

Vol. 31

No. 4

December 2000

Price: Rupees Four



THE WORKING CLASS

BOMBAY MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU



On To The Tenth Conference !

**Forward To Unity And
Struggle !**

27 - 31 December, 2000

Magnificent Response by Coal Workers

TO CITU Call for Three Day Strike

20 - 22 November, 2000

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
TENTH ALL INDIA CONFERENCE
27-31 DECEMBER 2000

NOTICE

The 10th conference of the CITU will be held on 27-31 December, 2000 at Hyderabad. The Conference will consider the following agenda.

1. Condolence Resolution
2. Presidential Address
3. Report of the General Secretary
4. Statement of Accounts for the years 1997, 1998 and 1999
5. The Commission discussions on seven subjects and report thereon
6. Greetings from the foreign delegates and Central TU leaders
7. Resolutions on national and international issues
8. Declaration of Tasks before the CITU on the problems of working women
9. Consideration of the amendments to the CITU Constitution
10. Election of Office Bearer,s General Council and the Working Committee Members
11. Any other subject with the permission of the presidium.

As decided by the CITU Secretariat, there will be one delegate per 1250 fully paid membership in each state. While fixing the delegates the state committee will ensure that grouping of membership should be done in a manner that would protect the interests of smaller unions also. Due to request by several unions the cut-off date for depositing of the CITU centre the affiliation fees along with annual returns (up to 1999) for consideration of delegates has been extended to 30th November 2000.

As per decision of the General Council, 15 per cent of total delegates from all the states should be working women. It is also necessary to ensure that from each state there is substantial representation of the actual workers in the delegation.

Delegates fee is Rs.500/- each towards board and loading arrangements.

As per requirement of the CITU constitution, notice of the proposed amendments to the CITU Constitution are given herewith.

M.K. PANDHE
General Secretary

Existing

Proposed Amendment

1. Section 9 (vi) (a):

The General Council

One representative for every 5000 members and any part thereof exceeding 2500, election through cumulative voting.

One representative for a specified membership in the state to be decided by the General Council prior to the conference, subject to approval of the conference. Election should be through cumulative voting.

2. Section 15 (a): Affiliation Fee

An affiliation fee at the rate of fifty paise (Re.0.50) per member per calender yaer subject to the minimum of Rs. 20/-.

An affiliation fee at the rate of Re. 1/- (Re. one) per calender year subject to the minimum of Rs. 40/-.

(Please see also page 27)

THE WORKING CLASS

CITU MONTHLY

DECEMBER 2000**BUSINESS AS USUAL**

by UNNY

*Courtesy: The Indian Express***EDITORIAL BOARD****M K Pandhe**

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W R Varada Rajan

(Working Editor)

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ON TO THE TENTH CONFERENCE !

CITU meets in Hyderabad in the Tenth Conference from 27th to 31st December, 2000.

Hyderabad, the capital city of Andhra Pradesh from where the CEO of that State Chandrababu Naidu is zealously implementing the World Bank/ IMF dictates, is brimming with the preparations for the Tenth Conference.

Our valiant comrades in Andhra Pradesh had virtually bitten the bullet fired by Naidu's barbaric Police, in their attempt to brutally implement the "power sector reform" by sheer force. Comrade Vishnu Vardhan Reddy and Ramakrishna had become martyrs in the process!

The CITU General Council had decided that from all the venues of previous CITU Conferences and from Delhi, 'jathas' organised by the CITU State Committees will be organised, which will undertake extensive campaign throughout the length and of the country. The 'jathas' will mobilise people's support to our fight against the disastrous economic policies and communal of the BJP led NDA Government at the centre. The 'jathas' will converge in Hyderabad on 26th December, 2000. The CITU, for the first time in its long history of three decades, is organising an all India cultural festival, which will also commence on 26th December, 2000. Cultural troupes from various States will present the vivid facets of working class culture as opposed to decadent western and bourgeois culture exhibited in the small and big screen.

There will be daily seminars on several subjects of topical importance in which besides trade union leaders, eminent personalities from diverse fields will participate.

The Tenth Conference will review the CITU's struggles and activities since the last conference at Kochi and draw up the future tasks in furtherance of working class struggles.

The mass rally at the conclusion of the Conference on 31st December, will herald the new resurgent phase of CITU's struggles.

On to the Tenth Conference !
Forward to Unity and Struggle !

THE MAGNIFICENT STRIKE OF 6 LAKH COAL MINERS

M K PANDHE

Six lakh Coal mine workers all over India downed their tools for three days on 20-22 November, in protest against the retrograde clauses of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by INTUC, AITUC, HMS and BMS and against the Bill to privatise the Coalmines proposed to be introduced in the Winter Session of Parliament. The strike was synchronised with the commencement of the Parliament Session.

The call for the strike was given by the All India Coal Workers Federation (CITU) and supported by several coalfield level trade unions. Rank and file workers of all affiliations enthusiastically supported the call, since a wave of anger was roused against the MOU among workers of all affiliations.

MEAGER BENEFITS

The signing of MOU created strong reaction among general workers since it gave much less fitment benefit than granted to the executives in the Coal industry. While the executives were paid up to 64 per cent rise in emoluments, workers would get only up to 13 per cent. The MOU gave a raw deal to the underground workers who would get 20 per cent underground allowance, after deducting Rs.1800 from their basic wage. At the lowest level, the worker would get only underground allowance at 9 per cent of their basic wages.

The house rent allowance was

raised meagerly from Rs.60 to Rs.75, which also was not acceptable to the workers. Similarly a paltry rise in conveyance and night shift allowance was provided for in the MOU.

With only 7 months left for completion of the term of Sixth National Coal Wage Agreement VI, this situation led to universal discontent among the coalminers.

TOTAL RESENTMENT

The MOU provided that the October wages would be paid in the month of November and the CIL management issued fitment chart to all coal companies. Scores of workers found that their wages would be brought down after implementation of the fitment chart. There was a spontaneous reaction among the workers of all affiliations, who tore to pieces and burnt the fitment chart. Workers of all unions held hundreds of protest demonstrations all over India jointly, where the effigies of T.U. leaders, who signed the MOU, were burnt.

Signatories of MOU tried to hold meetings to explain their point of view, but workers were not in a mood to listen to these leaders and forced them to leave the meetings.

Seeing the mood of the workers, the management of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) had to withdraw the fitment chart on the plea that it contained certain anomalies. However, this step could not satisfy the workers, who raised

the demand for countrywide direct action. Some affiliated unions of the signatory organisations demanded removal of their leadership from the JBCCI for their signing the MOU ignoring the legitimate feelings of the coal miners.

CITU CALLS FOR STRIKE

The All India Coal Workers Federation (AICWF), taking into account the feelings of the coal miners, gave a call for nationwide strike for 3 days to protest against the derogatory clauses of the MOU. The question of privatisation of coalmines was also raised by the AICWF, since the Government of India announced the bringing of Bill to privatise the coalmines, during the winter session of Parliament.

The Core Group of the JBCCI met on 4th and 5th November at Nagpur. The representatives of BMS did not attend the meeting. On both the days, a massive demonstration and Dharna was organised by workers, of all affiliations, to protest against the derogatory MOU.

SMEAR CAMPAIGN

The leaders of 3 central TUs, (viz. AITUC, HMS & INTUC) criticised the CITU for the decision of strike and some even went to the extent of stating that it would not be possible for them to sit along with the CITU in the JBCCI. The CITU representative replied that it would remain loyal to the Coal workers and it would be prepared to face all

eventualities to protect of the interests of the coal miners. The CITU also noted that the Coal workers have been given a raw deal in comparison with the other public sector undertakings. The leaders of the INTUC, AITUC and HMS issued a statement against CITU stating that due to disinformation campaign by the CITU, the workers are getting agitated. They also eulogised the MOU signed by them.

Hundreds of meetings were held in all the coal fields to prepare for the strike. Massive rallies organised on 10th November on the occasion of Bihar State CITU Conference at Ranchi, and on 13th November at Chirimiri on the occasion of M.P. State CITU Conference, also helped to galvanise the situation.

The CIL management called a hurried meeting of the Core Group of JBCCI on 13th November at Nagpur, which was not attended by the CITU representative, owing to his preoccupation with the M.P. State Conference. However, the meeting could not come to any conclusion. Seeing the strong resentment among the workers, the 4 trade unions gave an "ultimatum" to CIL management that if the agreement was not signed before 26th with "all defects removed", they would go in for direct action.

This statement could not cut much ice among the workers. The unity achieved at the grassroots level by workers of all affiliation was so powerful that no one could prevent the united strike action.

MASSIVE RESPONSE

On 20th November, the entire coal belt in the country witnessed an unprecedented enthusiasm among the workers to make the strike call a grand success. Many workers announced their desertion from pro-MOU unions and joined the CITU.

The entire Eastern Coalfield mines wore a deserted look with total strike observed by the entire workforce. The activists of Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India ensured that peace was maintained in the area and no disruptive role was played by anti-social elements.

The Bharat Coking-Coal Corporation Ltd (BCCL) witnessed such an upsurge among the workers that even the essential services were stopped by the workers. It was only when Chairman BCCL talked to CITU leadership in Delhi that the essential services could be restored. In some places, the strikebreakers tried to operate the mines, but were given good rebuff by the workers.

In Central Coalfields, the strike was near total. In some mines, the strike was partial in the first shift but the workers later on succeeded in persuading the workers who joined the duty to come out of the mines.

In all the three companies there was no despatch of coal during the period of strike. The Patna edition of 'The Hindustan Times' reported that the despatch was nearing "Zero".

In South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. also, the strike was successful.

UNPRECEDENTED STRIKE

Reports indicate that in Western

Coalfields, Northern Coalfields and Singareni Collieries successful strikes were organised. In some regions, some trade union leaders tried to move in the bustees along with the CISF personnel but were not allowed by the workers to speak to them.

On second day of the strike, the Hazaribagh police arrested 5 activists of Coalfield Labour Union on false charges. This only made workers more determined to fight the strikebreakers.

The CCL the NCOEA leaders were asked by workers of other unions to address them and explain the derogatory memorandum signed by 4 unions.

Bihar Colliery Kamgar Union activists during the strike period moved all over the mining belt to keep the morale of the workers high.

M.P: Koyla Shramik Sangh had entered areas where CITU had no branches and convinced workers to join the strike call.

The meeting of the Core Group of JBCCI is convened by the management on 24th November, while the JBCCI will meet on 25th November. It is proposed to give the MOU signed by the four unions, the shape of an agreement. The CITU will, of course, raise its objections to the MOU and fight for wage rise in comparison with the rise given to the executives. The All India Coal Workers Federation is also holding its meeting on the same days to consider the outcome and chalk out further course of action.

THREE DECADES LONG JOURNEY

W.R.Varada Rajan

Calcutta, 30th May 1970.

Com. Manoranjan Roy moved a resolution on formation of a new all India trade union centre. Com. E. Balanandan seconded it. The resolution was adopted among thunderous applause and shouting of slogans.

"The resolution declared:

"The name of the new organisation will be the Centre of Indian Trade Unions. Its flag will be red flag with hammer and sickle with the letters CITU inscribed on it".

The All Indian Trade Union Conference held at Calcutta from the 28th to 31st May 1970, thus announced the arrival of the CITU on the map of India, as a beacon-light for the fighting working class of the country.

Com. P. Ramamurti, the founder General Secretary of the CITU, narrated the sequence of events leading to the formation of CITU in the following words:

"This conference is being convened by the decision of a meeting of 150 leading trade union functionaries - members of the working committee and general council and of the State Executives and councils of the AITUC - which took place at the Harbour Town of Vasco-Da-Gama, Goa, on April 8 and 9 last. These comrades are not ordinary functionaries, but they are the leaders of unions, which led most of the militant struggles of the working class in recent years. They had faced heavy repression, privation and hardships in building the movement. After mature consideration they decided to convene this conference and to recommend to the delegates that a new All India Trade Union Central Organisation be formed, which will carry forward the glorious traditions of the Indian Working Class - traditions of unity and united struggles".

Com. B.T. Ranadive, founder President of the CITU, pointed out:

"This Conference and this new organisation have come into existence not because of a fight between two leaders, not because of a factional

fight between two sections but on the crest of one of the biggest strike waves that swept over India involving lakhs of workers. And it is they who have participated in the recent struggles, those who have experienced the repression and those that have also experienced the joy and happiness of being victorious in these struggles - it is they who are founding this new organisation, the lakhs of workers, their leaders and not this or that individual...

"We are starting a new organisation, out of the very needs of the workers struggles, out of the class struggle, to which we adhere".

STEADY GROWTH

The credentials committee of the conference reported: "In all, 1759 unions have sent delegates to this conference having a total membership of 8,04, 637".

In the last three decades of our struggle, we have multiplied our membership more than three times. At the time of the last (9th) conference, CITU membership had crossed 27 lakhs. Of course, our influence, the respect and admiration the CITU commands, is many times more than our actual membership.

The three decades that have passed by bear testimony to the fact that we have firmly and steadfastly adhered to the task that we enjoined on ourselves - to carry on the struggle for the unity of the working class, unity of the trade union movement.

Denouncing the formation of CITU and ridiculing the call of the foundation conference of the CITU for unity, the AITUC, HMS and INTUC joined to form a National Council of trade unions, with the patronage of the Government of India. R.K. Khadiolkar, Minister of Labour in the Central Government was the chief architect behind this move to isolate the CITU.

FIGHTING THE ATTACKS

But, the CITU mobilised all other trade unions and constituted the United Council of Trade Unions to carry on the fight against the anti-working class

policies of the government.

Morarji Desai, Finance Minister in the Indira Gandhi Cabinet, mooted a proposal for wage freeze, cleverly camouflaging it in the name of a 'Triple Freeze' - wage freeze, profit freeze and price freeze. The UCTU exposed the hypocrisy of the 'Triple Freeze' concept and fought against the wage freeze offensive.

The CITU played a very important role in the formation of the National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's struggle (NCCRS), which spearheaded the historic railway strike of 1974. The CITU extended total support to the strike, which met with the repression of the worst kind by the Government. Though the strike ended, without any immediate gain, the CITU remained firmly with the railway workers and helped them to fight the large-scale victimisation resorted to by the Government.

The dark era of emergency rule by Indira Gandhi intervened and the working class was targeted for a serious attack by the Government. The Bonus Act was trampled upon and the Government reduced the minimum bonus of 8.33% to 4 to 6%. The CITU mobilised all forces opposed to the draconian regime and fought back the offensives. The emergency ended with the trouncing of the Congress at the hustings in 1977. But, the Janata Party Government, which took over the reigns of the power at the Centre, mounted two crucial offensives against the working class. One was the infamous Industrial Relations Bill. (Ravindra Varma, Labour Minister in the Morarji Desai Cabinet. Who authored this anti-labour legislation, is ironically, the Chairman of the Second National Commission of Labour, presently appointed by the

Vajpayee Government.) Second was the new 'Wages and Incomes Policy' propounded by the Boothalingam Committee, reinventing the wage freeze attack.

The CITU was in the forefront of the struggle against these anti-working class moves. The

Industrial Relations Bill had to be abandoned in the face of the stiffest resistance put up by all section of the workers and trade unions.

But, with the collapse of the Janata Government and resurrection of the Congress regime under Indira Gandhi, fresh attacks were unleashed by the Government.

The CITU took initiative to launch a nation-wide movement against these attacks. The National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions was formed, due to the untiring efforts of the CITU. All trade unions, except the INTUC, joined the NCC. During the eighties, the NCC became the springboard of powerful working class actions, including several marches to Parliament and all India General strike s against the price rise, unemployment, ban on recruitment, attacks on trade union and democratic rights, etc.

IN PUBLIC SECTOR ...

Another important task taken up by the CITU was to unite the Public Sector Workers throughout the country. The united fight of the workers of the Central Public Sector Undertakings, with the CITU leading from the front, succeeded in forcing the Government to hike the Dearness Allowance rate which was pegged at Rs.1.30 per point, for over a decade. The CITU exposed the secret designs of the Government of India, under the guise of Arjun-Sengupta report, to attack the PSUs and the

PAST CONFERENCES OF THE CITU

Number	Venue	Date	President	General Secretary
First	Calcutta	28-31, May, 1970	B.T.Ranadive	P. Ramamurti
Second	Ernakulam	18-22, April, 1973	B.T.Ranadive	P. Ramamurti
Third	Mumbai	21-25, May, 1975	B.T.Ranadive	P. Ramamurti
Fourth	Chennai	11-15, April, 1979	B.T.Ranadive	P. Ramamurti
Fifth	Kanpur	13-17, April, 1983	B.T.Ranadive	SamarMukherjee
Sixth	Mumbai	18-22, May, 1987	B.T.Ranadive	Samar Mukherjee
Seventh	Calcutta	13-17, Feb. 1991	E. Balanandan	M.K. Pandhe
Eighth	Patna	3-7, March, 1994	E. Balanandan	M.K. Pandhe
Ninth	Kochi	21-26, April 1997	E. Balanandan	M.K. Pandhe

workers' hard won rights. The Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions (CPSTU), formed in 1986, became the rallying point for all workers of PSUs, cutting across affiliations. Several strike struggles have successfully been carried out under the united banner of the CPSTU. The CPSTU had played a very crucial role in shaping the public sector wage agreements. It is significant that the officers of PSUs also joined hands with the CPSTU on common issues. The CITU is straining every nerve to carry forward the unity of public sector workers in the fight against calamitous moves of the Government to liquidate the public sector, lock, stock and barrel.

The beginning of the last decade of the 20th century witnessed the rulers of the country launching the disastrous policies of so called economic reforms. Under the successive regimes, viz, the Congress, United Front and the NDA, the Government of India has embarked in kowtowing to the dictates of the IMF, World Bank and the WTO, causing immense damage to the country's economy, self-reliance and sovereignty, as also misery for the people. During this period, the leadership of the BMS also was disinclined to join the common movement. The situation called for a newer initiative on the part of the CITU. The sponsoring committee of Trade Unions, comprising all Central Trade Unions, excepting INTUC and BMS, was brought into existence. During the last nine years, since the beginning of economic reform measures, at the call of the sponsoring committee, six countrywide strikes against the disastrous economic policies had been staged. Each of these strikes witnessed an ever-increasing participation of unions and sections of working class.

AGAINST ECONOMIC POLICIES

The policies of liberalisation, privatisation, being pursued at a feverish pitch, by the Government at the Centre, demanded a further widening of the vista of struggle, beyond the periphery of trade unions. To address this task, the CITU, in cooperation with the other constituents of the Sponsoring Committee of the Trade Unions, formed the National Platform of Mass Organisations, comprising, besides the trade unions, organisations of agricultural workers, kisans, students, women and youth. All the strike

struggles and mass rallies since 1994 were responded to by the masses mobilised under the banner of this broad platform. The fight against the economic policies took the form of massive people's resistance movement.

With the communal forces represented by Sangh Parivar, using their new acquired clout, under the BJP led Government at the Centre, the fight has to be two pronged - against communalism and against economic policies. The CITU has been making all out efforts to carry forward the struggle to meet the challenges on both these counts.

The CITU has been steadfast in its commitment to support the demands and struggles of the vast sections of office-employees - in the Central and State Governments, the Banks, Insurance, Airlines, Medical Representatives, Teachers and others. The fraternal relations, forged by the CITU with the Federations of these segments of the working class, have been mutually beneficial and helped to take forward the common movement to greater heights.

The CITU has, during the last three decades, developed fraternal relations with the trade unions in the international arena as well. Keeping in line with its international outlook and conviction, the CITU has been playing an effective role in the international trade union movement. Scores of trade unions in all the continents of the world are maintaining formal relations with the CITU. The CITU is not affiliated to the WFTU but has all along been participating in the campaigns and activities of the WFTU. In the present uni-polar world order, the CITU has relentlessly been striving to promote global resistance to the imperialist globalisation. The CITU has taken up seriously the task of organising the working women and formed an All India Coordination Committee of working women, in 1979. For the past two decades and over, the CITU has made a persistent effort to mobilise the women workers and also to bring the working women in leadership positions, within the organisation. CITU's pioneering efforts in this regard, had resulted in focussing the attention of all trade unions in different sectors, on the issues of working women.

The CITU has self critically appraised the organisational aspects as well, with the objective of ensuring democratic functioning at every level

and taking up the priority tasks. The CITU has endeavoured to take up the issues of social oppression of the dalit and backward castes, the defence of the rights and interests of the minorities and the fight against unemployment.

TOWARDS UNITY

The CITU, conscious of the immense harm caused by the present divisions within the ranks of the working class movement, had put forth a strong plea for formation of a confederation of all trade unions. Though, two decades of sustained campaign by the CITU in pursuit of this goal has not been responded to in full measure by the other trade unions, the CITU has made sustained efforts to push forward the agenda of organisational consolidation of the trade union movement.

Three decades have rolled by since emergence of CITU on the trade union scenario of the country. We cherish the achievements and advances made by the CITU in these decades. Yet, we are alive to our shortcomings and weaknesses as well. The tenth conference of the CITU slated to be held in Hyderabad from 27th to 31st December, 2000, will review the three decades of our activities, struggles and experience and chart the future course of action. The working people of Andhra Pradesh, with a chequered history of glorious struggles, and the leaders and activists of the CITU in the State, are busy preparing for the conference. Their toil and efforts will surely make the 10th conference a landmark event in the history of the CITU.

WITHOUT COMMENTS

FDI INWARD STOCK

The economic importance of FDI has been well recognised and all countries seek to attract it by making their policies favourable to investors. This is also matched by the desire of foreign companies to enhance competitiveness by spreading their activities over different locations.

FDI inward stock grew at a slower pace at 18.8 per cent in 1999 as against 20.1 per cent in 1998. The value of the stock, an indicator of the capital component of international production, stood at \$4,772 billion last year against \$4,015 billion in 1998. The developed countries accounted for two-thirds of global inward stock in the latest year, while the balance was shared by the developing countries and the transition economies.

The inward FDI stock of the U.S. exceeded \$1 trillion in 1999 which was more than two and half times that of the next highest recipient (U.K.). Germany's stock was more than twice that of Italy. France and Belgium added more than \$10 billion each to their inward stock, while Australia and Canada added \$17 billion and \$23 billion respectively.

Among the developing countries, China added \$40 billion to its stock which stood at \$306 billion, the highest in the group, followed by Brazil at \$164 billion and Hong Kong at \$132 billion. The Latin American countries attracted sizable FDI. The stock of Mexico was \$72 billion and that of Argentina \$62 billion. **India's FDI inward stock was \$16 billion.** Saudi Arabia's stock was more than that of South Korea and Thailand.

(Source : World Investment Report 2000
Courtesy: 'The Hindu', 23rd October, 2000)

THE NEW TEXTILE POLICY

P.K. GANGULY

With the announcement of the New National Textile Policy, 2000 on November 2, the BJP-led Government has ultimately brought the prestigious Indian Textile Industry under the neo-colonial net of imperialist globalisation. The economic logic of globalisation and the urgencies arising out of the WTO Agreement on Textile and Clothing, of-course were the arguments by the Government for reorganising the Textile industry as a whole.

Although the 1985 Textile Policy was a precursor of the present economic policies, yet the Government preferred to remove all the remnant fetters "to make the industry strong and vibrant", a phrase taught by its global masters under the slogan of Swadeshi. This phrase was used by Kashi Ram Rana the Textile inspiter, and his Deputy while briefing the objectives to the press.

It is known that the Textile Industry is the largest single industry in India, and provides one of the basic necessities of the society, and laid the foundation of the country's

industrial economy more than a century and half ago. Despite the pressure of the imperialist countries, this industry is still the highest export earner, accounting for about 35 per cent of the country's export earning. It accounts for 20 per cent of industrial production and forms 8 per cent of GDP. It contributes over Rs.5000 crores to the central Excise Revenue. It is one of the largest employers, providing direct employment to about 20 million people in its three sectors, and indirect employment to scores of millions. Naturally, the imperialist countries must net it into their transnationalised global economy.

The Policy is based on the recommendations of the notorious Satyam Committee which consisted of twelve protagonists of the globalised economy.

Main Thrusts of the Policy:

The main thrusts of the policy are,

1) Production of world class textile products including fibers and yarns of internationally acceptable quality for export, and not for domestic

consumption.

2) Additional thrust to be given to non-cotton fibers, despite cotton being the most important raw material even now.

3) Technological upgradation and modernisation of all sectors in conformity with world standards, and for this, to invite both Foreign Direct Investment, as well as research and development in all sectors.

4) Phase out the composite character of the organised mills, close down the sick mills - private, cooperative and the public sector (NTC and BIC)

5) Exit Policy to be officially implemented forthwith and liberalisation of labour laws.

6) Establish 100 per cent EOUs, EPZs and Textile Parks, which would be declared as Public Utility services and free from labour laws.

7) Handloom and Powerloom sectors to be restructured, and items of production have to be dereserved, obviously to give entry and dominance to monopolists, both Indian and foreign in these sectors.

8) To attain the above objectives, liberalise, rather dismantle all controls and regulations so that the different segments of the Textile Industry are enabled to perform in an nationally competitive environment under

Corporate governance for Corporate growth.

Ironically, the policy objectives state that the above exercises

Comrade Prasanta Dasgupta

Comrade Prasanta Dasgupta the veteran freedom fighter and the frontline leader of the working class movement and founder leader of TUCC passed away on 30.11.2000 at Calcutta. Comrade Dasgupta's contribution to building the countrywide united movement of the Working Class immense.

The CITU and The Working Class pay respectful homage to the departed leader and convey condolence to the bereaved.

are necessary to withstand pressures of import penetration.

WTO and Trade in Textiles:

Since the main objective of the Policy is for exports and to "withstand the pressures of import penetration", it is pertinent to throw some light on the euphoria shown in the policy. The Government claims that it can double the exports and minimise the imports within two years and more so after the Multi Fibre Arrangement (MFA) phases out by December, 2004, heralding the era of "free trade" under the WTO regime. It has targeted the Textile and apparel exports from the present level of 11 billion dollars to 50 billion dollars by 2010 of which the share of garments will be half. But the question arises, when was trade free in the world? New forms of neo-colonial exploitative measures are being

applied by the imperialist countries in the name of "free trade". GATT was formed in 1945 with an innocuous declaration of simply international trade under some agreed rules. But when those rules became insufficient for the sustenance of the rule makers themselves, they expanded the rules to cover new areas under the banner of Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMS), Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and General Agreement on Trades and Services (GATS). While serious trade wars grew amongst the advanced capitalist countries themselves, despite the formation of the WTO replacing GATT, they have

severely marginalised the third world countries.

It has to be recalled that Textiles were one of the hardest fought issues in the GATT and WTO. The developing countries did want an end of the quota system. But they were duped by the developed countries led by the USA with the so-called principle of non-discrimination under the WTO regime, and successfully bargained to include the new issues like TRIMS, TRIPS and GATS in the Uruguay round with a transitional Agreement on Textiles (ATC, 1995-2004), by which time the MFA will be completely phased out, setting in the regime of WTO. The arrangements conceived by the developed countries in fact became an open-ended charter for the practice of stubborn protectionism on an ever increasing scale and anti-dumping measures on one hand, and increasing liberalisation of duty exempted imports by the developing countries on the other hand.

The Government's statements in the media regarding increasing Textile exports are a hoax. Even the Annual Report of 1999-2000 of the Ministry of Textiles has had to admit that the exports of Textiles as a whole had slowed down since 1997-98 and became negative since 1998-99 to the extent of 2.4 per cent in dollar value. Besides, the Government has never achieved its export targets of Textile products.

So far as imports are concerned, the Government deliberately conceals the fact of increasing imports of Textiles in India, although the Annual Report admits that the major source regular import are countries like South Korea, Taiwan, China, Thailand, Bangladesh, Hongkong, Nepal and USA. Following the bilateral agreements with USA, Canada, EEC, Japan, etc, removing quantitative restrictions on imports in India, and also exemption or reduction of import tariff, imports of Textile products

Comrade Naresh Pal

Comrade Naresh Pal a leading light in the movement of the Bank Employees, passed away at Calcutta on 30th October, 2000.

Com. Naresh Pal was one among those few whose efforts resulted in formation of All India Bank Employees Association in 1945.

He held various positions in AIBEA and its West Bengal State Unit and became the first President of Bank Employees Federation of India. He was the President of Bank Employees Federation of India from the day of its foundation till 1999.

Com. Naresh Pal had donated his body for scientific and medical research. In accordance with this wish of his the body was handed over to the authorities of the Nilratan Sarkar Medical College and Hospital, Calcutta.

The CITU and 'The Working Class' pays homage to the memory of Com. Naresh Pal.

in the country have swollen from Rs. 1272 crores in 1996-97 to Rs. 1492 crores in 1997-98 exhibiting a rise of 17 per cent. During April to October 1998 again there was another whopping increase of 28 per cent in imports as compared to the same period one year back. The UNCTAD report of 1996 had exposed the bankruptcy of "free trade" argument. Its analysis covered the long period from 1970 to 1995. In all these years although exports from the developing countries to the OECD countries rose, yet the imports by the developing countries from the OECD countries rose further. India and the Indian Textile Industry are no exception as is evident from the facts given above. Knowing the realities well, the Policy although silent about imports and negative trade balance, had to glorify the vain prospects of increasing exports to "withstand the pressure of import penetration". When the Government has surrendered to the imperialist policy of

liberalisation and globalisation, such painted pictures will fool only the gullible. Further it is known that when the policy is for production of textiles for exports and not for domestic consumption and under such a policy import is an obligation, and the government is dereserving the items of production in the Handloom, so the vast domestic market will obviously be captured by the multinationals and a process of deindustrialisation will set in. Therefore the policy makes another rhetoric assurance that it will maintain its dominant presence in the domestic market. The dominant presence in the domestic market will be of the multinationals and the Indian Textile barons collaborating with them at the cost of the middle and small scale Indian sector.

Phasing Out the Composite Character of Mills:

Now since the composite character of the organised mills will be phased out, the weaving sections now as a matter of policy, will be switched over to

the Powerloom. So the mills will remain as spinning mills only, which is more profitable. Weaving in the Powerloom will now also be highly profitable, because of low overheads, low working capital, way of producing fabrics cheaply, excise relief, poor wages and long working hours and above all, free from labour laws. But can the powerloom sector absorb the thousands of workers becoming jobless due to closure of the weaving sections in the composite mills? The question does not arise. Because the policy is going to restructure the powerloom sector also, dividing it into three tiers. Practically it will be of one tier under the dominance of the big barons like Bombay Dyeing, Reliance, Sri Ram, Maftlal, Siaram, etc. This will be because the policy states that all plain and semi automatic looms will be phased out. The small and medium owners and the family held powerloom units will have to consolidate into single bigger unit of powerloom. Thus a further large number of small and medium Powerlooms will be closed down and render joblessness to tens of thousands of workers.

Handloom Sector:

The Handloom Sector in particular is going to be worst affected by the policy. When the trade union delegations met the Textile Minister several times, he assured as palliative that the Government is not going to accept the Satyam Committee recommendations for abrogation of the Handloom Reservation Act or repeal of the Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme.

COMRADE MANGALA HOTGI

With profound regret, we record the death of **Com. Mangala Hotgi**, a prominent leader of the Maharashtra CITU and beedi workers in Solapur. She was also a member of the working committee of the All India Beedi Workers Federation. She had mobilised the working women under the CITU banner. Com. Mangala Hotgi was attending the Maharashtra State Conference of CITU and she spoke in the delegates' session on 1st November, 2000. Later in the evening she had a massive heart attack and succumbed to it.

Com. Mangala's body was taken to Solapur the next day and cremated with several thousands of workers attending the funeral.

The CITU and 'The Working Class', pay respectful homage to the memory of Com. Mangala Hotgi.

In reality the Government had already dereserved 11 out of 22 items of production reserved for the handloom sector, following the recommendations of the earlier Abid Hussain Committee. The Government also agrees with the observation of the Satyam Committee that reservation has got no meaning in a globalised economy. Moreover, the Economic and Industrial Policy of 1991, which the present BJP Government pursues aggressively, have already thrown open the entire small scale and tiny scale decentralised industries including handloom for penetration by the monopolists. As a first step it has now taken out the garment sector from the SSIs. So non-abrogation of the Act does not give any real succour to the handloom sector. Both the Act and the Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme are violated by the big barons with impunity. The main blow struck against this vast sector is by restructuring it into three tiers. The first tier producing unique high value added items of 80 to 100 counts. The second tier producing medium fabrics of 40 to 80 counts and the third tier producing plain and low cost items of 40 counts and below. Over 60 per cent of the Handloom and weavers belong to the second and third tiers. The high profile policy wants to produce world class fabrics with modern technology for exports. So the policy has accepted the worst part of Satyam Committee recommendation that the weavers of the second and third tiers need to be provided with

alternate avenues of livelihood, or if they want to live, they have to be converted into highly skilled weavers either in the commercial first tier Handloom or in the Powerloom with semi-automatic looms. But at the same breath the policy has called for phasing out all the plain and semi-automatic looms in the powerloom sector. Thus about 60 per cent of the 2.5 crores persons directly and indirectly employed in the handloom sector will become jobless.

But the first tier is also not safe. It produces unique and exquisite varieties of cloth in all the states. They are famous by their names according to the places, like Chanderi, Kanchipuram, Dharavaram, Baluchari, Tangaile and so on. The Government has already surrendered the Intellectual Property Rights and granted Exclusive Marketing Rights to the foreigners. So the danger is looming large that these famous and prestigious varieties of cloth which speak of the rich indigenous culture and artistic diversity of the country in each state may be patented by the hordes of imperialism.

Public Sector - NTC/BIC

The National Textile Corporation and the British India Corporation, the two public sectors in the Textile Industry with 119 mills and 5 mills respectively are hit in two ways. First as public sector units, they must go, as privatisation is the most dramatic manifestation of the globalised economy. Secondly as an integral part of the Textile Industry, the axe of

the globalised policy will fall on them. The policy brazenly says that all sick PSUs will be closed down. In separate policy statement the Government has already proposed that only about 16 out of the 119 NTC mills will remain. The five mills of the BIC will also have to go. About 70 thousand workers will be on the streets.

There are many other points in the policy, like Technology Mission on Cotton, Technology Upgradation Fund, Marketing strategy, Information technology, etc, which clearly reflect the dominance of WTO in dictating our policies. It is the most draconian policy so far. The devastating effect of the policy is simply unthinkable. The process of its implementation would be extremely painful. Not only deindustrialisation of the largest and prestigious industry will set in, but the loss of jobs from the organised mill sector, the NTC, the powerloom sector and the already pauperized vast handloom sector will be in terms of lakhs and lakhs. And yet the policy says, it will "protect the interests of the workers". A most nefarious and diabolical game the BJP is playing - into the hands of the imperialists with the slogan of Swadeshi.

But this* can be, and has to be changed by militant and united actions of the working class. The Joint Action Committee of Textile workers comprising of all the Central Trade Unions has already called for 72 hours Satyagrah at Delhi on December 5,6 and 7, which will be the first salvo after the announcement of the policy.

(Urging the Government to give up this anti-national move to privatise Nationalised Banks, the bank employees and officers under the umbrella organisation of Untied Forum of Bank Unions, comprising nine national level federations, went on a day's strike on 15th November, 2000. They declared: " We stand foran open Public Sector Banking, where transparency and acocuntability will be adhered to in the fullest extent. Privatisation is against the peoples' interest." - Editor)

BANK PRIVATISATION AGAINST PEOPLE'S INTEREST

The Government of India has announced that a Bill will be introduced in the Winter Session of the Parliament, commencing from 20th November, 2000, providing for, inter-alia, drastic reduction in Government equity in Nationalised/ Public Sector Banks from existing "NOT LESS THAN 51%" to a MINIMUM OF 33%.

This is against the interest of the nation, national economy, banking industry and also bank employees. Bringing down the Government equity below 51% is PRIVATISATION OF BANKS. This will be an act of retardation/regression and not of "REFORMS".

BENEFICIAL RESULTS OF NATIONALISATION

On 19th July, 1969, 14 major banks were nationalised, followed by 6 more on 15th April, 1980. In between 196 Regional Rural Banks were established in the country in public sector. This apart, there are nationalised institutions e.g. IDBI, NABARD, SIDBI etc. Today, about 80% of banking activities are in public sector.

Nationalisation of banks was necessitated when the nation, after Independence, needed massive investments in agriculture and industry so as to make the country self-reliant in food and industry - particularly in core sectors, e.g., electricity, steel etc. Food in late 50's and 60's was scarce leading to food riots. Private sector banks never cared for the country, excepting expansion of their own industrial empires with the peoples' savings mobilised in Banks as Deposits. If India is today

self-sufficient in food, the credit must go to the Public Sector Banks, which have gone to the villages, given credit to the rural agricultural and weaker sections.

The table below speaks eloquently of the performance of Public Sector Banks.

	1969	1999
Branches	8,262	45,698
Employees	2,20,000	9,65,720
Deposits(In Crores)	4,665	7,31,000
Credit (In Crores)	3,607	3,69,000
Agricultural(Crores)	162	21,204
Priority Sector (Crores)	441	53,197

But for the enormous expansion of Public Sector Banks, unprecedented in the world, and the massive credit delivery to the rural sector, weaker sections, export and other priority segments, the country could not have come to the position where it has come now.

The real problem of the Banks is not ownership of the equity. In fact, in banking industry, Paid up Capital plays a very nominal role as will be evident from the facts. (see below)

THE REAL MOTIVE BEHIND PRIVATISATION

Once the Banks are privatised, the enormous resources mobilised in the Banks out of peoples' savings will not be available to the Government for developmental purposes. Privatisation of banks is aimed at diverting peoples' attention from the

NAME OF THE BANK	As on 31st March,2000	(Rs. In Crores)
	PAID UP CAPITAL	DEPOSITS
State Bank of India	526.30	196821.00
Bank of Baroda	294.32	51308.00
Oriental bank of Commerce	192.53	22095.21
Central Bank of India	1805.45	35871.71
UCO Bank	2264.52	18359.95

staggering and ever increasing portfolio of BAD AND DOUBTFUL DENTS, euphemistically called NON PERFORMING ASSETS, which stand at more than Rs. 1,00,000 crore, if one adds the overdue interests on all 'Bad loans' and the "write-offs" from the operating profits.

Banks' Privatisation is aimed at providing cover to the Bank Loan Defaulters and divert peoples' attention from the key issue, solely responsible for the present ill-health of banks.

It is argued that for meeting the requirements of Capital Adequacy Ratio(CAR), privatisation of banks is inescapable. This is not true. Once 'Bad Loans' are recovered, for which drastic and stringent steps - legal, moral and penal - are needed, and banks are allowed to run by professionals, free from bureaucratic control and political interference, Nationalised Banks shall be earning handsome profits. It is Government's inaction to recover the Bad Loans, which is the prime reason for the Banks problems of CAR. The latest scheme of RBI for recovery of big loans, through compromise proposals, is a bonanza to the Loan Defaulters!

It is also argued that even **though Paid Up Capital will be reduced to 33%, Public Sector character of the nationalised Banks shall be retained, because the Government will appoint Chairmen/MDs of the Banks.** Out of 15 Directors,

10 will be from Privatised Sector. A Chairman of the Bank, though appointed by the Government, shall be bound by the Board of Directors -where private sector will be in unchallengeable majority. Hence, talks of retention of Public Sector character "is without any basis". Once the Banks are privatised, everything will be PRIVATE.

TOWARDS CLASS BANKING?

Once nationalised banks are handed over to private sector, credit flow to rural sector and agriculture shall be steadily choked. Similarly, small, mini and cottage industries, self-employed persons, like vendors, cobblers, rickshaw-pullers, shall be thrown out of credit delivery system.

Once banks are privatised, huge bank resources shall cease to be an integral part of total planning system of the country. Bank privatisation shall throw the planning system out of gear. Savings of the nation, mobilised in the banks, will be freely used for unproductive, speculative purposes to the detriment of national interest. Today's mass banking shall be reduced to 'class banking'. Only high and mighty shall have the opportunity to avail of banking services, with the bank doors closed on the poor and the ordinary.

Banks failures will be a regular and recurring feature, bringing in its trail immense hardships and miseries on the depositors.

TRACT RECORD OF PRIVATE BANKS

During the last 14 years, the following private sector banks have failed and were taken over by one or the other Public Sector Banks.

Name of Private Sector Banks failed

1. Purbanchal Bank Limited(Assam)
2. United Industrial Bank Limited(WB)
3. Sikkim Bank Limited(Sikkim)
4. Bank of Bihar Limited (Bihar)
5. Bareilly Corporation Bank Ltd(UP)
6. Kashinath Seth Bank Limited (UP)
7. Hindustan Commercial Bank Ltd(UP)
8. Laxmi Commercial Bank(Delhi)
9. Punjab Co-operative Bank Ltd(Delhi)
10. Traders Bank Limited (Haryana)
11. Miraj State Bank Ltd(Maharashtra)
12. Bank of Karad Ltd. (Maharashtra)
13. Parur Central Bank Ltd.(Kerala)
14. Bank of Cochin Ltd(Kerala)
15. Bank of Tanjavur Limited(Tamilnadu)
16. Bank of Tamilnadu Ltd(Tamilnadu)
17. Bank of Credit & Commerce International

Taken Over by Public Sector Banks

- Central Bank of India
- Allahabad Bank
- Union Bank of India
- State Bank of India
- Bank of Baroda
- State Bank of India
- Punjab National Bank
- Canara Bank
- Oriental Bank of Commerce
- Bank of Baroda
- Union Bank of India
- Bank of India
- Bank of India
- State Bank of India
- Indian Bank
- Indian Overseas Bank
- State Bank of India

(Praveen Swami in Mumbai, had contributed a story on the plight of textile mills workers and the managements plan to make fortunes by selling the mills landed property. We publish a condensed version thereof, courtesy: Frontline - Editor)

THE MILL LANDS CONUNDRUM

The Maharashtra Government announced a new policy with regard to the utilisation of prime textile mills land in Mumbai, but mill workers wonder whether the promises will be translated into reality. Maharashtra Government announced a plan to ensure that the workers can salvage something from the ruins of Mumbai's textile industry. A four-member committee, led by a retired High Court Judge and made up of a representative each of trade unions, the Government and mills owners, is to oversee the sale of mill land. This will fund a relatively generous voluntary retirement scheme, offering workers 35 days' wages for each year of service, and 25 days' wages for each year remaining until their retirement. Residents of chawls, or single room worker tenements, will have to be given an alternative 225 square foot flat, before their homes are demolished, with a view to redeveloping the property. And if owners choose to close their textile manufacturing operations and shift to other businesses, one member from the family of each worker will have to be first trained for, and then offered, an alternative job. The defeat of the textile workers' strike of 1982-1983 enabled managements to engage in ruthless retrenchment. Where

there were an estimated 2,40,000 textile workers in 1981, only some 40,000 remain today. A quarter of those who remain are no longer paid. Workers at Khatau Mills have not been paid for three years; those at Matulya Mills have not received their wages for two years; employees of Raghuvanshi Mills have not seen their salaries for over a year. Mafatalal Mills joined this list earlier this year, while wages at other mills, including some of the 24 run by the public sector National Textile Corporation (NTC), are often not paid on time. Tens of thousands of mill workers have thus been pushed into low wage casual jobs. The rest are crippled by indebtedness and face the certainty that their children have no future in what used to be one of India's largest industries. It is called Girangaun: the village of mills. In 1930, Girangaun's peak period of activity, 73 per cent of the city's workers were employed in south-central Mumbai's textile mills. India ranked second world-wide in the production of textiles, and third in their export, both in volume terms. Girangaun's problems began soon after Independence. Capital began to move to new industries, such as those in the chemicals sector, and state policy promoted the handloom and powerloom sector. High

taxes and competition from the new powerlooms in Bhiwandi began to tell on the Mumbai mills from the early 1950s. Owners made little effort to modernise their operations either, leading to a situation where most mills simply did not have the technological capabilities needed to survive in a changing world. By 1964, mill owners seemed clear that they wanted out, driving the state, in turn, to set up Development Control Rules prohibiting the redevelopment of mill land for alternative purposes. In the 1980s, with the collapse of the textile workers' strike, Maharashtra politicians threw their weight behind the mill owners. Development Control Rules were modified to allow new building activity on mill land, for what was called "self use". Mafatalal Mills, for example, put up corporate apartments, claiming that the income generated would be used for the modernisation of mills. In most cases, however, no such investment took place. As South Mumbai property prices escalated sharply, rules were modified to help owners sell their lands with even less difficulty. The 1991 Development Control Rules allowed sick and closed textile mills to redevelop upto a third of their surplus lands on condition that the other two-thirds was handed over to the

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Corporation (MHADC). Where less than 15 per cent of a mill's land was to be redeveloped to fund modernisation, no land at all needed to be handed over to these state authorities.

That these rules were abused is evident. Matulya Mills, along with Modern Mills, took advantage of the 1991 Development Control Rules, redeveloping well over 15 per cent of its land. A High Court mandated investigation by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) subsequently discovered that funds raised from the sale had been siphoned off by the simple expedient of recording fraudulent payments to non-existent creditors.

In the case of Phoenix Mills, it was apparently even more brazen. Data used by the Girni Kamgar Sangarsh Samiti (GKSS) in ongoing litigation shows that two luxury towers built on the mills' land alone exceed the entire authorised floor space index. Later, the BMC granted permission for the construction of an upmarket bowling alley and restaurants after the management claimed that workers were threatening to go on strike unless it provided a "canteen, club for indoor sports and games such as billiards, carom, table tennis and a number of bowling alleys". Most of the Phoenix Mills premises are today leased out to offices and shops.

Sadly, there has been no comprehensive investigation

concerning the utilisation of funds raised by mill owners from land sales, or in the form of loans for modernisation. The Maharashtra government official who attends ongoing Board of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction (BIFR) proceedings in New Delhi has apparently made no effort to intervene when mill owners claimed to have sold their properties at low prices. Union officials accuse the managements of the Khatau, Swadeshi and Modern mills of having undervalued their land sale by over 70 per cent. Payments to fictitious creditors have also not been properly audited. Another favoured means of fraud is to show expenditure that never was incurred. "Spring Mills has claimed to have spent Rs.25 lakhs a year on maintaining these buildings," says Salunke, pointing to the chawl in which he lives. The chawl is, in fact, in a state of disrepair. One crude concrete buttress meant to prevent a section of one chawl from collapsing has separated from the wall it is meant to support, while other walls appear in imminent danger of collapse.

It is not hard to see what might happen if the new mill policy generates a race to turn land into cash. For one, a glut in land availability could lead to a sharp drop in prices, subverting the assumption on which the new mill policy is based. In all, the mills cover an area of some 595 acres (238 hectares), much of which is now certain to come up for sale. Luxury housing projects

built on mills lands, which dot the Lower Parel area, are already more than two-thirds empty. Put simply, not enough non-resident Indians and multinational corporations exist to fill up such high-end housing projects. Should many more such projects come into being, there could be sharp dislocations in the structure of the Mumbai property market. The NTC alone, for example, plans to raise some Rs.2,000 crore by selling the land made available by the closing down of 10 of its 24 mills. Whether such quantum of revenues will be realised in the event of a scramble to sell land is far from clear.

Worst of all, the 6,000 families living in chawls and who have been promised rehabilitation in the area could find themselves displaced if the gentrification of Girangaun does come about. Although these families have been promised alternative accommodation and jobs, there is reason for scepticism on whether the promise will be translated into reality. More important, it is unlikely that low-cost enclaves will be able to survive as islands in a sea of luxury housing projects and upmarket shops. Pressure to sell will be intense. And even if the promise of one job for each family is met, the children of the poor will be hard-pressed to find a future in hightech enterprises or the financial sector. Mill worker and their families, who have played a key role in forging Mumbai's urban culture could, just a generation from now, end up as ill-paid casual labour living in slums on the city's fringes.

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7th Conference of Madhya Pradesh CITU

Madhya Pradesh CITU Conference was held at the beautiful hill-top town Chirimiri in Coal belt, now in Chattisgarh, with great enthusiasm and ended with great expectations. The Conference was held from 13th to 15th November, 2000 in the local community center which was named as Dada Sudhir Mukherjee Nagar, after the most outstanding trade union leader who worked whole of his life in building working class movement in that area. The Conference started with hoisting of the red flag by the veteran TU leader Bansidhar Ajad. Samar Mukherjee, M.K. Pandhe, Ardhendu Dakshi attended the conference from CITU centre. 269 delegates participated.

Samar Mukherjee, who had toured that area years back in organising coal workers and others from working class and peasantry, sometimes even on foot, took a keen interest to attend the conference, even at this advanced age of close to 90, by travelling overnight through an arduous journey. It was a great reunion for all.

Samar Mukherjee inaugurated the conference. In his speech, in a forthright manner he stressed the need to build up a strong organisation to fight the present evils of the society and to relieve the poor and toiling people from exploitation and oppression. He

reminded that there cannot be emancipation of toiling people without establishing socialism and all our struggles must be aimed at change of the society.

Badal Saroj, as General Secretary, placed the report giving details of the organisational position, current and past struggles, strengths and weaknesses etc.

Ardhendu Dakshi, while inaugurating the discussion stressed the need for objective analysis and self criticism with a view to bring about improvement in membership, functioning, discharging central, regional and local responsibilities. He reminded that the ruling classes are aware of growing resentment among common people and they are preparing to crush peoples resistance. Our main responsibility is to organise ourselves fast to a strong position to lead the toiling people in their resistance movements.

The discussions were divided in two parts. The first part was on the general report and the other on organisation. The delegates responded with a thorough introspection and came forward with valuable suggestions.

M.K. Pandhe addressed the mass meeting on 13th November afternoon along with Badal Saroj and Sailendra Shailey, S. Kumar presided.

Addressing the concluding session on 15th November, Pandhe

emphasised the tasks and perspective of the ensuing all India CITU conference from 27th to 31st December, 2000. He stressed the need to work more vigorously among the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and downtrodden people as well as women. This job has assumed greater significance after formation of Chattisgarh State. He reminded the great expectations of CITU to develop in this area.

The conference decided to bifurcate the present State Committee into two, viz., MP State committee and Chattisgarh State Committee in the present context. A 51 member State Committee with 12 member secretariat for MP was elected with Pramod Pradhan as President and Badal Saroj as General Secretary. A 31 member State Committee, with 15 office bearers was elected for Chattisgarh, headed by S Sudevan as President and M.K. Nandi as General Secretary.

The Third Triennial Conference of All India Beedi Workers Federation, which was postponed due to floods in West Bengal, will now be held at Farakka (West Bengal) from 26-28 January, 2001.

**P K Ganguly
General Secretary, All India
Beedi Workers Federation**

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SYNDICATE BANK STAFF UNION CONFERENCE

The 7th Central Conference of the Syndicate Bank Staff Union was held from 15th to 17th October, 2000 at Erode and was inaugurated by S. Bardhan, General Secretary of BEFI. The

guest speakers on the occasion were: Viduthali Virubmi, MP (DMK), Venkatesh Athreya, (Bharathidasan University) and W.R. Varada Rajan, Secretary, CITU. The Chairman of the Reception Committee P.

Marimuthu, Dist Secretary of CITU, welcomed. The Conference was presided over by P. Raghunath, President of the union. The conference re-elected P. Raghunath as President and MSN Rao as General Secretary.

CONFERENCE OF HARYANA STATE CITU

The 7th Conference of Haryana State CITU was held on 18th & 19th November in the industrial town of Panipat.

The Conference started with a open rally on 18th November. Thousands of workers from the industrial town of Panipat converged at Palika Bazar to attend the rally addressed by M.K. Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU. Outlining the disastrous impact of the economic policy of liberalisation being followed by both the Central Govt and the State Govt in Haryana, Pandhe stressed the need for building up united movement of all workers against the same. He also pointed out the shameless open collaboration of the Haryana Govt with the Mill owners and capitalists in all their illegal activities and the brutal attack on the workers. Among others who addressed the rally were Tapan Sen, Secretary, CITU, S.N. Solanki, Satvir Singh, Pravat Singh, President, General Secretary & Vice-President of Haryana State CITU, Anand

Joihra, Secretary Panipat District CITU and Santosh Singh, Chairman of the Reception Committee.

The Delegates Session started on 18th afternoon and was attended by 150 delegates coming from all districts of Haryana. M.K. Pandhe, General Secretary CITU inaugurated the delegates session. He dealt with several organisational aspects of the CITU functioning and harped on the urgent need to overcome those lapses.

Satvir Singh, General Secretary, State CITU placed the report. 29 delegates took part in the deliberations on General Secretary's report. It was noted that the trade unions are facing severe onslaught from the Mill owners. The Govt. Administration and State Labour Dept. are giving open support to their unlawful acts and brutal atrocities on the workers. It was also pointed out that in order to crush the struggle of the workers for their just demands, the management of

Maruti Udyog at Gurgaon and India Enterprise at Panchkula have imposed an undeclared lock-out by debarring the workers to enter the factory, unless they signed a so-called good conduct bond/undertaking committing not to take part in any agitation/struggle. The Labour Dept. and the State Administration are openly supporting such unlawful acts of those managements.

The delegates emphasised that urgent steps need be taken to have planned work in the industrial area to organise the workers in the organised industrial units in a powerful movement, without which a break through is difficult. They also pointed out to the need for organising the vast unorganised sector workers in the State, where some advance is seen in CITU's work on this front.

Satvir Singh, replied to the points raised in the deliberation.

Tapan Sen, Secretary CITU, in his concluding speech stressed the need to strengthen the organisation and systematise and activate the

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functioning of the State Committee, district committees. The conference elected a 31

member State Committee with SN Solanki as President and Satvir Singh as General Secretary. The

conference also elected 31 delegates for the all India conference of CITU.

10th CONFERENCE OF RAJASTHAN CITU

The 10th conference of CITU's Rajasthan State Committee held in Bikaner on 14-16 October 2000 concluded with the pledge to gear up struggle against new economic policies of Centre and State governments and communalism.

On 14th October the first day of the conference, a big colourful rally was organised. Workers coming from different parts of the State assembled near the statue of Murlidhar Vyas near Bikaner Railway station. Large number of working women wearing traditional colourful dress of Rajasthan also took part in the rally. Rally ended in Rattan Bihari Chowk where a big mass meeting was addressed by M K Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU, Het Ram Beniwal and Ravinder Shukla the president and general secretary of Rajasthan State Committee of CITU, and veteran CITU leader in the State Purna Nand Vyas.

Inaugural function was held in an auditorium named after late Com. Ann Raj Sharma. The renowned Hindi poet, Harish Bhadani, chairman of reception committee, welcomed, while M K Pandhe declared the conference open. Het Ram Beniwal presided.

Leaders of various fraternal mass organisations, including Shiv Kishan Joshi (AITUC), BM Swami (AIWA), Rajinder Saiwal (Janwadi Lekhahk Sangh), Pushpa Khadgawat (AIDWA) greeted the conference.

Delegate session was held in Maheshwari Bhawan. Ravinder Shukla placed the General Secretary's report. He said the eight year rule of previous Shekhawat government proved to be anti people, anti working class and anti peasantry. The present Congress government in the state was also following the same disastrous policies started by previous BJP regime. According to estimates about 50,000 small scale industrial units have been closed down in the state. Almost all the mini cement plants, in Churu, Birampur and Sikar are closed; almost all the composite textile mills are being closed; out of three sugar mills two sugar mills have already shut down their shutters. Similarly Rajasthan state Road Transport Corporation which was earning profits till 1996-97 is running into loss these days due to disastrous policies of the State Government, mismanagement, irregularities and rampant corruption at different levels of the administration.

Power sector and the forest corporation are also facing similar fate. Thousands of workers lost their jobs till this date.

Ravindra Shukla made some concrete suggestions to make the organisation of CITU more effective. 32 delegates out of 220 took part in the discussion on General Secretary's report. Radha Raman Gaud placed the accounts. Both were passed unanimously.

Two Commissions

All the delegates were divided into two commissions on the second day of the conference. Navrang Singh Chowdhury placed his paper on the subject of "The possibilities to develop CITU in Rajasthan" in first commission. This commission was presided by Waquar Ul Ahd. In second commission R K Swami placed his paper on "Democratic functioning in CITU" Krishan Kant Verma presided over the proceedings of this commission. Both reports were placed in concluding session.

Honour of Veteran CITU Leader

Purna Nand Vyas was honoured in the conference. Het Ram Beniwal the State president of CITU, presented a shawl to him. Swadesh Dev Roye, Secretary, CITU, spoke in the concluding session. In his speech he

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emphasised the need to further strengthen the CITU in Rajasthan so that anti people and anti working class policies pursued by BJP led NDA government could be defeated. Shyopat Singh, Ex-MP, and President of Rajasthan Kisan Sabha and Ashok Vasishth

from the CITU Centre also greeted the conference. Het Ram Beniwal made concluding remarks. A new State committee was elected with: Het Ram Beniwal, President, Krishan Kant Varma, Ravinder Singh, Darshan Koda, B J Rana, Waquar Ul Ahd, Prahlad Kumar,

as vice presidents; Ravinder Shukla General Secretary, Ajiz Bhati, B L Bapna, Navrang Singh Chowdhry, Bansi Lal Kalal, R K Swami, Abdul Mazid, as are secretaries and Radha Raman Gaud as treasurer.

(Report from Ashok Vasishth)

PRIVATE TELECOM COMPANIES

The private telecom companies have been rewarded with is the waiver of charges to be paid by the companies to the Government departments and utilities, while laying underground telephone cables.

The State Governments, the National Highway Authority of India, the Law Ministry etc. as the case may be, were charging even DoT and MTNL for such laying of underground cables. They were paying Rs.400 per metre in

Gujarat, Rs. 1500 in W.Bengal and Rs.600 in A.P, Rs.510 in Rajasthan etc. The high level GoT (Group on Telecom) has asked the Government departments and utilities to refrain from charging fee of any kind. "Right of way may be extended for laying underground cables, **without payment of any compensation charge, levy or license fee**".

The private companies do not comply with their commitment of providing of 1 lakh telephones in

villages, thus saving crores of rupees at the expense of the people. At the same time, the Government gives them concessions after concessions.

The National Action Committee of telecom Organizations has protested against the largesse bestowed one after another to the private telecom companies causing loss of huge amount, both to the Central and State Governments.

(Report from VAN Namboodiri)

THOUSANDS COURT ARREST IN TAMILNADU

Thousands of men and women courted arrest in more than 100 centres spread all over the State on 17th November.

This court arrest programme on People's demands was organised according to the call given by the eighth State conference of CITU held at Madurai in September, last. CITU has been campaigning all over the State with an 18 point charter of demands. These demands included issues like petroleum price hike, industrial

sickness and closure, unemployment, demands of unorganised sector workers, attack on democratic rights, demands of working women, peasantry, agricultural workers and small scale sector.

The CITU campaign had started from the beginning of the year itself. The first phase was over with the rally in Chennai on 3rd April. The second phase began in May, with the campaigns in connection with the district

conferences of CITU and concluded with the massive rally on people's demands at the time of the State conference.

The conference had given call for massive picketing of Central and State Government offices.

State wide campaigns were conducted. Thousands of handbills were distributed and in some areas house to house campaign was held. Street corner meetings, gate meetings and public meetings were held in

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various centres.

PICKETING IN CHENNAI

In Chennai the north and south Chennai District Committees jointly organised picketing in front of the Park Town Post Office. T.K. Rengarajan, General Secretary of State CITU led more than 7000 volunteers, including 700 women, who courted arrest. Others leading the volunteers were: T.A. Latha,

State Secretary, P.N. Unni, North Chennai District Secretary and other office bearers of both the district committees.

J. Hemachandran, MLA, State President of CITU led the picketing at Marthandum in Kanyakumari district. More than 8500 volunteers including 3250 women courted arrest. A Soundrajan Asst. General

Secretary led the picketing in Madurai Town and U.K. Vellingiri, State Vice President at Coimbatore. In total, there were 102 centres covering all the districts in Tamilnadu and Pondichery. According to reports received nearly 80,000 volunteers including 10,000 women courted arrest all over the state.

(Report from A.K. Padmanabhan)

GOVT. NEGLECTS CORPORATISED BSNL

The National Action Committee (NAC) of Telecom Organisations had protested against the Government's willful neglect of the Corporatised Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.(BSNL) and demanded immediate action to rectify the same.

The Government formed the BSNL on October 2000, six months earlier than as proposed in National Telecom Policy 1999, succumbing to the pressures of MNCs and IMF-World Bank lobby, without making any preparations and arrangements for the successful functioning of

BSNL. The terms and conditions of service of the existing employees are yet to be formalised. The ad-hoc payment of Rs.1000, assured to employees, is yet to be paid. Employees are kept on 'deemed deputation' without Deputation Allowance! The officials who have retired last month are yet to receive the retirement benefits including GPF, CGE Insurance claims, gratuity, pension etc. causing much heart burn and difficulty.

The Government while forming the BSNL has not transferred even a single paisa of DTS/DTO funds to the BSNL, except giving some

loans on high rate of interest. The BSNL has started from zero fund and has to function from future receipts. As a result, the developmental activities, as well as settlement of staff claims, are seriously affected. In fact, the functioning of the BSNL is almost frozen.

The NAC urged the Communications Minister to allocate sufficient funds for developmental activities and settlement of staff claims. The NAC has also planned to resort to agitational programmes in pursuance of these demands.

(Report from V.A.N. Namboodiri)

WILL TAMIL NADU GOVT. SAVE SALEM STEEL?

The Government of India, as a part of its plan for restructuring of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) decided to sell the Salem Steel Plant in Tamil Nadu.

This was a plan cleared by the

Union Council of Minister (Cabinet) headed by the Prime Minister Vajpayee. The DMK, which is a part of the ruling NDA Government at the centre, is a party to this decision.

But, due to the powerful agitation

by all the workers of the Salem Steel Plant and also protests by the people of Tamil Nadu, the DMK Government, ruling the State, passed a resolution in the Legislative Assembly on 8th March, 2000, opposing the sale of

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Salem Steel Plant.

The workers have formed a 'Save Salem Steel committee comprising several unions. District level 'hartal' and other innumerable forms of agitation had been spearheaded by the 'Save Salem Steel Committee'.

The Central Government's so called bail out package for SAIL has met with stiff resistance from several quarters.

The proposal to privatise Visakhapatnam steel Plant in AP had been opposed by the AP Government, led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. To keep the ally in that State in good humour, the BJP-led Government at the Centre is talking of retaining the Vizag plant in the Government hands.

The decision to privatise Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd (VISL), at Bhadravathi in Karnataka, had also met with vehement protests. Now, there is a talk of handing over the VISL to

the Defence Ministry.

The proposal to sell off the power plants at Bokaro, Rourkela and Durgapur had also been resisted by the workers and trade unions. Now SAIL is stated to be toying with the idea of handing over these power plants to the public sector NTPC.

But, the sell off proposal of the 'Salem Steel Plant' is, however, proceeding as per plan announced by the Central Government. Four of the seven stages of 'operation sell off of Salem Steel Plant' are already completed. The details are as below:-

Stage 1: Appointment of Merchant Banker - Completed.

Stage 2: Issue of Global Tender for 'Expression of Interest (EOI) - February, 2000: Completed.

Stage 3: Shortlisting of bidders - June, 2000 : Completed

Stage 4: Send 'Information Memorandum and other Documents' to the shortlisted bidders - July 2000 : Completed

Stage 5: Receiving bids from short-listed bidders - September, 2000

Stage 6: Enter into MOU with identified strategic partner (Buyer) - To be completed by December, 2000.

Stage 7: Entering into agreements with the Buyer and transfer of assets - To be completed by March 2001.

The SAIL has already shortlisted three parties out of the four, who submitted their bids against the Global Tender floated. They are:

(1) TISCO

(2) Jindal

(3) Avesta Sheffield (UK)

Those developments clearly indicate that 'sell-off Salem steel' is on its track, despite the unanimous resolution passed by the TN State Assembly, at the instance of the Chief Minister, M. Karunanidhi.

Will the T.N. Government act in time to save the Salem steel Plant?

(Report from Com. Pannerselvam)

MAHARASHTRA CITU CONFERENCE

The 9th Maharashtra State conference of Centre of Indian Trade Unions concluded in Thane on 3rd November. The highlight of the 3 day deliberations of this 9th State conference was a stirring call for consolidation of working class unity and sustained trade union action against the BJP led Central Government's anti-people, anti-national policies. The

CITU will have to be in the forefront to launch statewide actions against the state government of Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh in Maharashtra. The number of delegates who attended this conference was 300 representing more than 60000 membership of the CITU, covering all regions and industries in Maharashtra. This

was in addition to quite a number of observers and special invitees. Prior to the State conference in Thane, district conferences and city conferences were held in all important centres in Maharashtra. The venue of the conference, the famous Mavali Mandal Hall in Thane town was named "Com K. L. Malabade Nagar". This was in memory of Com. Malabade who

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was a founder functionary of CITU in Maharashtra and was twice member of the state legislature and chairman of the Municipal Council in Ichalkaranji. The meeting hall had the name "Com.Vimal Ranadive Sabha Griha." The rostrum of the conference hall was named after Com.Bindha Prasad Kashyap who was a veteran in the trade union and communist movement in Nagpur. The colourfully decorated entrance to the conference premises adored the name of Com.Rambhau Langote, a vanguard functionary in Thane movement.

The reception committee comprised of 150 leading members from amongst trade unions and other mass organisations active in Thane with V G Padmanabhan as chairman. The sad demise of one of the delegates Com.Mangla Hotgi on 3rd November, plunged the conference in despair. An active

CITU functionary and working women leader from Solapur, Mangla Hotgi was twice elected to the Solapur Municipal Corporation. The conference paid glowing tributes to this fighting leader.

Prabhakar Sanzgiri, the State President, was in the chair. V G Padmanabhan welcomed the delegates. M K Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU inaugurated the conference. The State General Secretary, K L Bajaj placed the working and organisational report. The accounts were placed by Hemkant Samant, Treasurer.

In all, 60 delegates took part in the discussion on the General Secretary's report. Amongst the delegates, 40 were women representatives.

The conference on the last day of the session elected a 60 member Maharashtra State CITU council with a 20 member State Secretariat. The office bearers comprised, Prabhakar Sanzgiri M

(President), Ahilya Ranganekar, V G Padmanabhan, Ramji Vartha, MLA, Narasayya Adam Master, Sadasiv Bhat, Suryaji Salunke, Udhav Bhavalkar, Datta Mane, Sayed Ahmed, S K Thombre (Vice Presidents), K L Bajaj (General Secretary), Dr D L Karad, Dr Vivek Monteiro, P R Krishnan, Amrut Meshram, Anna Sawant, Hemkant Samant, Suman Sanzgiri (Secretaries) and K R Raghu (Treasurer).

The conference has given a call to organise 6 jathas to Hyderabad from different regions of Maharashtra on the eve of its 10th All India Conference in December.

The open rally on 3rd November was held in Central Maidan in Thane town. It was a 15000 strong public meeting. The speakers were K Pandhe, Prabhakar Sanzgiri, K L Bajaj, Dr D L Karad, V G Padmanabhan, Raju Paranjape and Parsuram Chavan.

BIHAR & JHARKHAND STATE COMMITTEES FORMED

The conference of CITU's Bihar State Committee was held at Ranchi, 10-12 November 2000. Chandi Prasad presided and Samar Mukherjee inaugurated the conference. D D Ramanandan, Chairman of Reception Committee welcomed the delegates and distinguished guests. 346 delegates and 17 observers including 21 women participated in the conference.

They were representing 39 unions of the Bihar and Jharkhand states. The conference discussed the problems of the working class particularly after the formation of Jharkhand as a separate state. It decided to hold a state level convention/workshop to draw up plan for organisational development.

J S Majumdar, General Secretary, placed the report. 44 delegates

took part in the discussions. Two separate State Committees for Bihar and Jharkhand were formed in the concluding session. For Bihar the State Committee comprised 29 members, including 12 office bearers. Chandi Prasad and Arun Mishra were elected President and General Secretary. For Jharkhand a 56 member State Committee including 17 office bearers was formed. The main

REPORTS & EVENTS

office bearers are: S K Bakshi, President, J S Majumdar, Vice President, Mihir Chowdhry, General Secretary. M K Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU delivered his concluding address. A big rally was organised on the

first day of the conference. More than 15,000 people participated in the rally. Sita Ram Yechuri flagged off the rally at Ranchi Railway station. The rally culminated in a mass meeting at Zakir Hussain Park. Manik Sarkar, Chief

Minister of Tripura, M K Pandhe, J S Majumdar, Haradhan Roye, General Secretary, CMSI (CITU), Raniganj, and Rajinder Singh Munda, Kisan leader of Jharkhand region, addressed the gathering.

MASSIVE RALLY OF ANGANWADI EMPLOYEES

Thousands of anganwadi employees in Himachal Pradesh observed one-day token strike on 6th November and held a massive rally at Shimla. The call for the strike was given by the Himachal Pradesh Anganwadi Workers' Union affiliated to CITU and All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. The State Committee of the union, which met on 30th August, decided on the strike to protest against the insensitive attitude of the Government towards the demands of the anganwadi employees. Preparations for the strike went on full swing, with project level meetings of the workers and helpers. Worried at the tremendous response of the anganwadi employees to the strike call the Government called a hurried meeting with the representatives of the union. The president, General Secretary and other office bearers of the union held talks with the minister social welfare, secretary and director of the department. Seeing that the union was firm on its decision to go ahead with the strike unless its demands were conceded the

Government was compelled to agree to some demands of the workers and helpers. The State Government agreed to the following:

- 90% of the vacant supervisor posts would be filled up with anganwadi workers; the age limit would be relaxed.

- Before 31 March 2001, the Government would enhance the honorarium of the workers by Rs.200/- and of the helpers by Rs. 100/-.

- The rent for the anganwadi centres would be paid at the rate of Rs. 25/- per month according to the Central Government's directions.

- A special Fund would be created for the anganwadi employees and housing loan would be provided from this Fund.

- The honorarium deducted from the workers participating in the 30 August rally at Shimla would be paid immediately.

- The fuel charges paid per beneficiary would be rationalised. The Union however went ahead with the token strike to pressurise the Government to issue the

necessary orders immediately. Around two thousand anganwadi employees assembled at the panchayat bhawan and marched through the main roads in Shimla to the Assembly, shouting slogans. Leaders of the union and CITU addressed the women and accused the Government of exploiting the anganwadi women by increasing the workload on them without enough remuneration. Devaki Sharma, General Secretary of the union explained to the workers the promises made by the Government. It was decided that if the Government does not keep its promise of paying extra honorarium by 31 March 2001, the assembly would be gheraoed on 2 April.

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

Sr. No	Centre	July 2000	Aug 2000	Sept. 2000	Sr. No.	Centre	July 2000	Aug 2000	Sept. 2000
1	Gudur	440	437	442	45	Amritsar	389	390	392
2	Guntur	439	441	441	46	Ludhiana	402	399	394
3	Hyderabad	422	422	423	47	Ajmer	438	432	430
4	Visakhapatnam	436	436	437	48	Jaipur	407	404	405
5	Warangal	452	443	443	49	Chennai	476	475	475
6	D D Tinsukia	387	391	397	50	Coimbatore	437	432	431
7	Guwahati	463	461	463	51	Coonoor	434	428	431
8	Labac-Silchar	375	374	369	52	Madurai	440	441	440
9	Mariani Jorhat	416	415	414	53	Salem	432	434	429
10	Rangapara-Tezpur	406	407	408	54	Tiruchirapally	481	476	483
11	Jamshedpur	408	408	407	55	Agra	402	403	404
12	Jharia	364	365	364	56	Ghaziabad	450	451	452
13	Kodarma	371	367	365	57	Kanpur	433	431	429
14	Monghyr Jamalpur	409	411	413	58	Saharanpur	401	411	412
15	Noamundi	392	393	393	59	Varanasi	473	466	465
16	Ranchi-Hatia	414	418	417	60	Asansol	415	418	419
17	Ahmedabad	446	444	442	61	Calcutta	450	456	465
18	Bhavnagar	472	467	459	62	Darjeeling	380	386	389
19	Rajkot	449	421	422	63	Durgapur	473	479	487
20	Surat	447	446	446	64	Haldia	479	482	483
21	Vadodra	437	433	434	65	Howrah	501	505	512
22	Faridabad	452	447	450	66	Jalpaiguri	405	406	406
23	Yamunanagar	416	415	416	67	Raniganj	378	379	379
24	Srinagar	477	472	488	68	Chandigarh	463	462	466
25	Bangalore	423	427	427	69	Delhi	524	520	516
26	Belgaum	479	473	475	70	Pondicherry	479	474	474
27	Hubli-Dharwar	439	434	433					
28	Mercara	454	454	454		All India	445	443	444
29	Alwaye	447	442	446					
30	Mundakayam	455	449	453		Additional Series of Labour Bureau			
31	Quilon	441	441	447	1	Kothagudem	442	456	457
32	Thiruvananthapuram	522	506	506	2	Himachal Pradesh	436	437	433
33	Balaghat	390	390	390	3	Bhilwara	441	440	438
34	Bhilai	397	390	390	4	Chhindwara	419	423	424
35	Bhopal	455	452	449	5	Tripura	317	314	417
36	Indore	449	448	446	6	Goa	529	525	523
37	Jabalpur	454	442	440					
38	Mumbai	512	507	507					
39	Nagpur	475	474	472					
40	Nasik	471	474	476					
41	Pune	497	503	501					
42	Solapur	483	481	468					
43	Barbil	413	415	414					
44	Rourkela	406	410	408					

Government of India
Ministry of Labour
Labour Bureau
Shimla - 171 004

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

TENTH CONFERENCE

27-31 DECEMBER, 2000 - HYDERABAD

ATTENTION, DELEGATES!

The Reception Committee of the Tenth Conference has sent the following information to be brought to the notice of all delegates:

VENUE OF THE CONFERENCE

**St Mary's High School
Near Secunderabad Railway Station
Secunderabad, AP**

1. The MASS RALLY in connection with the conference will be held on 31st DECEMBER, 2000.
2. Delegates to the Conference will have to reach Hyderabad by the evening of 26th December, 2000 itself.
3. Delegates should plan their return journey by night trains on 31st December, 2000. To and fro journey reservations may please be made by the delegates at their respective destinations to avoid eleventh hour difficulties in reservation. Delegates are requested to intimate their arrival plan to the Reception Committee.
4. All delegates have to book their tickets to Secunderabad only. Conference venue is located at a walkable distance from the Secunderabad Railway Station, Volunteers will be there in the station. If any Comrades is coming to Hyderabad Railway Station or Bus Station or Secunderabad bus station, they have to inform about their journey particulars to The Reception Committee in advance.
5. All comrades are requested to make return journey reservation also from their end only.
6. All comrades are requested to inform about their arrivals, in advance to the Reception Committee. Based on their information, food arrangement will be made from 26th December night.
7. Accommodation facility will be available only upto 31st December evening. No facility will be available after 31st. Depending on their prior information, alternative arrangements can be made for those who have no journey facility on 31st night.
8. Due to the winter season, cold atmosphere may be there. Delegates are advised to get suitable warm cloths and bed sheets.
9. Delegates are also advised to get mosquito nets.
10. Comrades are also requested to inform the Reception Committee about the number of senior citizens and sick comrades in their delegation well in advance.
11. Accommodation is **for delegates only**. For family member(s) of any delegate, hotel accommodation nearby can be arranged on request and the hotel rent will have to be borne by the delegate/family. Requests on this score should reach the Reception Committee on or before 15th December, 2000.
12. The address of the Reception Committee is as under:

**Com. N. Prasada Rao, Chairman,
Com. G. Rambabu, General Secretary,
Reception Committee,
Tenth Conference of CITU,
1-7-144 Golconda 'X' Roads,
Musheerabad, Hyderabad - 500 020, A.P.
Phones : (040) 761 9433, (040) 761 1051
Fax : (040) 760 3667
E-mail : < cituhyd@123india.com >**

ZENROREN—ACFTU FRIENDSHIP MOVE

In response to the invitation of All China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), a nine-member delegation of Zenroren led by President Yoji Kobayashi visited Beijing from July 4 to 11. The delegation had an interview with ACFTU Chairman Wei Jianxing (Member of Central Committee and Political Bureau Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China) in Beijing. Both sides agreed to formally establish friendly relation between both organisations and start exchanges. Prior to this, the Zenroren delegation held —talks with the ACFTU delegation led by Vice Chairmen Zhang Junju and Xu Xicheng to deepen mutual understanding and friendship between the two organisations. It also visited Xi'an and Shanghai to exchange views with respective local federations of trade unions in Shaanxi Province and Shanghai City.

Before the Beijing mission, Zenroren confirmed its basic position on the opening of exchanges with ACFTU as under:

1. Zenroren promotes mutual exchanges based on its foundations of international activity: respect for independence, equality, nonintervention in each other's internal affairs, and not admitting a privilege status to any specific country.
2. Standing on the resolve to never repeat such a fault with the deep reflection on the war of aggression to China by Japanese militarism, and based on the principles of the relations between Japan and China, i.e., adhering to the position of "One China" and the cooperation for peace in Asia and the world.

Zenroren also outlined its approach to the issues of workers' rights and peace in Asia and the world. Zenroren stands on its fundamental position of pursuing the observance of international standards, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, and ILO Conventions and at the same time, understanding—the difference of social system and the character of trade union organisations in both countries. Zenroren searches for common issues on which the two organisations may cooperate by explaining the following views:

- From the position of protecting the rights and interests of workers under "Market economy", Zenroren fights for a control over "highhandedness of capital without the rules" to establish workers' rights, employment, wages, and social security.

- Under the conditions that the neo-liberal globalisation of economy is rapidly progressing, Zenroren fights against the economic hegemonism by forcing of American standards and for a democratic control of multinational companies and the establishment of the new international economic order.

As for the problem of international trade agreement and "social clause", Zenroren considers that the securing of the rights of workers and their unions requires observing international standards, such as ILO Conventions, as a natural premise. However, Zenroren opposes the connecting of this as the "social clause" to the WTO and international trade agreements, so as to deal with sanctions.

2. Cooperation for peace in Asia and the world
 - Opposition to US military hegemonism, peaceful solution of international and regional disputes.
 - Opposition to Japan-US defense cooperation and to revival of Japanese militarism.
 - Prevention of nuclear war, total elimination of nuclear weapons, and realisation of nuclear-weapons free and non-aligned Asia and World.
- The Zenroren and the ACFTU had agreed on the following three points on the start of exchanges between the two organisations.

1. Zenroren and ACFTU will send a delegation by turns periodically every other year to exchange information and opinion.
 2. Both will promote friendship exchanges of the youth and visits of industrial and local organisations
 3. Develop various projects on subjects like employment, training, health and safety, social security and environment on a reciprocal basis.
- The CITU welcomes this historic event of establishing friendly relations between the Zenroren representing 5 crore Japanese workers and ACFTU representing 10 crore Chinese workers.