and therefore MFN status of China should not be disturbed and US had to beat a retreat.

I do not wish to deal with other developments in the international arena except what is happening in the economic front.

The 'World Economic outlook' released by IMF in May has projected the World out put growth for the year 1994 and 1995 would be 3% and 3.5% respectively. In the case of United States-- they have achieved a growth of 3% during 1993, which is projected to rise to 3.9% in 1994 and settle down at a sustainable level of 2.6% in 1995. For Canada the corresponding growth rates are 2.4%, 3.5% and 4.1% and for the UK it is 1.9%, 2.5% and 2.8% respectively. But for the continental Europe and Japan they have now reached the bottom of their recession. In the case of Japan and Germany in the range of 0.7%-0.9% and 2.1% and Europe as a whole 0.9% and 1.3% to 2.5%.

The projections made by the OECD comprising 25 developed countries of the world also agree with these projections though little more optimistic. The world average growth is worked out with the high rate growth areas of Asian countries too. The growth is still meager in many countries and the most disturbing fact is that the growth do not reflect in the growth of employment and unemployment and miseries are on the increase in the developed countries, which are called high tech ones.

According to official estimates, inspite of the recovery the number of unemployed in the OECD countries still remains at 35 millions and 8.5% of the work force in 1993. According to "Economic Outlook" published in May this year, the current rate of unemployment in the European countries are 3 to 4 times higher than that prevailed in 1960s and 1970s. In the EC countries the unemployment rate in 1993 was 10.5% and that will continue for 1994 also. In US the official rate of unemployment is 6.4%

The number of part-time employment is on the increase in all these countries and they are considered as employed. If this is taken into account the rate of unemployment will be 12.5% for Europe or 50 million people. In the United States the present

6.4% figure would be 9.3%, in Britain instead the 9.8%, it will be 12.3%. Japanese official unemployment of 2.7% will be 9.6%.

In Japan, part-time employment is more than the other countries. In Many OECD countries 2 to 3% of the unemployed are kept out of the unemployed register since they are undergoing some training or receiving some unemployment benefits. In Europe most of the unemployed did not get work for the last 12 months. The age group of this unemployed is 25 to 44 years.

Among the part-timers women are in large number. As stated earlier the problem of unemployment is alarmingly becoming serious consequent of the so called policy of "Jobless growth". I do not wish to deal with the situation in the erstwhile socialist countries especially in Russia, where the unemployment and miseries are developing in a devastating scale.

The remedies being suggested to meet the problem of unemployment are worse than that of the disease. This subject was discussed recently by the govt leaders. At the initiative of US President Mr Bill Clinton, a summit meeting was held in Detroit in June 1994. A committee of OECD discussed and a White Paper on unemployment was adopted. All these discussions and studies gave way for contradictory positions. In these discussions labour situation in Europe and America was compared and the US model was generally accepted. The US model suggests lesser benefits for the unemployed.

In US the unemployment figure does not reflect the actual situation.Due to the vast wage differences. 35 million or 14% of the American population is living below the poverty line. The wages of executives and officers are very high and the wage level of workers is very low compared to Germany. The inequality in income in US is projected in the following terms in the Herald International Tribune dated 8.7.94:

"Of all the rich democracies, there is only one, the United States, in which inequality of incomes rose sharply in the past decade and the wages of the working poor sank. There have been big gains in income for many Americans, but most of those gains have been concentrated in the richest fifth of the population.

"The drastic decline in union membership in the US is another factor accounting for greater inequality:"

It further went on to argue, "to devise ways to prevent the rise of inequality, and to keep the bottom end of the ladder out of absolute poverty, without interfering with the creation of new jobs. While the remedies seem expensive, it is worth considering the cost of the alternative: a country in which the distance between rich and poor grows steadily, with class hostilities and the politics of resentment getting louder."

The above quotation shows clearly that in the developed capitalist societies unemployment and poverty are on the increase which leads to different types of social tensions. The tall claim which has been made that capitalism is the "only way for human progress" do not tally with the facts and the facts show that capitalism will lead to increasing inequality and poverty for the large majority of the population.

The Indian economic scene needs no explanation here since we have dealt at length in our Patna conference. I only wish to highlight certain issues which is going to eat away the vitals of our economy. However let me quote a small portion of an article published by The Economic Times dated 22 July 94 with the title unemployment: Lessons from Europe "In India too, product growth is out pacing employment. The experience of the 1980s is that of a welcome sharp rise in the growth of the product (5.3 per cent from 3.5 per cent) but a sharper and disastrous decline in the growth rate of employment (from 2.8 per cent to 1.5 per cent). The crisis of a glaring and growing mismatch between growth and employment generation facing the Indian economy, alas, does not figure in the analysis of our policy makrers".

The people of our country have now come to realise the results of liberalisation and globalisation of our economy through daily increase in prices of essential commodities and services. As part of the new policy, a process is on to dismantle the public distribution system. The retail price of wheat and rice has increased to more than 75% from 1991 to 1994 in the open market The price of sugar has risen from Rs 9/- to Rs 18/- This is partly because of the reduction of sugar quota for the public distribution system which has been reduced to 13% from 31% besides relaxing all the controls. The price of all the items of daily consumption has risen to unbearable levels. The price of all goods and services has also gone up. The official price index also gone up to more than 12%. All these are being justified in the name of market economy at work. The result is that large majority of our population is put to unbearable difficulties. Larger and larger sections are being denied the basic necessities of life due to increase in prices.

Our agricultural production is going to be adversely affected because of the new policy of cutting of subsidies for electricity, water, fertilizer, etc.

Allowing the foreign multinationals to penetrate into the basic sectors of the economy like power, oil, coal, banking, insurance, civil aviation and telecom etc where we have made substantial progress and are able to compete with their foreign counter parts is inviting disaster to our country. The production cost of electricity and oil in our country is about one third of the international cost. Cheaper energy cost will help us to compete in the market and this specific advantage the foreign multinationals are interested to do away with.

The latest is that the US Energy Secretary with her team of multinational power companies had discussions with the Power Minister and others and reported to be agreed to invest Rs 75000 crores in the power sector for producing 25000 MW power in India, which was hailed as a big event. It is said that the Govt of India has conceded that they will be given assured profit of 16% and a counter guarantee by the Govt of India ensuring the same. This is what has been agreed to be done in the case of Enron Project,Bombay the consequences of which has been discussed by experts in detail and pointed out that the power cost in the country will be jacked up to a minimum of Rs 4 per.unit if not more from the present cost of Rs 1.18 paise to Rs 1.50 paise. If this policy is pushed through the power engineering industry, another big public sector company which can produce world standard power machines at lesser cost which can meet almost our internal demand, is going to be starved of orders and the technology developed in the country will also be destroyed.The cost of production of goods will be increased due to high cost energy and our industries' competitiveness will have adverse impact and that will result in a process of de-industrialisation. This is true in the case of oil too.

In the oil sector govt is encouraging multinational penetration instead of trying to help improving our indigenous production. The cost of production of indigenous crude oil and the imported crude oil for the last 5 years is given below. Our crude oil cost is inclusive of the oil cess, royalty and tax which will be around Rs 1500/- per tonne.

		R/M
Period	Imported crude	Indigenous crude
1989-90	3189.68	2269.12
1990-91	4447.15	2442.80
1991-92	4735.08	2442.80
1992-93	5137.83	
1993-94	5145.61	3295.76

The only argument the govt is making for this policy is financial crisis. If the Indian power producer, Electricity Boards and central establishments and the ONGC are given permission to slightly increase their cost they can easily mobilise resources for the development of these sectors. I do not wish to go into other details of the impact of new policies in other public sector industries.

In order to facilitate the attack against the public sector the govt and their spokesman are always trying to denigrate its performance. But the annual survey of Central Public Sector Enterprise for the year 1992-93 released by Department of Public Enterprises,Ministry of Industry gives a different picture. In this it is said that "In the matter of profitability, mobilisation of internal resources and in value addition, etc public sector have had sizeable contribution. The gross margin of 133 enterprises for the last 10 years was showing a progressive increase from Rs 3761 crores in 1983-84 to Rs 25,217 in 1992-93, an increase of 36.96 per cent. The internal resources mobilisation made by 116 units in 1983-84 was Rs 3,278 crores, it rose to Rs 12,943 crores in 1991-92 involving 143 units and Rs 14,723 crores in 1992-93 involving 146 units. During the 7th Plan period the public enterprises have generated internal resources to the tune of Rs 37,677.71 crores. The manufacturing undertakings in 1983-84 made a value addition of Rs 10,048 crores. In 1992-93 it reached to Rs 13,150 crores,a rise of 8.24 per cent than the previous year.

The banking and insurance industry has played a crucial role in the planned development of the country. The industrial and agricultural development was facilitated by the public sector banking and insurance industries. In the name of improving efficiency "these sectors are under attack which is not in the interest of our nation. The rate of growth of our general insurance is the highest in the world and its performance is being praised by large majority of its clients. LIC has contributed Rs 16,000 crores for assisting different schemes for national development.

Therefore the denigration of public sector should be rebuffed by the trade union movement by increased propaganda among the people. The real impact and consequences of the attempt to privatise and winding up of the public sector case by case is to be taken up by the trade unions for educating the public.

After the signing of the GATT agreement the govt is treating the multinationals not only as equals with the Indian capitalists but in many cases "as more than equals". This was the reason for some of the big capitalists of the country beginning to crave for "equal treatment and level playing ground." We also see another disturbing feature. Many of the big companies holding big brand names for their products earning sizeable profits from their industry are being scared of the unrestricted entry of big multinationals in their field of operation to compete with them. Many of them are showing the "wisdom" not in competing with them to get defeated with their huge financial strength and market accessability but to sell the industry itself for a handsome price and in many cases to become junior partners. This is the story of Parley, Kelvinator, Tomco, HLM, Diner's Club, Duke's, Kissan, etc which I do not wish to elaborate further.

As noted earlier, after our 8th conference, the CITU was engaged in hectic activities of which a few I would like to mention here. The April 5th Delhi demonstration of mass organisations and trade unions was a unique event in its mass participation and militancy. This gave a big warning to the govt that the working class and the people will not tolerate the anti- national policies lying down. The July 14th public sector strike was a success in spite of the INTUC's vacillation and withdrawal from the strike. The June 21st Delhi convention of the mass organisations and trade unions was also a big success and in which very important decisions were taken including the general strike on 29th September, about which we are going to have full discussion today.

We have also to take note of the fact that the Left Parties are going to launch a massive civil disobedience movement against the govt's policy from August 16 to September 9th. In this movement the trade unions have to play a role in appropriate manner which we will have to consider today.

Comrades,during the period of four months after our conference, the organisational activities in different areas have improved. Before I conclude I wish to bring before you the question of developing sickness in many industries of which many are being referred to BIFR. The sick industries list has further increased and the Govt is implementing the so called Exit Policy through Voluntary Retirement Schemes in many sectors and sending out thousands of workers out of job.

We have to take special steps in the matter of meeting the increasing sickness which was already noted by our 8th Conference. The suggestions made by us with regard to the idea of trade union unity, the proposal of "Confederation of Trade Unions" has invited many comments which is a welcome sign. We have to take further steps to see that organisational cohesion of the trade unions with flexibility is brought about.

Comrades. our experience shows that we were able to make the govt change many of their policies with regard to public sector, when we were able to mobilise sufficient united pressure. IISCO privatisation is a case in point we were able to make the govt retrace from their proposal of privatisation. The INTUC also joined in the united strike action against privatisation of IISCO.The Govt could not push through the Trade Union Amendment Bill they have brought forth because of combined resistance put up in the Parliament and outside. So also in many public sector industries the proposals of the govt had to be withdrawn or suitably modified due to workers' jointresistance. We were able to give a rebuff to the theory of wage freeze in the public sector. We have also to note that the new announcement of the Vice Chairman of Planning Commission Mr Pranab Mukherjee that a new fund is going to be created for revitalising the sick PSUs, details of which need to be looked into seriously. However, the single point remedy of referring sick industries to BIFR is now agreed to be insufficient. This is also due to the pressure exerted by our movement.

The joint movements are developing against the attack in the power, telecom, textiles, banking, insurance sectors,etc Further strike actions are being discussed in the financial sector and a strike decision has been taken in the telecom sector against privatisation. Power workers and engineers together with the workers and officers of the power engineering industries also are moving for joint direct action against the govt policy. In the textile industry a Joint Action Committee has been formed with INTUC in it, and the JAC has taken a decision for march to Parliament by textile workers in November. If these joint movement are properly strengthened and carried forward in all other industries, I am confident that the govt policy not only in these industries, but also as a whole can be rolled back. While carrying forward united movements in the organised sector to save the industries and job, we have to concentrate our activities in the unorganised sector as well. It must be noted that with the IMF prescribed new industrial policy, the Government has embarked upon a path of deindustrialisation, undermining the organised sector and getting the goods manufactured in the unorganised sector, exploiting cheap labour. The Commission on Unorganised Sector and the recent workshop at Delhi have discussed these problems. Our work in the unorganised sector therefore has to be planned and movements launched according to the demands of the situation.

Lastly I wish to draw the attention that the implementation of organisational directives is not taken seriously by some committees. In order to enable the CITU to play a crucial role in these developing struggles it needs no stress that strengthening the organisational is a pre-condition for furthering the movements. There is no doubt that with the increasing prestige our organisational position can be improved substantially, if, proper steps are taken.

Comrades let us march forward to bigger and stronger struggles, and make the 29th September countrywide strike and hartal a big success.

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They referred to the rampant sickness and closures and to the BIFR which acted as the legal institution for liquidation through a sort of summery trial without giving any value to the revival schemes presented by the unions. VRS was being imposed on the workers as a mean to implement the Exit Policy. Systematic dismantling of the public sector had resulted in a jungle rule in the industrial sector. While foreign investments were increasing and the indigenous technologies were undermined, no new technology were being inducted. This had set in a process of de-industrialisation and loss of jobs, rather than industrialisation and employment generation.

Price rise, inflation, the sugar scandal and the conscious dismantling of the Public Distribution System were other areas focused by the members as the fall out of the liberalisation process.

Almost all the members dwelt on the unorganised sector. It was pointed out that with the gradual closure of the organised industries in pursuance of the new economic policy, the monopolists were slowly pushing the manufacturing process in the unorganised sector and in the home based units in particular. Thus they were garnering huge profits while fleecing the workers in the unorganised sector ruthlessly, where majority were women. They briefed about the struggles being carried forward in the unorganised sector in the states.

Members also narrated about the 14 July public sector strike and other major struggles in their respective states.

In their deliberations, members self-critically briefed about the implementation of the Report on Organisation. Although there was improvement in organisational functioning, yet there were several weaknesses which required concentration. Members emphasised on democratic functioning, increase in membership in each industry, both organised and unorganised and intensification of united struggles alongwith independent activities of the CITU. They made indepth discussion on the need to carryforward the educative campaign for the formation of a Confederation. They stressed for regular TU class and workshops also. The issue of development of the Hindi belt was also discussed alongwith the specific task of CITU's development in the industrially advanced states like Maharashtra and Gujarat. They made several suggestions to enrich the report.

On the implementation of the programme, the members briefed the actions being taken by the states and industrial federations and expressed their promise for massive actions in all the phases from the campaign work from Aug 3 to 9, Rail Roko on September 20, torch light procession on September 27, the civil disobedience from August 16 to September 9, culminating in the countrywide strike on September 29. The reports of the General Secretary and Treasurer were adopted unanimously. The meeting also adopted a resolution condemning the brutal attack by the CISF on the struggling workers and officers of Neyveli Lignite Corporation.The meeting ended with the clarion call for the strike both by the General Secretary in his reply to the debate and by the President in his summing up speech.

State Convention of Mass Organisations at Bhubaneswar

At the call of the National Platform of Mass Organisations, Orissa Unit, a State level Convention was organised at Bhubaneswar on 17th July 1994.

The Convention wa presided by Sivaji patnaik. M.P., (CITU), Baishnab Das(HMS), Bhagawan Panda (AITUC). Gangadhar Paikray (Utkal Kishan Sabha), Uddhab Jena (KKMS), Subash Singh (DYFI), Tapasi Praharaj(AIDWA), Chhabi Mohanty (AIDSO), Saroj Das(BEFI), Kishore Jena (AIBEA), Yoginath Jena (Central Govt. Emp. Federation) and Radha Nanda of State Govt. Co-ordination Committee.

Lambodar Nayak, General Secretary CITU Orissa State Committee presented a 15 point draft proposal and the Antion programme in the light of the resolution adopted at the national convention held on 21st June at New Delhi and it was discussed by the delegates present in the Convention and adopted unanimously.

The long 4 hours discussions that generated high spirit and enthusim among the delegates was participated by Prabir palit (AITUC), Baishnab Das(HMS), Mayadhar Nayak (UTUC(LS)), Jaganath Mishra (Orissa Drushak Sabha), Suresh panighrahi(SFI), Sisir Hui (DYFI) Chhabi Mohanty(AIDSO), Kumudini Behera(AIDWA), Suresh Mohanty(CPSTU) S.K. Das, (OSRU), Khetramohan Das(State Govt. Employees Co-ordination Committee), Lili Das (MSS), Kishore Jena(AIBEA), Pradeep Sadangi (BEFI), Bhaskar jena(AIDYA), Udhhab Jena (KKMS), Ramachandra Nayak (LIC Employees). Basudev Samal Dumana Das ...General Insurance Employees organisations alongwith Com. Surendra Jena of private college Teachers Association.

The Convention also took a special resolution of flood situation in orissa demanding immediate and permanent measures. This resolution was moved by Gangadhar pikray, UKS and Seconded by Uddhav Jena of KKMS.

The concluding address was given Sivaji Patnaik. He called on the delegates to go ahead to make success the 29th September strike and oppose the central Govt. economic policy taken at the pressure of IMF and World Bank and signing of GATT agreement.