



THE WORKING CLASS

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Assassination and After

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THE assassination of Indira Gandhi at the hands of two Sikh security men shocked the people of India. It was denounced by all people who had not sold their conscience to the nation's enemies.

Millions were struck with grief at Indira's tragic end. They are boiling with just anger and indignation with this heinous crime.

This anger was being diverted by sinister elements including communal and local Congress (I) leaders against the Sikh community leading to widespread riots, arson, lootings and killings of Sikhs. Those who have indulged in this communal orgy have committed an abominable crime and are guilty of treachery to the country, of fulfilling the desires of India's enemies. They have committed as big a crime against the country as those who have treacherously assassinated India's Prime Minister.

No one with the least sense of justice and democracy and national unity can hold an entire community responsible for the crime of two of its members. No one can have the license to kill innocent men, women and children because they belonged to the community as the perpetrators of the crime against Indira. This was a communal and cowardly war carried on against innocent people and it should be denounced by all.

The Congress (I) administration in Delhi and elsewhere totally failed to ensure safety for the minority. In Delhi for three days the city was handed over to the hoodlums to organise mass murders and arson. The whole of India was put to shame by this abominable bias of the Congress (I) led administration. The same situation prevailed in some other Congress (I) states where also despite the declaration of curfew rioters could freely move to carry on their nefarious business.

In contrast, riots and arsons were all scotched and curbed in Tripura and West Bengal ruled by Left Front Governments headed by the CPI (M). The first signs of communal outbursts were met with

firm administrative measures to protect Sikh minority and national unity.

Gruesome as the happenings were in Delhi, shameful and abominable as they were, the people of Delhi by and large stood solidly by each other and protected national unity. In the affected colonies where arson and murders took place the Sikh and Hindu neighbours stood by each other protecting each other. This was the genuine expression of the spirit of national unity and solidarity of the Indian people

CITU Denounces the Dastardly Assassination of the Prime Minister

P. Ramamurti, Vice-President and Samar Mukherjee, M.P., General Secretary of Centre of Indian Trade Unions have issued the following statement on October 31:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions denounces the dastardly assassination of the Prime Minister Shrimati Gandhi, who was shot down with a sten-gun today by her own security guards who are reported to be in league with the extremists.

Smt. Gandhi had been leading the Congress (I) party and the Govt. for nearly two decades. Her role as chairperson of non-align movement had been well appreciated by overwhelming majority of the people in our country and abroad, while the imperialists specially the U.S. imperialists were not happy with her role.

The assassination in broad day light lays bare the handi-work of anti-social extremist forces who, aided and abetted by the imperialists, have been active in their diabolical plan of dismemberment of the country. The CITU calls upon its unions and the working class of the country to remain vigilant so that unity and integrity of the Nation built up through decades of struggle against imperialism remains undisturbed.

The CITU conveys its condolences to the members of the berieved family.

built through years of struggle for national independence.

The mischief, the arson and murders were done by gangs coming from outside the colonies and incited and led in the main by local Congress (I) leaders and R.S.S. elements. The Hindus and Sikhs who stood by each other did great service to the cause of Indian democracy and national integration.

But who were the attackers and the mischief-makers? They came from the nearby bustees, slums inhabited by the lowest paid workers. They consisted of Municipal Safai workers, cobblers, workers working in low-paid industries and people who live a bare existence by their toil — the great crowd of have-nots that every city has got.

It is a matter of shame for the trade union movement that these sections of workers should be exploited for striking at another section of workers. They burnt scooters, taxis, and trucks and attacked taxi, truck and scooter drivers. They attacked charpai-makers, small shop keepers all part of the toilers belonging to their own class.

They indulged in the anti-national treacherous actions because their political anger over the murder of the Prime Minister was exploited by unscrupulous elements and diverted into communal channel.

But the question of questions is what were the organised trade union movement and the workers in organised industries doing? There are thousands of Railway workers in Delhi organised under the recognised A.I.R.F. and N.F.I.R.; there are thousands of Central Govt. employees organised under the P&T Federations and Confederation of Central Govt. employees. There are hundreds of L.I.C. employees known for their organisation and consciousness. These sections periodically hold dharnas and demonstrations at Boat Club and elsewhere to voice their demands. In their processions they declare "Jo hamse takraiga, chur chur ho jaiga" — a challenge to the Govt. There are thousands of textile workers who have conducted prolonged strikes under the joint leadership of several trade organisations AITUC, CITU and others.

Where were all these forces during the critical days when Delhi bled and burnt, when one section of toilers was killing another, when national unity and solidarity was being burnt to ashes and the imperialists were having a good laugh?

This is an indictment of the way in which the trade union movement in India is being conducted. The CITU has repeatedly warned the movement against being self-centered, devoting exclusive attention to immediate economic demands, against forgetting its responsibilities to the people and the nation. Those who seek to avoid all politics in the trade union movement really want the working class to forget their responsibility to democracy and the unity of the country.

Now the denudement has come. The working class of Delhi let down the people and left the

Capital to the mercy of hooligans and disruptors of national unity. No doubt, the large mass of employees and workers remained faithful to each other, to their sense of unity and endeavoured to save the minority section at grave personal risk to themselves. The affected majority has asserted that it was protected by its majority neighbours. The R.B.I. employees and others did good work in rescuing and saving people.

But these acts did not go beyond what a person with minimum consciousness and sense of decency and common citizenship will do.

What was expected of the organised working class was direct intervention in the streets with all its strength to physically combat the roving gangs and save the situation. The police had failed. The gang had no fear. Only the organised working class deploying its class-conscious army could protect localities and quell arsons and killings.

Such organisation for joint defence was done by local people in some localities but they were exceptions. And there was hardly any organised working class behind it. Such working class intervention takes place in states and centres where the CITU and CPI (M) wield strong influence. In West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala and to an extent in Tamilnadu the intervention of the working class is instantaneous and well-placed communal inciters and their followers have very little chance for mischief. In West Bengal and Tripura the working class and democratic masses intervened and helped the governments to snuff out the anti-Sikh riots.

This is the difference between a reformist line preaching economism, rejecting politics and a revolutionary line making the working class aware of its political responsibility to defend the people against communalism and secessionist reactionaries and imperialist conspirators.

The entire trade union movement including the CITU unions must learn from this bitter experience and draw proper lessons from this ghastly failure of the working class to behave as a conscious vanguard of the people.

The paralysation of the organised workers reminds one of Karl Marx's indictment of India's village communities and their egotism. Marx said, "we must not forget the barbarian egotism which concentrating on some miserable patch of land, had quietly witnessed the ruin of empires the preparation of unspeakable cruelties, the massacre of large population of large towns with no other consideration bestowed on them than on natural events." Can the trade union movement escape condemnation for egotism?

Backward consciousness of workers and toilers becomes a danger to the nation and working class movement. The fault lies partly with the trade union movement and the way it is conducted. It

neglects the low-paid workers in unorganised industries. Besides the movement confines itself mainly to immediate demands and does not educate the workers regarding their duty to the nation, to the people, their duty to protect national unity. It does not educate the workers regarding the evil role of communalism and caste. Nor does it teach them about the danger from imperialism, from external forces, conspiring against the people of India and against India's independence.

This leaves the workers open to the appeal of religion and caste and in time of crisis they are swayed away by these appeals to indulge in anarchy which facilitated the designs of the enemies of our country.

Communalists of all shades say that religion preaches love and amity. But in actual fact in the name of religion communalists succeed in organising mass murders and arson.

This is the role religious fanaticism plays. Unless the trade union movement exposes and fights it, the backward sections of workers will be repeatedly exploited for communal conflicts.

The working class and its trade union movement must fully grasp the why and whereof of this murder politics. Since the Second World War murder is constantly used by the imperialists and reactionaries to remove leaders of Governments and people who come in their way. Leaders and heads of Governments of some Third World countries fell victims to the hired assassins in the years following the Second World War.

Aung Sang, the leader of Burma's liberation struggle was murdered by imperialist agents. So also was Liaquat Ali Khan, the first Prime Minister of Pakistan. Sadat, Egypt's President was murdered by soldiers. Mujibur Rehman, leader of Bangladesh struggle and President was murdered by reactionaries. Mahatma Gandhi was murdered by reactionary Hindu fanatic. Solomon Bandarnayake, Ceylon's Prime Minister who was pursuing a policy of non-alignment was murdered — Indira is the last victim. It is quite clear that the imperialist agencies have been using this weapon to either disrupt the national liberation movement or disrupt the countries who pursue a policy which opposes their anti-freedom designs.

The culprits who organised the crime against Indira stand exposed before all. The cowardly firing was no doubt done by the security guards but the planners and their patrons can be found across the seas. Jagjit Chauhan had uttered open threats of murder of Indira Gandhi and announced a monetary prize for it from London. These threats were repeatedly broadcast over the B.B.C. and the British Govt. refused to take any action. The same gangsters were welcome in the USA by high dignitaries and was given support for his Khalistan mission. All the while threats and plans of murder continued to be announced. In Australia and Canada open encouragement was given by these respective Govts. to these secessionist elements. Indian diplomats were assaulted with impunity, the police which was present refused to take action. In Britain though Prime Minister Thatcher condemned murder through

the B.B.C. she refused to take action against those who uttered these threat.

That the C.I.A. agencies openly plan murder was recently revealed in connection with their activities in Nicaragua. Recently a pamphlet entitled "Guidelines to Nicaragua Guerrillas" was exposed in American press. It gave guidelines how to organise murders of Ministers of Nicaragua Govt.

In London immediately after the murder of Indira Gandhi, joyous demonstrations were held before the Indian High Commission but the British Govt. refused to take any action. The hand of imperialist agencies is clearly seen in this ghastly crime against India.

Our people and the working class are totally unaware that the imperialists are constantly planning against our country and its freedom. They are lending open support to the secessionist movement in Punjab. The CIA's role in financing and organising the secessionist agitation in Assam has been exposed in the Indian press. The CIA's declared aim is to dismember India so that she can be reenslaved.

Why are the imperialists plotting against India to dismember her? Why did the blow fall on Indira. Because they were angry that India pursued a foreign policy based on non-alignment and refused to join the imperialist camp. Consequently in international matters India's voice was always raised against war and in favour of peace. It opposed imperialist plans of war and aggression. India also developed friendly relations with the USSR and other Socialist countries. The imperialists could not blackmail here by pouring arms into Pakistan because India had entered into treaty of friendship with the Soviet Union. At the U.N.O., India's voice was raised against direct acts of aggression and in support of the struggle of the people of Palestine, the African and other people struggling for freedom. In the present situation this policy of a big country like India turned the balance of forces in favour of peace and against imperialism.

The removal of Indira was designed to create conditions of destabilisation in the country, conditions of communal war and anarchy. The enemies of the country expect that destabilisation will continue to grow. forces of disunity will gather strength and India will be unable to pursue a policy of opposing imperialism on the world plane.

The imperialist game appeared to succeed with the gruesome riots and arson in Delhi, Patna and some other cities. But it really failed to achieve its objective. The imperialists would have been happy to witness a repetition of the 1947 partition days when neighbour killed neighbour and large areas of the country had to be handed over to the army with order to shoot and suppress anarchy.

The good sense and patriotism of the citizens remained despite their anger over the dastardly murders. Most of the states remained quiet with only minor disturbances. And even in Delhi and many other places the common people stood by each other, Hindus and Sikhs standing by each other the majority protecting the minority.

Imperialist agencies and the communal and secessionist forces are feverishly working to destabilise the unity of India. The assassination of Indira Gandhi was intended to release these forces and plunge the country in chaos and anarchy.

Simultaneously, the assassination was intended as a blow to divert India from pursuing a foreign policy of non-alignment, of opposition to imperialism, of supporting freedom struggle and friendship with the Soviet Union and Socialist countries.

In the post-assassination situation the united trade union movement has to wage a relentless fight to protect and strengthen India's foreign policy and to wage an equally persistent struggle against the communal and secessionist forces and imperialist intrigues to disintegrate the country's unity.

The working class cannot fail to see the great havoc done by Sikh communalism and secessionism. It has encouraged the imperialists to openly intervene and promote hostile steps and actions against India. It has given a big blow to Indian unity. The Akali leaders who played on Sikh communal appeal for short-term advantages have done incalculable harm to Indian unity and the struggle of the Sikh masses for economic emancipation.

The working class and its trade union movement must fight every form of communal appeal. Hindu, Muslim, Christian appeal in the name of religion plays the same disruptive and anti-national role.

This is the challenge which the working class of India has to meet. By forging its class unity, by uniting with all secular forces the working class must fight the design of disruption and destabilisation. It will have to wage a consistent battle against communalism and casteism in every form. Simultaneously through its organised strength it will have to protect the unity of the country and fight all secessionist and disintegrationist forces. The working class at the same time cannot forget the battle for internal democracy and the fight against the danger of one-party rule. While doing this it will have to put its full strength behind the defence and maintenance of foreign policy based on non-alignment and opposition to imperialism. To the extent that it succeeds in doing this it will completely foil the game of the imperialists who are out to weaken and disrupt Indian unity.

With the announcement of elections the working class and the trade union movement get an opportunity to intervene to political developments of the country and orientate its policies in the required direction.

The situation demands that the electorate chooses people and parties who are firm in their resolve to fight the imperialists and protect non-aligned foreign policy, who are firm in their resolve to fight communal and secessionist forces, who are wedded to protect and strengthen democracy and are prepared to take effective steps to ensure the economic well-being of the working class and the people.

The ruling Congress(I) party cannot be trusted to meet these challenges. The opportunist policies which the Cong(I) has been pursuing for years have encouraged the growth of divisive, communal and secessionist forces. The Cong(I) openly allies with

communal parties as in Kerala to secure momentary gains. It is destroying secular character of the administration as was seen in Delhi during the recent riots. It is unable to fight reactionary minority and secessionist movement politically and democratically as is seen from the aggravation of the situation in Punjab.

The ruling party cannot be trusted to defend and continue the non-aligned foreign policy. Though Indira continued to policy, over the years Cong(I) and its leaders have made the mass of people non-partisan regarding defence of non-alignment. The Cong(I) organisation has not used its mass influence to popularise the policy.

The working class must give its votes to those who stand to strengthen this policy and fight all attempts to drag India into the imperialist camp in the name of "genuine" non-alignment.

The ruling party cannot be trusted to protect democracy and the fundamental rights of the people. The Cong(I) party violates at every turn parliamentary norms and constitutional provisions in pursuit of its drive for one-party dictatorship. The illegal dismissal of the Abdullah Ministry in Kashmir and the NTR Ministry in Andhra Pradesh have revealed the unscrupulous length to which the party can go in dismantling democratic norms.

Concentrating all powers in the hands of the centre to bolster its monopoly rule the ruling party has exacerbated the centre-state relations and created a crisis in the relationship of the two constituents of the Indian state. It opens the field for regional and sectional appeals disrupting the country's unity.

Law and order under the Cong(I) regime have collapsed. The ordinary citizen lives in terror either of the anti-social gangsters or the police. The regime has passed anti-democratic measures like the NASA, ESMA and the Special Courts Act.

The mass of Indian people has suffered very much in the last five years in the Cong(I) rule. In several states, especially Bihar, the police and landlords carry on unspeakable atrocities against Harijans and rapes of their women. Deaths in police custody have become a common occurrence. Prisoners continue to languish in jails without a proper court sentence.

Economic miseries are multiplied many times. The number of unemployed in the cities has reached beyond 20 millions. The rural unemployed exceeds double that number.

The condition of the rural masses of our country constitutes the biggest indictment of Congress(I) policies. The much advertised 20-point programmes in two editions has not retarded the rapid process of rural destitution.

India's traditional industries, like coir, cashew, handlooms are in complete ruins throwing tens of lakhs of workers.

Hundreds of factories have closed or gone sick. Two most important industries, the cotton textile and jute are in serious crisis and the Central Government has refused to accede the demand unitedly made by the trade union movement for nationalisation of these industries.

Thousands of small concerns have been permanently closed. Prices and cost of living index continue

to rise forcing people to remain half-starved and ill-clothed.

The burden of foreign debts continue to rise, preempting advance in the well-being of the people. The grip of monopolies over the economy increases and also its profits. Foreign multi-nationals increase their exploitation of people and are spreading their tentacles.

The Cong(I) rule means all-round economic ruins. It will be a disaster for the country if the Cong(I) is returned to power. The working class and the trade union movement must mobilise all their strength to defeat the ruling party.

The CITU knows that for a complete radical change in the economic conditions of the working class and the people complete overhauling of the present economic system is necessary. There cannot be any radical change unless all foreign monopoly concerns are nationalised, unless Indian monopoly concerns also are nationalised, a radical land reform assuring land to the tillers is implemented, the strength of the public sector is increased and its management is carried on with the help of workers with equal status, unless the right to work is enshrined in the constitution, unless jute and cotton textile industries are immediately nationalised and steps are taken to ensure adequate and proper wage to the rural and industrial workers and a fair return for his produce is promised to the peasants. For this radical reform a different correlation of political forces with dominant voice for the workers and peasants is necessary. Situation is not yet ripe for this combination.

The working class therefore in their endeavour to defeat the Cong(I) must cast their votes for secular and democratic and Left parties who announce a balanced programme for relief to the masses who are firm in fighting communalism, secessionism and imperialist conspiracies, who are firm in protecting the unity of the country and non-aligned foreign policy and are wedded to fight the Cong(I) one-party dictatorship.

Only such a combination will enable the country to meet the challenges facing it.

All trade unions and workers must of course give priority support to the Left parties and their candidates. The Left parties are the most consistent fighters against imperialist conspiracies, against communalist and secessionist forces; they firmly support non-alignment and are in the forefront of the struggle against one-party dictatorship. They ceaselessly struggle to organise and lead the masses in defence of their economic well-being.

The Left Front Governments of Tripura and West Bengal headed by the CPI(M) have shown how they protect the democratic rights of the people, how they defend national unity and fight communalism, now they protect the living standard of the people against the attacks of the vested interests, the capitalists and the landlords.

The coming election is crucial for the freedom of the country. The people, the democratic forces must win it, denying the Congress the mandate to rule the country. They must defeat the forces of communalism and imperialism. The working class

must play its role in this great battle.

The CITU puts before the electorate the following programme for immediate advance:

1. Vigorous implementation of land reforms; distribution of land to the tillers.
2. Check on price rise, strengthening of the public distribution system to distribute food grains at concessional prices to the people and take over of the wholesale trade in food grains.
3. End the policy of depending on the World Bank, IMF and multinational firms for "aid" in planning. Raise internal resources by better management of the public sector with the participation of workers with equal status and authority.
4. Nationalisation of foreign and Indian monopoly concerns. Nationalisation of the crisis ridden textile and jute industries and running them with workers' participation in management with equal status.
5. Ban on closures, lockouts, retrenchments; recognition of trade unions by secret ballot.
6. Need based wage for industrial and agricultural workers and middle class employees with Dearness Allowance to neutralise the rise in the cost of living and bonus as deferred wage. Full trade union rights to Central and State Government employees, abolition of police verification.
7. Right to work to be incorporated as a fundamental right in the Constitution; unemployment allowance for the unemployed in urban and rural areas.
8. Withdrawal of NSA, ESMA, Special Courts Acts and other anti-trade union and anti-democratic measures.
9. Education to be removed from the Concurrent List and placed on the State List.
10. Removal of social inequality from which women suffer; equal rights with men in all matters like services, admission to professions, equal pay for equal work, etc.
11. Vigorous action against those who indulge in atrocities against the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward communities and women Muslim and other religious minorities to be protected against Hindu revivalism and chauvinism. Firm measures against the spreading of communalism by Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Christian fundamentalists.
12. Democratic restructuring of Centre-State relation and more powers to the states.
13. Vigorous struggle for national unity and against the divisive forces of all types.
14. Strengthen the foreign policy of non-alignment and vigorous support for world peace and fight against the danger of nuclear war.
15. Vigilance regarding the defence of the country and penetration of foreign agencies.

**DEFEAT CONGRESS(I)
ISOLATE DIVISIVE FORCES
STRENGTHEN SECULAR
AND LEFT AND DEMOCRATIC
FORCES**

When Hyaenas Roamed the Streets of Delhi

Prakash Karat

DELHI city and its neighbourhood had gone through a nighmarish experience. For three days beginning on the night of October 31 upto the morning of November 3, Delhi was subject to mob rule under which the Sikh community suffered widespread arson, looting and murder. These days witnessed the total collapse of the Delhi administration and police authority also. With the announcement of the death of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the deep anger and grief of the people was systematically roused to launch attacks on all Sikhs and their properties. The unique feature of this mass outbreak of violence was that no part of Delhi was spared. All the districts of Delhi were affected, and all Sikh-owned property — shops, factories, houses and vehicles were selectively attacked and destroyed. Scores of Gurudwaras in the city were razed on the ground.

By November 1, the mob attacks spread with full fury to North and West Delhi. Ashok Vihar, Karol Bagh, Anand Parbat, Hari Nagar, Janakpuri, Uttam Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Patel Nagar etc. came under heavy mob attacks. Along with these the industrial areas of Mayapuri Naraina, Wazirpur, Okhla etc. were also attacked. The mass killings were concentrated in the resettlement colonies ringing the city and in the outlying colonies of East Delhi across the Jamuna in Trilokpuri, Kalyanpuri, Shakarpur and other colonies in East Delhi, in Mangolpuri, Sultanpuri and Jwalapuri in West Delhi and to Jehangirpuri and Nandnagari on November 1 and 2. In Block 32 of Trilokpuri alone over 300 persons were massacred after being subjected to repeated attacks for over 24 hours. The official estimate 95 killed is a gross underestimate. Similarly in Mangolpuri, the official figure of nine deaths is also a cover-up under pressure from the local Congress (I) M.P., Sajjan Kumar. In Sultanpuri also the death toll is higher. In part from the attacks on colonies and markets on November 1, the mobs lay in wait on many major roads all over to Delhi to ambush sikhs travelling in buses, scooters and cars. In many places they were lynched and burned alive or beaten mercilessly. Many others were lynched to death by being dragged from trains in outlying railway stations particularly in the Tughlakabad-Okhla stretch.

In Ghaziabad, NOIDA and Faridabad areas also the pattern was the same with Sikh industrial enterprises being burnt, Sikh homes looted and gurudwaras burnt.

Curfew was imposed on the night of November 1 and twentyfour hours after the riots broke out. The army was called out on the night of November 1 and till the whole of November 2, the army was ineffective as they were not given any orders by the civil administration. Only on November 3 did the administration begin to take some firm action. Till then the curfew and the shoot-at-sight orders remained only on paper. Such widespread and systematic

violence was possible only with police connivance and political protection.

The Hindu communalist and chauvinist forces who have been nurtured and thriving from the polarisation developed since the Punjab situation provided the fertile grounds for these mass killings. A revealing feature of these riots has been that not only the RSS and Hindu communal forces have been active, but in most places local leaders of Congress (I) have instigated and organised the mobs. Eye-witness accounts show that the ruling party functionaries have had a hand in the attacks.

What stands out in this orgy of hatred and violence is the role played by thousands of Hindu families who everywhere tried to protect and save the hapless Sikhs under attack from outside mobs. Thousands of Sikh families escaped unhurt due to the courageous resistance and protection offered by their neighbours. All over Delhi in middle-class colonies and in working class areas, the Hindu neighbours collected and formed committees along with Sikhs to protect their locality. If this factor of people's initiative had not been there, the death toll would have been unimaginable.

Considering the sweep and scale of the attacks simultaneously in all parts of Delhi, it is obvious that with our limited strength the Party comrades could not put up effective resistance except where we had some following. Here, the Party members and sympathisers played a good role along with other Left and secular forces which is creditable. In Mankpura, in Doriwala, under the leadership of Nathu Prasad, a local committee member of North Delhi committee the residents unitedly held the mob at bay and drove them away repeatedly. In Sawan Park, Shalimar Bagh, RBI colony (R.K. Puram), JNU and other places our comrades were able to organise committees and prevent riots and attacks by outside mobs. In Inderpuri, Khureji and some spots on Mongolpuri our comrades were able to protect Sikh families. In Okhla Industrial area CITU union workers belonging to a Sikh owned factory drove off the mob trying to attack the factory. In Wazirpur industrial area none of the Sikh owned factories in which CITU has unions could be touched. In Sanjay colony in Okhla our comrades were able to prevent workers from joining the mobs unlike in the slums surrounding it. In JNU, the SFI prevented the Congress (I) students and Karamcharis from creating trouble on the campus. On November 4 and 5 the Students Union along with the teachers organised two big peace marches in the neighbouring areas. However, they were only islands of defensive measures in the mass systematic assaults. The unity of all the secular, democratic and patriotic forces are necessary to provide urgent relief to the victims, now housed in makeshift camps in intolerable conditions, rally the people to oppose the rampant communalism and bring normalcy to the city.

Delhi Ruled by Gangsters for Four Days

Vimal Ranadive

THE All India Democratic Women's Association along with NFIW, Mahila Dakshata Samiti and others visited jointly and individually some of the localities affected by the recent riot in Delhi which erupted after the dastardly assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi by her security guards. The massacre toll was more than 2500. The property looted, houses burnt, scooters, trucks, cycles destroyed in fire, if accounted for will run into crores of rupees. The burning and killing started in the night of 31st October after the news of Indira Gandhi breathing her last came to be known by the people. Preplanned attacks on a particular community began.

Trilokpuri Block No. 32 was a scene of a complete devastation. We were informed that more than 300 people were killed or burnt and their properties looted. We were told that the mob came from outside. We could not walk without coming across the broken glass, burnt scooters, human bones and flesh, blood still sprayed in the verandas and the walls. Nambi, a young woman in House No. 34 having four children could not be consoled. Her husband and two brothers were killed in front of her eyes. Nanti Devi, wife of Gajjan Singh narrated to us that her husband was killed first and then burnt.

It was reported to us that there were some cases of molestation of women and abduction of girls to near villages like Chillagaon, Kondli, Dalupura, Gazipur, etc. Gurdial (32/117) who was interviewed by Susheela Gopalan and myself, with her hand in bandage due to fracture, told us how the rowdies entered her house, molested her in front of her own people and then killed all the male members of the family. Koushalya Devi (C1/36) from New Seelampur when interviewed in Shahadara camp, where more than 10,000 people were accommodated, told us how the rowdies threw acid on her and her husband was dragged out and killed. She with her three sons were in the camp, the girls' whereabouts were not yet known. A Muslim family who was her neighbour, saved her and her sons, hiding them in her house. In Shastri colony in old Faridabad, burning and looting of the people was something unprecedented. The houses of Chandrajit Kaur and Jaspal Kaur were totally burnt, the jewellery and clothes were looted. Small Engineering factories were in a mess due to burning. The help given by CITU workers and CPI(M) activists was recognised with gratitude everywhere.

Who were these people living in Kalyanpuri, Trilokpuri, Jhangirpuri and so on. They were Riksha pullers, small craftsmen, Dari and Charpayi makers, small hotel and shopkeepers. They were completely unaware that such a thing could happen to them on 31st night or later on. Almost in all the places we visited the people stated their nightmarish experiences on those days, when Delhi administration had completely collapsed. Police were inactive. At many places, where Sikhs tried to defend themselves with their weapons, police disarmed them, arrested them

and signalled the rowdies to go ahead. The killings were meticulous, lootings were orderly. The curfew declared was nowhere to be implemented. The military was not given charge till 3rd November. So, Delhi was completely in the hands of the gangsters, the police playing the role of watchers and abettors,

The people, men and women in the camps, were bitter against many Congress(I) M.Ps., Councillors and active Congress(I) leaders in their areas, and rightly so, for their dubious role. Many people named Sajjan Kumar, M.P. and some Congress Councillors openly, saying they were provoking the anti-socials to loot and kill. Sikhs who were attacked, appealed to the police to help them, which went unheeded.

The people in Shakurbasti camp where about 3000 were accommodated told us that when the attack started at 11 A.M. on 1st Nov., a known Congress(I) activist who lived in C-4 Block accompanied the rowdies. In most of the places the rowdies came in trucks and tempoos. The Pradhans belonging to Congress(I) aided the gangs in Sultanpuri, Mongolpuri, Krishan Behari Budhavihar, etc.

The houses burnt on 1st November in Shastri Colony, old Faridabad was done in a systematic manner. It was reported that a known Congress(I) fellow, in a two-wheeler scooter would stop at a particular 'house' belonging to a Sikh for a minute and go to the other house where another Sikh was staying. That was the signal for anti-socials to approach the houses in hundreds and thousands and burn and loot.

The people in the areas and camps expressed their deep gratitude towards the local residents, Hindu and Muslim brothers without exception. Without their active help, many people who have now survived, would not have been there, they said.

All of us came to the conclusion that the Delhi riot was not a communal riot between Hindus and Sikhs. They were also not spontaneous. The riots were planned by the anti-socials and the Congress(I) hoodlums utilising the deep feelings of anger of the people who were grieved by the murder of the Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi. The communal minded police did not lift a finger to stop the marauders till strong steps by the military were taken. It was also a fact that the curfew and shoot at sight order remained on paper till Nov. 3.

AIDWA, CITU and other mass organisations did try to intervene wherever possible. In Jahangirpuri, Faridabad, Mongolpuri and other places Janawadi Mahila Samiti and CITU workers did render medical help and supplied food, blankets, etc. But that was very little indeed, as compared with the huge carnage. CITU workers could meet the Sikhs in the areas and held meetings with them with available Members of Parliament. In many places peace marches were taken out jointly by the people of Sikh and Hindu communities. The relief work by the Government was totally inadequate. The people lost everything including their business, their means

of livelihood. The meagre compensation announced, the measures taken by the Government will not put them on their feet. The widows who have lost their husbands along with all the materials are to be rehabilitated, trained for some occupation so that they can start their life anew. At the same time, those guilty of the carnage would have to be brought to book and punished to create confidence among the affected people and all minorities.

The wounds and injuries caused will take a long time to heal. Consistent efforts by the left and secular parties and the trade unions are to be made in a short time to counter the communal hatred created by the vested interests and the divisive forces. National unity and integrity of our country is an important task for us. The U. S. support behind the secessionist forces of Punjab and the plan for dismemberment of our country is well known. The happenings between 31st October and 3rd November should be understood in that light.

Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Christian—Let US Unite Together

A huge procession of women belonging to Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims and Christians marched through Calcutta, hand in hand with slogans "Unity Zindabad", "Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian—let us unite together". On both sides of the roads thousands of people thronged to watch the procession, unprecedented before. Women of all communities including innumerable Sikh women participated. The procession marched from Gariahat to Ravindra Sadan in South Calcutta.

The march was convened by four Women's Organisations, viz, West Bengal Ganatantrik Mahila Samiti, West Bengal Mahila Samiti, Agragami Mahila Samiti and Nikhil Banga Mahila Sangha. Kanak Mukherjee, Manju Gupta, Shyamali Gupta, Madhuri Dasgupta and others of Ganatantrik Mahila Samiti, Bina Guha, Bani Dasgupta and Shikha Munshi of W.B. Mahila Samiti, Aparajita, Geeta Mukherjee of Agragami Mahila Samiti and Geet Sengupta, Depti Chakrabarti and others of Nikhil Banga Mahila Sangha led the procession. The procession, when came at Rashbahari Avenue stopped in front of the Gurudwara there and held a rally. The leaders of the women's organisations in their speeches expressed their fraternal and brotherly feelings while assuring the Sikh community full protection. They called for strengthening the national unity and integration and defeat the forces of division and the conspiracies of imperialism to dismember the country. The huge procession belonging to all the communities once more confirmed the role of the Left Front Government and the people who are always in the forefront for national unity and integration. Similar processions were taken out in all other parts of the state.

List of Congress (I) Men Involved

In a press conference held on November 12, the Delhi State Committee of CPI (M) released the following list of Congress (I) people who instigated and led the killings and arson, as reported by the victims in the various camps and other citizens. The State Committee has demanded of the Government to act upon the information provided by the citizens and the victims and bring the criminals to book. CPI (M) has also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister signed by E.M.S. Namboodiripad, General Secretary, with a number of names and incidents for his information and action:

South Delhi: Residents of Bhogal have named local Cong (I) leaders Harichand Saini, Vijay Chowdhury and Khairati Lal as leading the mob attacks. In the colonies around the AIIMS, South Extension etc., Arjun Dass, Metropolitan Councillor, and Rajji, student leader, have been named. In Govindpuri, Sher Singh of Ashram and Kalu Ram, Municipal Councillor have been named as the principal culprits. In Dakshinpuri, among others, Sant Ram, Murtaza, Netrapal Verma, Chhotey Ram, Brahm Pal and Ashok have been identified as leading mob attacks. In Badarpur, Ram Singh, Ramveer Singh Biduri (of Tughlaqabad) and Chowdhury Shahmal have been named. In R.K. Puram, Jagdish Tokas of Munirka is reported to have led one of the mobs.

West Delhi: In Inderpuri the attack was led by the brothers of Brahm Yadav, Metropolitan Councillor. They are Manjit Yadav and Ajit Yadav. In Dorivalan (Manakpura) the mobs were led by the two sons of the local Municipal Corporator, Baherwa. In Shakurbasti, Roshanlal Ahuja, Councillor, was seen instigating the mobs. In Mangolpuri (Block S) the persons identified are Daya Ram, Dabeu and Majid Khan. In Block X of the same colony those identified are Dalip Pradhan and Ramesh. In Block F-2 of Sultanpuri the culprits named are Dharam Singh, Ishwar, Pradeep, Budhhu and Kali. In Block C-4, Ram Chauhan, Prem Singh and Gupta have been named. In Block D & K of Shakurpur, Chander, Channu and Gupta have been named.

North Delhi: Councillor Mangat Ram held a meeting of Congress (I) Pradhans in Jehangir Puri on the night of October 31 and instigated them to organise mob attacks. In Wazirpur Industrial Area one of the mobs was led by Naubat Singh from J.J. Colony. The mob which attacked Bharat Nagar was led, among others, by Bhurey Lal, Shankar and Ramji Lal.

East Delhi: Nand Nagri, Block A 1—Mahinder and Madan. Block B 5—Bhajan Lal, Sohan, Mohan, Chottey Lal, Kanhiya, Mangal, Jasram, Harichand, Bishan, Raju, Harpal, Girdhar, Bharat Singh Chamar, Premdas, Dhanla, Phanna and Pappu. Block B 4—Prem and Bhagwat. Block C 3—Padhey. Block D 1—the mob was led, among others, by Maninder, Pradhan. Block E 3—Jamna, Dr. Verma, Shamlal and his sons. Besides Ramesh and Mohinder Chowdhuri have also been named.

Carnage Led by Congress(I) in Other States

BIHAR

J.S. Majumdar

FIVE days communal violence in Bihar, from 31st October to 4th November, left many Sikhs dead, many injured and crores of rupees of properties looted. A joint delegation of left political parties, comprising of Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi, MLA and the Secretary of the Bihar State Committee of CPI(M), Chandni Prasad, General Secretary of the Bihar State Committee of CITU along with the leaders of CPI and MCC toured the riot affected areas of Bokaro, Ranchi and Daltonganj. On their return they addressed a Press conference at Patna and reported about their experience. It was evident that the attacks on Sikhs were neither spontaneous nor due to any communal hatred between Hindus and Sikhs. The riot was engineered under political patronage.

At all places, Congress(I), particularly its youth wing, was seen starting, instigating and leading the riots. Being instigated by the Congress(I) leaders and led by hard-core criminals, lumpen section of the people were mobilised in large numbers for the sole purpose of looting. The police and administration were totally partisan. They were not only inactive, in most of the places they directly participated in lootings. At some places RSS elements also participated in the riot. Looted properties were recovered from the residence of Government officials and police. Sikhs were forced to pay huge amounts to the police for rescuing them and shifting them to places of safety. They are now afraid of their future security in such a hostile atmosphere, created by the Congress(I)-administration-gangsters combine.

At Bokaro, it was reported that a meeting was held on 31st October night at the residence of P.N. Tripathi, the city Congress(I) President and who is also the Working President of the INTUC union at Bokaro. His petrol pump was freely used by the arsonists. It is alleged that after this meeting a killers' squad was formed which moved in one jeep, one trekker and two motor cycles, fully armed with guns and bombs and killing innocent Sikhs. Out of 64 deaths in Bokaro, officially announced so far, 30 died of bullet injuries and the remaining persons were mostly burnt alive. 62 persons were still reported to be missing on 8th November.

The worst affected areas were sector IX and the slum areas. In sector IX one family of 7 were killed. In Dashmeshnagar, it is reported that 15 persons were burnt alive. Some of the young girls were gang-raped. Chabra's daughter was a school teacher. She was brought at the road crossing, stripped, doused in petrol and burnt alive. Youth Congress leaders Krishnanad Singh, Uma Pandey and R.D. Yadav have been arrested.

A small number of CPI(M) and CITU cadres along with others tried their best to rescue the Sikhs and saved many lives. This fact was admitted to the delegation by the IG of police. The Sikhs have developed confidence on the communists as the only friends in a hostile city. CPI(M) contributed free medicines in the relief camp. The delegation addressed the Sikhs in the relief camp. The leader also addressed a public meeting in front of Sector IX.

At Dhanbad, nine persons were reportedly killed on 1st November. The arsonists demolished a house using dynamite. CPI(M) cadres visited local gurdwaras and supplied free medicines in the relief camps. Here also Youth Congress (I) elements started the arson and looting.

At Ranchi local Congress (I) leaders mobilised the anti-socials for arson and loot. Official figure of death is seven. Four dead bodies of Sikhs were found in the railway compartments. At Hatia, a gurdwara 25 yards away from the local police station was burnt to ashes. The shop of Tirllok Singh, a cloth marchant, which was opposite to Hatia police station was completely looted and burnt.

At Daltonganj four dead bodies of Sikhs were recovered from Chandigarh Express. Here also the involvement of Congress (I) MLA of Patan Chatarpur and the General Secretary of South Chotanagpur Region Youth Congress in instigating the people were reported. Local SDO reportedly led the mob for looting. On 8th November the residences of local SDO, DSP and Reader of SP were raided for recovering the looted properties. Students and youth at Daltonganj have organised street corner meetings and cycle procession for maintaining peace and amity amongst various communities. Large-scales loot and arsons have also been reported from Chas, Motihari. Koderma, Hazaribagh, Giridih, Siwan and Chapra. Two Sikhs reportedly died at Adityapur area of Jamshedpur. CPI(M) cadres rescued many Sikh families risking their lives. At Motihari, Ramasray Singh, MLA of CPI(M) with other Party cadres faced the rioters boldly. He was attacked with bombs by the arsonists. At Siwan also CPI(M) cadres faced the arsonists boldly and saved Sikhs' properties.

At Hazaribagh a condolence meeting was called by the Congress (I) to pay homage to Indira Gandhi, which was joined by all opposition parties. Sikhs also participated in the meeting. When the Secretary of local Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee rose to speak, he was abused and kicked by Congress(I) functionaries. The meeting was abandoned and the loot and arson started in the town.

At Patna loot and arson continued unabated. On 31st evening Youth Congress (I) leaders brought out
(Contd. on page 11)

BY the evening of October 31, itself, anti-social crowds had started to hold Gwalior to ransom under the leadership of certain Congress(I) leaders. The INTUC hoodlums took out a procession and burnt down, first the gurudwara just in front of the INTUC office and, then other shops. They were encouraged by the police officers present there while many Congress(I) MLAs and the Congress(I) President were expressing their joy in the INTUC office. Mohalla Noorganj was the next target of this spree of loot of houses belonging to the Sikh community. Koteswar gurudwara was attacked and one granthi and one sewadar burnt alive. In the city, 148 shops and houses were looted and burnt down, seven Sikhs murdered, and property worth 13.4 million rupees looted. Among the leaders of the rioters was the elder brother of the Minister of State for Public Works.

However, the opposition parties and the common citizens became active from November 1. In the morning on the same day, the Secretary of the MP State CPI(M) Committee, Motilal Sharma, met the Chief Minister and asked him to take prompt action to restore normalcy. Opposition parties met on November 2, 3 and 4 and steps were taken to restore peace and harmony. The CPI(M) cadres met and took stock of the situation and planned to counter the anti-social activities. Party groups and CITU activists proceeded to different parts of the city to restore peace and harmony and rescue the Sikhs engulfed in the dangerous situation. The CPI(M) called a meeting of all Opposition parties where a fact-finding committee was constituted which published a factual account of the events two days later. In this report 28 Congress(I) office-bearers and MLAs were named with proofs, and an account was given regarding the collusion of the police and administration. The latter established no relief camps and the endangered Sikhs had to take refuge in the gurudwara situated in the fort. The report explicitly warned that Mrs. Gandhi's assassination was a part of the imperialist conspiracies utilizing the services of the divisive forces. The CPI(M) along with CITU and other mass organisations are also holding meetings to explain to the people the causes and the possible consequences of these developments and to expose the shameless opportunism of the Congress(I) and BJP therein.

In the dacoit infested area of Moraine, a huge police force is a permanent feature. Yet Moraine witnessed one of the most barbaric incidents in which, in the presence of the DM, SP and other officials, the Congress(I) brutes held up the Jhelum Express, murdered 28 Sikhs and burnt their bodies, although the whole area was curfew-bound.

Despite its limited strength the CPI(M) made every effort to bring harmony back among the communities. It should be noted that the DM one Prashante Mehta seized the Party's handbills and other propaganda materials on the ground that the USA and the UK were mentioned by name in the handbills.

In Kailaras and Jawra too, the SFI and the DYFI resisted the anti-socials and the Congress(I) hoodlums,

saved the lives of a number of Sikhs, and restored a part of their looted property. At Sabalgarh, these elements had brought out a procession with provocative slogans and were bent on arson, but the CPI(M) mobilised the people and defeated the Congress(I) game. The frustrated goondas had to content themselves with the burning of the CPI(M) signboard at a road crossing. Batches of cadres went to various localities, held meetings with common citizens, explained these developments and the role of imperialism and secessionist elements in them, and appealed to the people to protect the life and property of the innocent Sikhs.

Serious tension marked the situation in Jabalpur. Nine lives were lost here. The leader of one hoodlum gang here was Congress(I) MLA Dinesh Mishra. The DIG, Ashok Patel a crony of the Chief Minister not only encouraged the Congress(I) gangs to arson but even saw to it that Sikh youth were beaten at the police station.

When the news of Mrs. Gandhi's assassination reached Shahdol town, the masses were stunned and angered but not prepared to jump into a communal orgy. But yet due to the provocations by some senior Congress(I) leaders and workers such an orgy did take place at Shahdol.

On November 3, an all-party condolence meeting appealed to the masses to maintain the people's unity. On November 4, an all-party peace march was taken out. On November, 7, the Janawadi Lekhk Sangh organised a seminar on "Forces Inimical to National Integrity and Progress" which was attended by about two hundred people. The participation of Sikhs was noteworthy.

At Bhopal some elements of the Congress(I) in collusion with anti-socials started a killing and looting spree but soon the people's intervention brought the situation under control. By contrast, in exemplary solidarity, Sikh and non-Sikh workers at the BHEL unit kept the atmosphere tension-free there.

Even in this hour of national calamity, the Congress(I) game of exploiting the popular sentiment for its own electoral benefit is evident throughout Madhya Pradesh. It is left to the CPI(M), its mass organisations and other progressive forces to bring back normalcy, restore harmony and expose the imperialist forces that want to destabilise the country.

CITU Nominations

CITU has nominated Nrisingha Chakraborty, Secretary, in the Tripartite Working Group constituted by the Government to identify the specific difficulties faced in the Building and Construction Industry to comply with the social security legislations.

P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, has been nominated by CITU to attend the National Workshop on Productivity and Trade Unions, sponsored by the National Productivity Council in collaboration with ILO, to be held at Panjim (Goa) from December 4 to 6.

UTTAR PRADESH

Ram Sumer Yadav

THE violence in U.P. after the assassination of Indira Gandhi followed the same pattern as in other places with the Sikh Community attacked in the riots, arsons planned and led by Congress (I) elements and the administration encouraging the goondas.

In U.P. the worst hit was the city of Kanpur. On October 31 itself, three gurudwaras, a large number of houses, shops, vehicles and factories were burnt down. The State Government started receiving news of arson from Kanpur, Lucknow, Varanasi, Allahabad, Lakhimpur, Khiri and other places in the night of October 31 itself. But no action was taken. On October 31, the Ranchi-Chandigarh Express was searched at Kanpur by rioters and Sikh passengers aboard were dragged out and killed. A cinema house was burnt down in Jhiarea. By 4.30 p.m. on October 31, Lucknow began to be held to ransom by the anti-socials led by Congress (I) activists. No arrest took place for a couple of days. On the same day, Varanasi and Gorakhpur too were handed over to the rioters.

Dehradun, Shahjahanpur, Khiri, Rai Bareilly, Mathura, Nainital, Ghaziabad, Pilibhit, Meerut, Bareilly, Lalipur, Banda, Hamirpur, Faizabad, Pratapgrah, Sultanpur, Jaunpur, Deoria Gonda, Hardoi, Ferozabad and other towns were engulfed in the communal fire from November 1 onwards. Curfew had to be clamped in as many as 30 district headquarters and industrial towns. Reports from all parts of U.P. exhibit a uniform pattern of the assault—murders, looting and fire. In nearly all cases the attack was undertaken by anti-socials under the leadership of local Congress (I) leaders. It was only Fatehpur where the DM and DSP adopted stern attitude and succeeded in keeping the city peaceful throughout.

The collusion of the police force was nakedly revealed when, after three Sikhs were murdered and two burnt alive at Charbagh railway station (Lucknow) on November 2, the DIG of Police of the Lucknow Zone replied to a query of a journalist that he did not know about any incidence of violence, nor had he seen any such incident. According to the Government's own admission, 20 districts came to be engulfed in the flare up by November 3. Curfew had to be clamped in 30 cities and in ten, the army had to be called out. By that date in many districts the riots began to spread to the country side particularly Lucknow.

In these four days of communal orgy in the State, more than a thousand lives were lost, of which some 800 were from Kanpur alone. In the November 4 issue of The Times of India, its staff reporter had written that Darul-Shafa (the MLA's hostel) had become the refuge of all sorts of anti-social and

goonda elements of all hues. At Kanpur the arson was led by the nephew of Shiv Nath Kushwaha, a Minister in the State, and at Sultanpur it was after a public condolence meeting on November 1, called by a Congress (I) MLA, that the riots started. Similar reports have come from other districts too. The All Party Peace Committee, announced by the Chief Minister N.D. Tiwari, had not yet come into existence when these lines were written. Regarding the relief work in the aftermath of the riots, and the widespread corruption, the less said the better.

During this period, articles of daily consumption sold at five to ten times their normal price. The worst hit were the daily wage workers, the rickshaw-pullers, street hawkers and the ordinary consumers.

The Opposition parties did their utmost to prevent the riots. This time, too, the CPI (M) and its mass organisations showed in practice that their cadres can even risk their lives to prevent the rise of communal and divisive forces, and what the CITU did in this respect in Kanpur has earned praise from all sections of society. At Bareilly on November 1, Harsahay Singh, a member of the CPI (M) State Secretariat and Vice President of CITU and President of its State Committee successfully pacified a mob which wanted to attack Sikh establishments. The police party which was a witness to this courageous act of Harsahay Singh took him to custody instead of taking action against the riotous mob. He was kept in police custody for four days. Another instance of police complicity with the arsonists came to light when CPI (M) workers in Sultanpur resisted an attempt to burn a bus, and the police threatened them with dire consequences.

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a procession and rally at Patna City where provocative speeches were made. Next day they organised loot and arson. On 6th November, CPI (M) and CPI jointly organised a peace march at Patna City. A CPI (M) delegation met the Sikhs at the Harimandirji Gurdwara at Patna Sahib. A medical camp was organised by CPI (M) inside the Gurdwara on 7th and 8th November. Four doctors and three BSSR union members participated and treated 500 patients and distributed free medicines.

The large-scale arson and killing by the anti-socials under the patronage of the Congress (I) has shown to what extent the criminals have been recruited in the ranks of the Youth Congress (I). Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by the terrorists as a vile design of the secessionist forces to dismember India at the behest of US imperialism. At this critical juncture, the members of her own Party in Bihar planned and executed communal riot, mobilised anti-socials for killing innocent Sikhs, creating a dangerous situation for the country. The country's unity and integrity, communal harmony and peace can not be maintained by the ruling party. These are the experiences of the recent happenings in Bihar.

People Safeguard Communal Amity**Sampad Pal**

At a time when following the assassination of the Prime Minister, waves of wanton violence tore through a large part of Northern India including the country's Capital, sustained efforts by the democratic minded people of West Bengal, united under the banner of the Left Front, succeeded in nipping the trouble in bud and maintaining communal harmony and amity throughout the state. Ever-alert volunteers of the CPI(M) and the other Left parties, along with the various mass organisations like the CITU, AIDWA, DYFI and SFI put forth all-out efforts at coordinating with the Left Front Government and the people in keeping life normal in the state.

Henious attempts at disruption, it needs to be noted, were made in West Bengal. In a shameless demonstration of vandalism of the vilest kind, hordes of lumpen elements and hardened goondas descended on the state capital's streets and acting to a plan of sorts, set fire to nearly a dozen State buses and a couple trams. Attempts were also made to loot shops and lynch members of Sikh community. In no time, however, the peace loving people of the state rallied against these elements and, in the face of the concerted and spirited resistance everywhere the cowardly arsonists and potential looters were quickly put on the run. The situation at no period of time was ever allowed to get out of hand.

In city mohallas and village localities throughout the state, peace marches were organised by the Party and the various mass organisations. Volunteers of the CITU maintained amity in the industrial belt of the State. The peace marchers gave a wide call to foil the hateful conspiracy to destroy communal harmony and trust. Volunteers of CPI(M) and Left Front joined hands with the democratic minded populace to keep a ceaseless vigil round-the-clock at places of religious worship as well as in sensitive areas. These vigorous activities had a most salutary effect in the maintenance of peace and amity and they demonstrated to the subversive elements the innate strength of the democratic movement in the State.

As additional precaution, vigorous police patrolling was introduced and Army units were deployed, albeit only for a short while. Widespread arrests, both pre-emptive and otherwise, were effected and as a purely preventive measure night curfew was clamped in a few potentially sensitive areas of the State, again on a temporary basis. In a strongly worded statement, the Left Front called upon the people to keep aloft the glorious heritage of the state by safeguarding communal peace through vigorous upkeep of the law and order situation everywhere.

In the meanwhile with a view to reassuring the panic-struck Sikhs, CPI (M) and other Left Party

volunteers came forward to provide safe shelters to these citizens of the state in special camps in some areas. A typical example was the large camp at Behala High School where several hundred families were put up till the tension subsided in its entirety. The warm and hospitable way the evacuees were treated has gone a long way in confirming again the salutary fact that in the State of West Bengal under the Left Front Government people live in fraternal harmony and mutual trust. Left Front leaders, including the Chief Minister visited this and other camps and reassured the evacuees who, on their part, thanked the people and the State Government for the strict maintenance of peace in the State.

Addressing a meeting Saroj Mukherjee called upon the people and workers to wage a relentless battle against the evil forces of secession and communalism who sprout U.S. imperialist backed designs to tear the nation apart along separatist and communal lines. He said that it is through the sharpening of the class struggle and through widening of the base of the democratic movement that shall one be able to make a decisive headway against the fissiparous tendencies threatening the nation. In his speech Jyoti Basu said that it has been the wrong political outlook of the Centre that has failed to integrate the nation even after 37 years of independence. He urged upon all concerned to keep a ceaseless vigil against any attempt at creating chaos. He added that notwithstanding the successful maintenance of normalcy in the State, there must never be any kind of complacency at any period of time.

To cement communal harmony as to promote amity a historic Peace March was organised in the State Capital at the call of the Left Front on October 6. In a signal show of spontaneity tens of thousands of people took part in the padayatra that wended its way through the city's streets from the south to the north. With Left Front leaders in the van of the march people from virtually every walk of life, including workers, peasants, students, youth and women joined in. A notable feature of the Peace March was the presence of eminent members of various communities including a large number of Sikhs. It was truly symbolic of the valiant determination of the democratic-minded people of the state to maintain peace and amity in the State.

The bias of the Central Government Controlled media against the Left Front Government and the democratic movement of the people was reflected in the fact that this huge Peace March was neither shown in the TV nor broadcast over the radio.

**DEFEAT CONGRESS(I)
ISOLATE DIVISIVE FORCES
STRENGTHEN SECULAR AND
LEFT AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES**

People's Aid Committee in Delhi

A nine member People's Aid Committee has been constituted with representatives of the CPI(M), CITU, Janawadi Mahila Samiti, DYFI, SFI, Democratic Teachers Front, doctors and lawyers to continue the relief work to the riot affected victims. While the camps were running, the Committee concentrated in giving relief at the Shakurpur and Jehangirpuri camps. Now that the Delhi Administration has callously closed down the camps and forced the inmates to return to their areas, the Committee has decided to concentrate its work in four colonies: Sultanpuri, Mangolpuri, Nandnagari and Jehangirpuri. The Committee had allotted ten thousand rupees in the first instalment for work in the areas. Volunteers of this committee have also been helping the people of these areas to file their claim forms for compensation for deaths, injuries and damage to property. Ved Gupta, member of the Delhi State Committee of the CPI(M) is Convenor of this Committee. The Delhi State CITU affiliated unions have been entrusted to raise money from the workers to provide relief to the affected people.

Peace Marches: Peace marches to mobilise people for communal harmony are continuing in different places organised at the initiative of the CPI(M) and various mass organisations. In Shastri colony, Faridabad, the Mahila Samiti along with other mass organisations organised a peace march in which over 175 women participated including a large number of Sikh women. In Bagichi in North Delh, also the JMS organised a peace march in which local women participated in large numbers.

Delhi Peace by March Artists

OVER 700 musicians, dancers, theatre and TV artists, puppeteers, painters and sculptors, film-makers and critics, poets and authors, journalists and photographers, architects and designers and other creative artists of Delhi staged a Peace March on November 17. The city of Delhi had never before witnessed such an impressive and representative gathering of leading professional and amateur artists on any issue.

The Marchers left the Ravindra Bhavan lawns at 2 p.m. and passing through Connaught Circus and Parliament Street, rallied at the Patel Chowk. They distributed thousands of copies of an Appeal to the people expressing their shock at the assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi and the barbaric communal massacres and lynchings of a large number of innocent and helpless members of the Sikh community. The Appeal warned the people against the dark forces of separatism which backed by imperialism are bent upon the dismemberment of our country. The marchers carried placards denouncing the ghastly communal killings.

The Organising Committee for the Peace March had called another meeting of the artists of Delhi at the Ravindra Bhavan on November 25 morning to chalk out the future programme of action. The Jan Natya Manch and Janawadi Lekhak Sangh took the initiative in mobilising theatre activists and writers for the rally. A group of the marchers sang songs of communal harmony and the unity of the people throughout the route.

Asian and Pacific Region T.U. Leaders Visit CITU

A team of trade union leaders of the Asian and Pacific region visited the Central Office of CITU on November 12 to discuss about a conference to be held in Delhi in February 1985 on Development and New International Economic Order. The team included the following members:

V.E. Mozhaev of AUCCTU, Moscow; Ken Douglas of New Zealand Federation of Trade Unions; Snan Vongsuthee of National Congress of Thai Labour (WCL); E.R. Botswain of the Committee of International Trade Union Unity, Australia; Hiroshi Waka Bayashi of the International Labour Movement Institute, SOHYO, Japan and Merelyn Tucker from Australia. Indrajit Gupta and K.G. Srivastava, the General Secretary and Vice-President respectively of AITUC also accompanied the team. On behalf of CITU, Samar Mukherjee, M.P., General Secretary; M.K. Pandhe, Nrisingha Chakraborty and P.K. Ganguly, Secretaries, were present.

On November 13, Alexei Davydov, Head of Asian Section of WFTU and Deb Kumar Ganguly, Secretary, WFTU also made a courtesy visit to CITU Office.

Comrade Arabindo Ghosh

With deep sorrow CITU mourns the sad demise of Com. Arabindo Ghosh, member of W. Bengal State Committee of CPI (M), member of Rajya Sabha and Vice-President of All India State Government Employees' Federation, in the midnight of November 7 at the age of 59.

Com. Arabindo Ghosh was the founder-Chairman of the All India State Government Employees' Federation and afterwards was elected its General Secretary. He was also the Convenor of the 12th July Committee and Secretary of the Co-ordination Committee of State Government Employees. He was dismissed from Government services in 1958, but reinstated in 1967 during the United Front Ministry. He was again dismissed in 1971 and reinstated in 1977 when the Left Front Ministry come to power. He resigned from service in 1981 to devote full time to party work.

CITU sends heart felt condolences to the bereaved members of his family.

Press Reports Point to Congress (I)

New Delhi Nov. 4: Local leaders of the Congress(I) were "not only part of the mob that wiped out nearly all the male sikhs of Block 32, Trilokpuri but had also identified their houses," a freshly cropped and clean-shaven Taranjit Singh of Block 34 Trilokpuri told this correspondent. "Ram Pal Saroj, Sukhan Lal and D.R. Lakhani, Congress(I) youth leaders were part of the rioting mob", said Hukam Singh, a technician in AIR. "A party for which we had voted for 37 years has done this to us", he said. (The Telegraph, Nov. 5).

New Delhi, Nov. 6: Several Sikhs alleged that the Congress(I) had been involved in the violence at a very high level. They said the Information Minister, Mr. H.K.L. Bhagat, who is an MP from East Delhi, had come to the area yesterday and had several of the culprits released from the Loyal police station. They also named MPs and Councillors Sajjan Kumar, Dharmadas Sashtri and Arjun Das. (Telegraph, Nov. 7.)

New Delhi, Nov. 3: The army had moved into most parts of Delhi but the deployment reached full strength only after the 3000 troops and the vehicles reserved for the funeral were made available for controlling the communal violence. Relief came to the victims in the far flung colonies only after the Army troops moved in today and controlled the attacks which had been carrying on since the night of October 31. (The Telegraph, Nov. 4).

Statesman, Nov. 5: And it was Jehangirpuri where mobs killed several persons of a minority community on suspicion that they had not voted for the Congress(I) in civic elections in Delhi in January 1983.

Bhubaneswar, Nov. 4: Ten persons, including the President of the Rourkela District Youth Congress(I), were arrested last evening. In adjoining Angul town, police arrested five persons, including a Congress(I) Councillor on charges of rioting." (The Hindu, November 5).

Coimbatore, Nov. 4: The police searched the house of Ravikumar, a party member (Cong-I) in Kattur and recovered looted property worth of Rs. 10,000. (The Hindu, Nov. 5).

Udhagamandalam, Nov. 4: A group of people had gathered on Friday to relitiate against Congress(I) men who had gone on a rampage following the assassination of Mrs Gandhi. (The Hindu, Nov. 5).

Madurai, Nov. 4: The Congress(I) workers obstructed the Janata and Pandyan Expresses. (The

Hindu, Nov. 5).

Rourkela, Nov. 5: The modus operandi of the looters in Rourkela was organised. Mrs Harbans Kaur, who claimed to be a Congress(I) worker, alleged that a number of Congress(I) workers were involved. (The Telegraph, Nov. 6.)

New Delhi, Nov. 6: The Delhi Police, upon whom the primary responsibility for the law and order situation still rests remain ineffective even today, six days after the assassination of Indira Gandhi and the outbreak of the communal carnage in the Capital. In another incident yesterday, not more than 150 metres from the Parliament Street Police Station, a young political worker (CPI-M) returning home in an autorickshaw with her 6-month baby tried to save a Sikh boy being chased by six hooligans. The ruffians assaulted her and the auto driver, grabbed the boy and took him away. Around the corner, a police picket advised the young woman to save her own child and go away as things were "calm and peaceful". Vandana, the woman, had bruises on her forehead. (The Hindu, Nov. 7.)

New Delhi, Nov. 1: While entire Delhi silently watched mobs attacking and burning Sikh shops and vehicles, a small group of CPI(M) members turned away a crowd of about 200 youths who were trying to burn a taxi stand owned by Sikhs. Fifteen CPI(M) workers fearlessly tackled the crowd of lumpens who after a scuffle dispersed. (The Telegraph Nov. 2).

Ranchi, Nov. 7: The Sikh community here is shocked and outraged at the composition of the local central peace committee. They told that several members of the committee, those belonging to the ruling party, had taken part in the violence, looting, killing and arson. A spokesman of the Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee said, the government should transport the Sikhs to West Bengal where they would feel safer. (The Telegraph, Nov. 8.)

Patna, Nov. 8: A Congress (I) leader, Mr Raj Kumar Tewari, who was arrested, was released after 24 hours at the instance of the Congress (I) MLA, Mr Sharad Jain, and other ministers. While in police custody he was accorded VIP treatment. Two other Congress (I) leaders — a member of the Youth Congress (I) executive committee and a member of the PCCI have also been released on bail after being arrested on similar charges. The officers said that a Lok Sabha member had used his influence to get them released. Senior district officials at the Patna Saheb gurdwara named those involved in the crime, which includes a NSUI leader who had staked his claim to the post of State Unit President, (The Telegraph, Nov. 9).

Akola, Maharashtra, Nov. 9: (UNI): Sixteen students of the Punjabrao Agricultural University here, including the son of a ruling Congress (I) legislator, Mr Shradhatai Tapre, have been arrested on charges of murder, rioting and arson. A police sub-inspector, a head constable and five constables had been suspended as they "had not noticed the incident" though they were on duty at the university that night. (Telegraph Nov. 10.)

The Statesman, Nov. 9: The Police Commissioner was present at one of the earliest trouble spots, a place of worship in Sadar Bazar which had been encircled by a mob. It was in his presence, and in the presence of other senior officers including the Additional Commissioner in charge of Delhi range, that the place of worship was set on fire.

New Delhi, Nov. 19: Mr. Gandhi did not have a word of condemnation for the communal riots that had broken out in the country after Mrs Gandhi's assassination. He merely said, "When a large tree falls the earth is bound to shake a little". (Telegraph, Nov. 20, 1984.)

TIMES OF INDIA, EDITORIAL, NOV. 7: "... Youth Congress activists have encouraged and, as the allegations go, even instigated the mobs on the rampage. In the Capital at least the victims name names. ... It does not need to be established that the Youth Congress contains lumpens who recognise no moral law and tend to go berserk at the slightest opportunity. Their recent misdeeds on the way to Nagpur, in Nagpur and the way back home from Nagpur speak for themselves. Indira Gandhi blurred the issue at Nagpur. In view of the enormous capital she had built over the years, she could afford to do so. Mr Rajiv Gandhi cannot risk the impression that some of those who speak and act in his name are not only criminals by inclination but have behaved as such. ... We are aware that Mr Rajiv Gandhi cannot wish to start his tenure as Prime Minister with an admission that a wing of his party harbours not just ordinary criminals but instigators of a communal holocaust. He has to send out a message by deed and not by word alone that he is Prime Minister of all Indians, that he will not allow gangsters to seek asylum in his party that he will not allow politicians, including Congressmen, to meddle with the enforcement of law and order.

FALLOUT OF RIOTS: CASUALTY OF JOBS

Patriot, Nov. 7: At least 10000 workers face unemployment in Wazirpur Industrial Area only, one of Delhi's industrial complexes that have been badly affected by widespread arson. Their factories have been gutted, and though exact figures are unavailable, the total number of people rendered jobless runs into lakhs. The statistics came up in flesh and blood.

Business Standard Nov. 8 Industrial property worth a minimum of Rs. 50 crores has been destroyed in the recent violence in just three industrial areas around Delhi — Noida, Okhla and Faridabad. In Noida, according to most of the persons, a total of 75 factories have been destroyed".

Financial Express Nov. 9: The All-India Motor Transport Congress has announced that financial loss as estimated by the Congress runs into Rs. 100 crores at the minimum due to the large scale destruction of trucks in the country. That apart, the industry is fearing that a liability of crores of rupees would fall on the booking agents on account of the loss of goods on the destroyed trucks and in some of the godowns that have been burnt.

Business Standard Nov. 10 : In Noida, most factory owners said that certain so called INTUC leaders led the mobs. The labour is mainly from Bihar and eastern UP. The carnage in Delhi will also have a spin-off effect in the rest of the country.

Economic Times, November 10: The recent carnage in the country has thrown the entire road transport industry out of gear. The toll includes 2,000 trucks, 1,000 taxis, 350 buses, 300 scooter-rickshaws and an unspecified number of light commercial vehicles. There will be an acute shortage of vehicles to move both the essential and durable goods resulting in skyrocketing of prices. The burning of the trucks has thrown a large number of people out of job. On an average, eight persons are employed directly and indirectly on every truck: two drivers, one cleaner, loaders, those who fix punctures, mechanics and handcart drivers. So according to a rough estimate, 15,000 people have gone out of job due to the burning of 2,000 trucks. On an average, four people are employed directly or indirectly on a taxi. These include a driver, a helper, mechanics and others associated with tourist trade. This means that 4,000 people have been rendered jobless because of the taxis in Delhi alone. The buses also employ about four persons directly. The total number of those out of job due to the damage to buses comes to about 1,400. Besides, the 300 families of autorickshaw drivers which would go without their daily bread, there would be an equal number of the families of those who are indirectly employed on these autorickshaws.

THE JOBLESS WORKFORCE HAVE NO RELIEF CAMPS. THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS TO STRUGGLE UNITEDLY, FIGHT THE DIVISIVE FORCES, DEFEAT THE CONGRESS(I) AND STRENGTHEN SECULAR AND LEFT AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES.

Railwaymen's Struggle

Guard Council's Annual Meeting

THE 20th Annual General meeting of the All India Guards Council was held in Calcutta on 2nd-4th November. About six hundred delegates and a same number of visitors attended the meet. Delegates and visitors came from all the nine Zonal Railways. Many delegates, however, could not arrive in Calcutta due to the disturbances that took place in many parts of the country following the assassination of Indira Gandhi. In absence of Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal and Vice-President, CITU, who had to rush to Delhi, the meeting was inaugurated by Asis Sen, General Secretary, Bank Employees Federation of India, who was the Chairman of the Reception Committee. Different sessions were addressed by S.K. Dhar, M L Banerji, D B Roy of All India Loco Running Staff Association, All India Traction Workers Association and Indian Railways Ticket Checking Staff Association respectively. Held under the dark shadow of the ominous happenings, the meeting took note of the danger from the divisive and secessionist forces backed by the imperialists and resolved to fight against the forces while stepping up united struggle for realisation of railwaymen's demands.

Petition Committee Upholds Demands

The Committee On Petitions (Seventh Lok Sabha) has stated in their seventh report "...the Committee feels that there is need for improvement in the service conditions of catering staff. As the job of the staff engaged in catering is of permanent nature, they should be employed by the Railways on regular basis...In order that Commission Bearers/Vendors are assured of permanent carrier, the committee recommends that definite recruitment rules may be framed for absorption of Commission Bearers/Vendors..." The Committee's report was in response to a petition submitted to the Lok Sabha by a Bangalore based union of catering service workers.

For years the Commission Bearers and Vendors have been working under the Railway Catering Service on Commission basis in violation of the principle of 'Equal pay for equal work'. It is a long standing demand of these workers that they should be treated as regular railway employees with regular pay etc. In 1978, Madhu Dandavate, the then Railway Minister issued order for absorption of 50 per cent Commission Bearers. Similar order was issued in 1979 also. The orders however, did not cover the Commission Vendors. Now the committee has recommended that all Commission Bearers and Vendors should be absorbed as permanent employees. The clearing job now being done by contractors' workers should also be done by regular employees. Service beyond 5 years already rendered should count for pensionary benefits. Petition Committee's recommendation would strengthen their legitimate demand. Samar Mukherjee, M.P. General Secretary, CITU has already taken up the matter

with the Railway Minister about implementation of these recommendations for all the railways.

South Central Railway Catering Vendors and Bearers Union, Vijayawada (CITU) have been endeavouring for the Commission Vendors and Bearers being treated as regular railway employees. Some of its members have recently filed a writ petition in the Andhra Pradesh High Court at Hyderabad for a writ of mandamus directing the railway authorities to absorb them as regular railway employees.

Vindictive Action By Administration

On Nov. 11, Secretary, Work Shops, South Central Railway Employees Union (CITU) and two others, one belonging to INTUC union, have been served with orders of transfer to different places from the wagon workshop, Guntapalli. These three trade union activists along with four others were removed from service in April, 1982. They were reinstated in service in July, 1983 but were immediately served with orders of transfer to various places. But on the basis of a stay order issued by the Andhra Pradesh High Court, they continued to work in their original places of work.

It is reported that on 1st November which was declared a holiday as a mark of respect to the memory of the Late Prime Minister villagers from the area surrounding the workshop demonstrated in thousands demanding that the workshop be closed for the day. In view of the situation the leaders of several unions jointly approached the authorities to declare at least an unpaid holiday and the authorities at the S.C. Railway Head quarters agreed. The workshop authorities looked upon these developments as an opportunity to circumvent the Andhra High court judgement and again issued transfer orders, which they failed to enforce earlier. It is for all to see how industrial peace is sabotaged due to the vindictive attitude of the authorities. Samar Mukherjee has taken up the issue with the authorities.

Railwaymen Abroad: Foils Gestapo Tactics

Railway authorities in our country has of late started a campaign to malign the locorunning staff with the slanderous charge of widespread alcoholism. They have introduced a system of alcohol detection — so called breathalyser test, and unduly harassing the loco running staff.

This system, however, is not an innovation by Indian Railway authorities. This they have learnt from their Western counterparts. Whose attempt to introduce the system was foiled by the resistance of the workers. Recently, a new attempt was made by the authorities of the Burlington Northern Railway System, America, to use so called drug sniffing dogs for alcohol detection. The union of locomen, The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers went to court against the Burlington Northern authorities and once again foiled their attempt to use unscientific and derogatory system in order to harm the railwaymen. This will inspire the Indian locomen to keep up their fight.

"Progress" Under Congress Rule—At a Glance

FIVE YEAR PLANS AND UNEMPLOYMENT

At the end of	No. of Regd. Unemploys
1st Plan	5.3 Millions
2nd Plan	7.1 Millions
3rd Plan	9.6 Millions
4th Plan	17.1 Millions
5th Plan	19.75 Millions

In the 6th Plan which is coming to an end, the unemployment figures are 22.60 millions in April, 1984; 22.650 millions in May, 1984 and 22.869 millions in June, 1984. The above are the figures of registered urban unemployment only. The Government dares not publish any figure on rural unemployment. The National survey however has estimated it to be around 43 millions currently.

PRICE RISE

The average Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (1960-100) in 1979 was 350. Thereafter, since the return of Congress(I) in power in 1980, the average annual index spiralled as follows:

1980	390
1981	441
1982	476
1983	531
1984 (Jan-May)	560
1984 (June)	574
1984 (July)	585
1984 (August)	586
1984 (Sept.)	589

The average Consumer Price Index for agricultural labourers, (July 60-June 61-100), both General and Food have spiralled similarly as follows. The index for food has increased more rapidly.

Agricultural Year	General	Food
1979-80	360	390
1980-81	409	448
1981-82	448	492
1982-83	481	527
1983-84	523	573

Since the return of Congress(I), the general retail price index from March, 1980 to March, 1984 showed a meteoric rise of 60.8 per cent, recording an annual average increase of 15.2 per cent — the highest during the last decade. The wholesale Price Index also recorded increase of 8 per cent and 17 per cent over the last two years during the period ending August 18, 1984. The prevailing retail prices of several essential food and non-food items like rice, wheat, edible oils, sugar, tea, cement, soft coke, etc. have recorded increases between 60 percent to 100 per cent as compared to their prices in January, 1980. To further aggravate the situation, the public distribution system has virtually collapsed despite higher productions and import of food grains. It has been a syndrome of record productions, record imports and record price rise in the Congress regime.

INFLATION

"Will' you please tell the country that when you 'brought down' the inflation from 21 per cent to 16 per cent, it was actually 37 per cent rise; when you again 'brought it down' to 6 percent, it was 43 per cent rise; when it was 'brought down' to 2 percent, it was 45 per cent rise over 1978-79 and when again gone upto more than 10 per cent, it was 55 per cent rise over 1978-79"? (Sunil Maitra to the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on the 'pre-election' Budget on March 8 and 12.)

Value of Rupee:	1960-61	70.42 paise
	1976-77	23.92 "
	1979-80	20.00 "
	1983 (Dec)	12.89 "

DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL PRODUCT

The following data of assets in crores of rupees shows how the big business houses have prospered meteorically in the capitalist plannings under the Congress rule cornering the fruits of labour in one decade only:

Name	1972	1982
Tata	641.93	2430.83
Birla	589.42	2004.74
Mafatlal	183.74	598.89
Singhania	181.43	620.31
Thapar	136.16	464.50
ACC	134.36	378.31
ICI	135.23	378.31
Sarabhai	84.44	356.91
Kirloskar	86.46	334.29
Reliance (New Group)	50.27 (1976)	512.34

The Congress(I) is also making a gift of Rs. 35 crores to 10 top most monopoly houses as follows:

Name	Outstanding taxes	Amount not likely to be recovered.
Tata	811.91	539.51
Birla	1598.63	1448.23
J.K. Singhania	609.64	293.04
A.C.C.	139.74	0.38
Thapar	23.36	23.36
I.C.I.	746.64	746.64
Sarabhai	65.84	51.22
Modi	291.26	80.06
Bangur	167.04	167.04
Bajaj	217.02	140.32
Total	4671.08	3489.80

THE OTHER SIDE: PLIGHT OF WORKERS, PEOPLE:

Closures: Between 1980 and 1984 (June), 1,60,352 workers lost jobs in 1300 closures (*Labour*

Ministry data. But Reserve Bank says, 28,350 factories/industries closed down by June 1982 only).

Retrenchment: 73,141 workers were retrenched during the same period.

Lockouts: 1982, the Productivity Year of Indira Gandhi turned out to be the beginning of Lockout Year for the workers. 53 per cent of mandays loss were due to lockouts in 1982 and 68 per cent in 1983.

Industrial Sickness: The number of sick units went up from 22,366 in December, 1979 to 60,157 in December, 1982.

Causes of Sickness: 98 per cent due to Mismanagement, Corruption, Inefficiency, Fault in initial planning, Infight amongst management, Shortage of power and Lack of raw materials and 2 per cent for "labour trouble".

Taxation: "When the Britishers left India, the direct taxation was 40 per cent and indirect taxation was 60 per cent. Now, the direct taxation is only 17 per cent and indirect taxation 83 per cent". (Samar Mukherjee in Lok Sabha on February 27 on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address).

Attack on Trade Unions: Retrograde amendments of T.U. Act, I.D. Act, Payment of Wages Act and Hospitals and other Institutions (Conditions of Service & Settlement of Disputes) Bill, Refusal to pay Bonus to all; Introduction of Productivity linked wages, bonus; Attempt to impose BPE guidelines, wage, freeze, Increasing police repression, hired gangster attacks; Repercussion of IMF and World Bank conditionalities; Refusal to accept secret, ballot; Refusal to nationalise the multi-nationals, Indian monopolists and the sick and closed units; Refusal, to ratify ILO Conventions on Right to form Association, T.U. activities and Collective Bargaining; Non-implementation of ILO Convention No. 1 on Hours of Work and attempt to sabotage other Conventions; Refusal to include Right to Work in the Constitution; Refusal to accept workers' participation in management with equal status, Violation of Tripartite Indian Labour Conference decision to grant need based wages to workers; Refusal to guarantee minimum wages to agricultural workers and remunerative prices to the peasants' produce.

Draconian Enactments: NSA, its extension to 16 industries and ESMA to ban strikes; Terrorist Affected Areas (Special Courts) Act.

Drive towards Authoritarianism: Attack on Democracy: Dissolution of Pondicherry, Sikkim, J & K and Andhra Pradesh Governments; Acquiring all powers and revenue for the Centre reducing the states to the position of Bonded States under the Centre; Drive to perpetuate one party rule; Danger of Presidential Form of Government.

RISE OF COMMUNAL RIOTS: SECESSIONISM:

The Congress(I) instead of mobilising the people against the divisive and secessionist forces and imperialism which is encouraging the divisive forces to dismember the country and reenslave it, is trying to woo them for its narrow electoral gains. The example can be seen in Kerala, Tripura, Punjab, Maharashtra, etc. It has further vulgarised the concept of secularism by mixing the state and religion

together. The administration in all the Congress(I) ruled states has become communalised. The danger to the unity and integrity of the nation can be gauged from the following data from 1980 to 1984 of the growing communal riots which have made the country a breeding ground for imperialist conspiracies, which Indira Gandhi herself fell a prey to:

Year	No. of Riots	Total Killed
1980-81	583	459
1982-83	878	539
1984 (upto May)	156	297

Following the assassination of Indira Gandhi, the 1984 holocaust has been the worst since the great killings of 1946, killing several thousand people — a pre-election "gift" to the electorate by the Congress(I). Congress(I) cannot protect the unity and integrity of the country. It shall not protect the working class, peasantry, the agricultural labourers and the toiling common people. Its policies are subservient to the monopolists and landlords, making compromises with imperialism.

DEFEAT CONGRESS(I)

ISOLATE DIVISIVE FORCES

STRENGTHEN SECULAR AND

LEFT AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES

"Expert Committee" in Textiles

THE Government has formed one "Expert Committee" in Textile industry. In March 1982, the Government, had formed one "Development Council" in the industry. It is not known officially what this Develop Council did, but the "development" is open — over 80 mills are closed now, around 1.5 lakh workers have been rendered jobless and a number of mills have lined up for getting "sick". After this so called Development Council, the Government formed a Tripartite Industrial Committee in Textile Industry in June, 1983. CITU and other trade unions nominated their representatives. But the Government never called a single meeting of the Committee. Now, in a clandestine manner, without any knowledge of or consultation with the Central Trade Unions, the Government has formed this "Expert Committee" with a few bureaucrats. It is evident that all this secret deal is to bypass the question of nationalisation of the textile industry which CITU has been consistently demanding since long and now demanded by all other trade unions including the INTUC. The word Nationalisation does not find place anywhere in the ten point Terms of Reference for this Expert Committee. When Nrisingha Chakraborty, Secretary, CITU wrote to Pranab Mukherjee who is now in-charge of the Commerce Ministry, for inclusion of labour in the Committee, so as to help formulation of the policy line regarding the crisis ridden textile industry from their practical experience, the Minister replied that the labour would only be consulted. CITU however, while directing the unions to give their valuable suggestion, is continuing the efforts for a national convention to mobilise the workers to raise their voice for nationalisation of the entire textile industry.

AROUND THE STATES

BIHAR

Firing on Workers: On October 20, at 9.30 in the morning, police started firing upon the peaceful demonstrators at Dehri-On-Sone railway station in Bihar killing and injuring many workers, children, students, youth and even the ordinary passengers. On that day, led by CITU and other organisations, 15,000 workers, students, youth, women and children from Rohtas Industrial complex of Sahu Jains assembled at the railway station since early morning to stage peaceful dharna on the railway tracks. They were responding to the call of the students and workers struggle committee for 'rail roko' movement. A bigger crowd of 15,000 also gathered in nearby areas. The response was so spontaneous that all activities of Dehri-On-Sone and Dalmianagar markets, local transport etc. became stand still. Suddenly, GRP and RPF personnel started firing upon the peaceful demonstrators. Apart from firing, the Bihar Military Police started brutal lathi charge injuring children, women, workers, students and arrested them indiscriminately.

Since September 1982, 15,000 workers of Rohtas Industrial Complex at Dalmianagar, producing papers, vanaspati, soap, cement and steel, faced repeated lockouts, layoffs, 'work-suspension' etc. Their wages were not paid, bonus was due since 1981 and they ultimately faced closure on 9 July 1984. The services of 15,000 workers of Dalmianagar and 5,000 more workers in light railways, mines and forests were terminated. The management did not pay outstanding bills amounting to Rs. 26 crores to Electricity Board, railway freights, taxes, provident fund amounts etc. For two years the management had been trying to show the industries at Dalmianagar as sick units and was trying to secure a loan of Rs. 59 crores from IDBI and IFCI. The Chief Minister addressed a meeting of Dalmianagar workers on 9 April and gave categorical assurance that his government would not allow the factory to be closed. The local M.P. of Congress(I), Tapeshwar Singh also made public statement in this regard. In spite of such assurance of the Government, the management did not pay wages to the workers since March 1984, illegally closed the factory on 9 July and retrenched all employees on 9 September, and all finished goods were taken out secretly in connivance with the administration. Sec. 144 Cr. P.C. was promulgated in the area. In this background the action committee was formed and the rail roko programme launched. The workers are determined to step up the movement demanding take over of the industry.

KARNATAKA

Meeting of CITU State Committee: Karnataka State Committee of CITU met at Mysore on 14th

and 15th November. S. Suryanarayana Rao presided over the meeting. C. Nanjundappa, General Secretary, placed a report tracing the developments and reviewing struggles since the Fourth State Conference in May 1984. Thirteen comrades — S. Savaridoss, D.M. Katti, H.G. Bhimappa Reddy, T.B. Anantharam, M.N. Ugrappa and Narayana Rao Bhanu, etc. participated in the discussion on the report. The meeting adopted a resolution calling upon the working class and toiling people of Karnataka to defeat Congress (I) party, isolate the divisive forces, elect and strengthen secular and left and democratic forces. The meeting in two different resolutions demanded immediate Government intervention to lift lock-outs in Ideal Jawa Factory, and Krishna-rajendra Mills at Mysore, appealed to all unions to develop a united movement including a Mysore Bandh against lock-outs. The meeting extended support to the struggle of Alinda Factory Workers at Hubli against the closure of the factory. Resolutions were also adopted on Nicaragua, on the holocaust in the wake of the assassination of Indira Gandhi and on Minimum Wages. While summing up, S. Suryanarayana Rao emphasised the need to raise the level of consciousness of mass of members, and to defeat the Congress (I) in the elections. There was a procession and public meeting at Town Hall grounds in the evening of 15th, addressed by the leaders.

BHEL Refuses to Recognise Majority Union: The BHEL Management which received best industrial relations award from FICCI has now been adopting a policy of patronising the INTUC Union in spite of the fact that it lost heavily in elections conducted by the management. In the Provident Fund elections conducted recently in Bangalore, the representatives of BHEL Electro Porcelains Division Employees Association polled 894 Votes out of 1359 valid votes and won both the seats. The representatives of the same union polled 760 and 751 out of 1319 valid votes in 1982 and won two seats. Yet the management continues to recognise the INTUC union led by the notorious F.M. Khan though it failed to get even 20 per cent of the valid votes. The only crime of the union is that it fought against the treachery of the INTUC and elected. S. Suryanarayana Rao, the CITU leader, as the President of the Union. M.K. Pandhe in a letter to Director Personnel — BHEL has demanded immediate recognition of the union which commands support of the workers.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Protest Day by Steel Workers: On October 31, at the call of SWFI a Protest day was observed in Visakhapatnam Steel Project against the Central Government's ban on recruitment upto March '85.

A large meeting was held near the Steel Yard at the call of Steel Plant Employees Union, Vishakhapatnam and Steel Plant Contract Labour Union jointly. The meeting was addressed by Narasinga Rao, Babji and Mohan Patnaik. The meeting unanimously demanded of the management to implement the August '84 agreement in which V.S.P. management had agreed to recruit 200 D.P. Khalasies and 600 D.P. Trainees in V.S.P. It was further demanded

to recruit the displaced persons where permanent jobs have been given to private contractors, like Township Maintenance, Loading and unloading in steel yard, etc. it also demanded to recruit all the J.O.T. and S.O.T. who were interviewed one year back.

WEST BENGAL

Hunger Strike by Colliery Teachers: Organised under Koyala Khadan Sikshak Morcha (CITU), the teachers of the colliery schools of ECL have decided to launch hunger strike demanding implementation of the NCWA-III, clause No. 8.8.3 on educational facilities. In a notice given to the management on November 7, the union demanded steps to implement the clause by November 13, failing which, the hunger strike would be launched from November 27. The decision was taken by the union in a meeting with CITU on October 28 and it informed the management thereafter. The meeting further decided to continue the hunger strike for an indefinite period in case the management remains adamant.

State Convention of Construction Workers: The 1st State Convention of West Bengal Construction Workers was held on September 23 at 'Promode Dasgupta' Nagar in K.T.P.P. 'Recreation Centre' Hall, Mecheda. Samar Mukherjee, M.P., General Secretary CITU, inaugurated the convention. He called upon the workers to build up a strong organisation to meet the present situation. Rapid increase of unemployment created acute problem for the temporary construction workers. He urged upon the construction workers to move ahead using the left front Government of West Bengal as their struggle weapon. Chaya Bera, Minister of State, Library Education, also greeted the delegates.

Debanjan Chakraborty, placed the report on behalf the Preparatory Committee. He mentioned about the problems of the construction workers e.g. service security, legal protection, national wage committee etc. He also reported about the decision of the West Bengal Government to give 20 per cent permanent service to the construction workers after completion of a project. Besides, the West Bengal Government decided to frame a new law (comprehensive) for the construction workers. 22 delegates from different districts took part in the discussion on the report. The discussion highlighted the need for a state level organisation to steer all the scattered movements and co-ordinate individual activities of the unions. Santi Ghatak, Minister of State for Labour, Government of West Bengal, told that CITU, since a pretty long time had been trying to organise the construction workers. At the initiative of CITU a number of District, State, Regional and All India conventions were held in different parts of India. He criticised the industrial policy of the Central Government for inviting multinationals to expand their business more and more in India. The Convention unanimously elected the State Co-ordination Committee comprising of 25 members with Santi Ghatak as President and Lakshan Seth as General Secretary. In total 15 resolutions were adopted.

ORISSA

Demonstration by Steel Workers: At the call of Steel Employees Trade Union (CITU), more than three thousand contractor workers demonstrated before the Office of the Superintendent Engineer (Projects) in the New Power Plant Project protesting against the faulty recruitment policy being pursued by the Management of Rourkela Steel Plant. On October 17, the Security Personnel hunted out about hundred Contractor Workers engaged in the civil job in the New Power Plant Project in the absence of the Identity Cards which were not issued by the CISF at the instance of the Project Department. The Management policy was faulty in so far as they have been adopting this policy of recruitment only for the New Power Plant and not for the whole plant. And this was discriminatory, aimed at harassing the workers belonging to CITU. The Steel Employee's Trade Union (CITU) therefore demanded that identity cards be immediately provided to all the affected workmen in the New Power Plant area and the present recruitment policy in the New Power Plant Project be withdrawn forthwith. The Union has decided to continue the agitational programme till achievement of the demands.

TAMILNADU

Contract Workers made permanent in India Cements: At all India level in Cement Industry as a whole, the agreement signed at Madras absorbing 280 Contract labour in Sankari India Cements of Salem District is a great achievement of CITU. Due to the efforts of the CITU union, contract workers got E grade wages and 26 days guaranteed work in a month from 1978 onwards. Later on they got 15 days Annual Leave, 12 days sick leave and 7 days casual leave. The CITU union was conducting a series of continuous struggles for permanent absorption of these contract labourers. Both in 1978 and 1983 cement arbitration committee led by INTUC General Secretary, G. Ramanujam permitted contract system is loading of cement packing section. Due to the pressure of CITU union, the management initially was ready to absorb contract labour as permanent workers and prepared medical check up and service records of contract labour. But due to the award the issue was kept pending. CITU union protested against this and started 24 hours relay fast in front of the factory gate from August 8. This relay fast of successive teams of three workers continued for 41 days. Finally an agreement was signed at Madras on September 22 before the Special Deputy Labour Commissioner. As per this agreement 239 contract workers were absorbed in E grade, 40 in D grade and one in C grade with effect from April 1. Gunny printing workers are also included in this agreement. These workers will get their gratuity from 1976 or from the date of joining. In 1965 the loyal union (Now AIADMK) signed an agreement for 48 tonnes workload in 8 hours. As per the agreement now signed the workload has been reduced to 42.5 tonnes.

Redeeming a pledge

The Left Front Government was returned to power in West Bengal for the second term with a massive mandate of the people in 1982. The achievements of the 36-point programme of the first Left Front Government encouraged us to adopt a time-bound 34-point programme for the welfare of peasants, workers, the middleclass, the exploited and the deprived sections and the backward classes people. There has been an unmistakable continuity in the activities of the first and

production at reasonable prices, formation of State Jute Corporation, raising of area under irrigation, formulation of realistic schemes for improved production of fish, poultry, milk and dairy products, review of the Panchayati Raj laws, coordination of the developmental work of the municipalities, liberating cooperatives from the control of vested interests, construction of regulated market for agricultural produce, ensuring free education upto Higher Secondary level, democratisation

The path we have to travel is difficult and tortuous. But with the correct policies we are pursuing and by continuously keeping in touch with the people and serving their interests, our success is assured.

Government of West Bengal

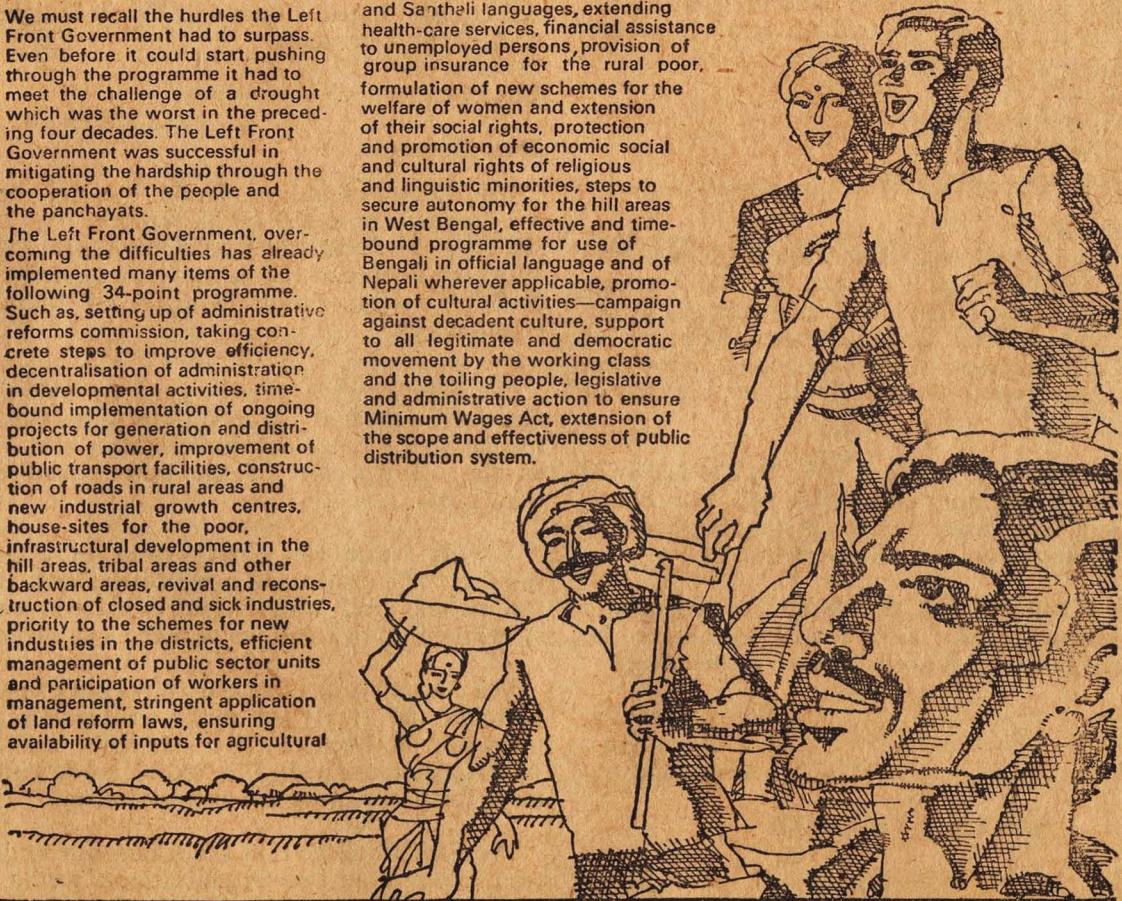
The 34-Point Programme

second Left Front Governments. It is worthwhile to mention here that no fundamental changes are possible within the ambit of the present socio-economic milieu.

We must recall the hurdles the Left Front Government had to surpass. Even before it could start pushing through the programme it had to meet the challenge of a drought which was the worst in the preceding four decades. The Left Front Government was successful in mitigating the hardship through the cooperation of the people and the panchayats.

The Left Front Government, overcoming the difficulties has already implemented many items of the following 34-point programme. Such as, setting up of administrative reforms commission, taking concrete steps to improve efficiency, decentralisation of administration in developmental activities, time-bound implementation of ongoing projects for generation and distribution of power, improvement of public transport facilities, construction of roads in rural areas and new industrial growth centres, house-sites for the poor, infrastructural development in the hill areas, tribal areas and other backward areas, revival and reconstruction of closed and sick industries, priority to the schemes for new industries in the districts, efficient management of public sector units and participation of workers in management, stringent application of land reform laws, ensuring availability of inputs for agricultural

of higher educational institutions and maintaining proper academic atmosphere, imparting education through the mother tongue encouragement to Urdu, Nepali, and Santhali languages, extending health-care services, financial assistance to unemployed persons, provision of group insurance for the rural poor, formulation of new schemes for the welfare of women and extension of their social rights, protection and promotion of economic social and cultural rights of religious and linguistic minorities, steps to secure autonomy for the hill areas in West Bengal, effective and time-bound programme for use of Bengali in official language and of Nepali wherever applicable, promotion of cultural activities—campaign against decadent culture, support to all legitimate and democratic movement by the working class and the toiling people, legislative and administrative action to ensure Minimum Wages Act, extension of the scope and effectiveness of public distribution system.



BEEVAS/ICR/844

Condolence Message from International Trade Unions

(The following messages were received by CITU from the International Trade Unions on the assassination of Indira Gandhi. The acknowledgements by CITU are also being published hereunder.)

FDGB, GDR

On behalf of the members of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, the FDGB National Executive expresses its deep sympathy at the death of Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and Chairwoman of the Non-Aligned Countries who became victim of a perfidious attempt at murder stop We pay tribute to the memory of a highly respected fighter for peace and the understanding between the peoples.

Harry Tisch, President.

Reply by CITU

November 5, 1984

Com. Harry Tisch
President
Confederation of Free German
Trade Unions
GDR-1193, Berlin-Terptsw
AM Treptower Part 28-30
German Democratic Republic

Dear Comrade,

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions thanks you and the FDGB National Executive for the message dated 1st November, 1984 of deep sympathy at the death of Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and Chairperson of the non-aligned countries, who had succumbed to the perfidious attempt of murder.

We note the rich tributes paid by the National Executive in her memory and assure you our continued struggle for peace and understanding between the peace loving people of all countries.

We firmly believe that the bonds of friendship between our two organisations would continue to be strengthened in future despite all such happenings.

Yours fraternally,
B.T. Ranadive
President

AUCCTU, MOSCOW

News of brutal assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi Prime Minister of India, prominent stateswoman your country, champion of peace, Chairwoman of Non Aligned Countries Movement, great friend of Soviet Union, has been received by Soviet working people with deep grief and sadness. On

behalf of millions of Soviet workers All Union Central Council of Trade Unions angrily condemns this act of terrorism testifying to unceasing attempts by forces of home and foreign reaction and Imperialism to divert your Country from path of independent development. We extend sincere sympathy and condolences to Indian workers and All Indian people and declare our firm resolve to reinforce Friendship and Cooperation with Working People and Trade Unions of India to develop Soviet Indian relations, invaluable contribution to which has been made by Indira Gandhi. For your information, AUCCTU has issued statement following assassination of Indira Gandhi. Please accept our sincere condolences for irretrievable loss sustained by you.

Reply by CITU

November 5, 1984

The Secretary
All Union Central Council of Trade Unions
42-Leninsky Prospect
Moscow-117 119
U.S.S.R.

Dear Comrade,

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions thanks you for the message dated 1st November, 1984 conveying the deep grief and angry condemnation of the Soviet Working People at the brutal assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and its condolences.

We note the rich tributes paid by the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions about Smt. Gandhi for her struggle against imperialism and for peace as the Chairperson of the non-aligned countries' movement.

We also note the firm resolve of AUCCTU to reinforce friendship and cooperation with the working people and trade unions of India and further strengthening of relations between our two countries.

We assure you that the Working Class in India upholds the treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation between our two countries and continue to struggle alongwith the world trade union movement for peace, progress and socialism.

We firmly believe that the friendship and cooperation between our two Organisations would continue to be strengthened.

Yours fraternally
Nrisingha Chakrabarty
Secretary

November 5, 1984.

Dear Comrades,

News about tragic death of Mrs Indira Gandhi horrified all working people in P.R. Bulgaria. They angrily condemn Criminal attempt on bright life of the great daughter of fraternal Indian people and genuine successor of the great deed of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru devoting all her conscious life and significant abilities to welfare of her people and for cause of peace in world, Indira Gandhi became personification of best characteristic features and merits of her people. She knew well and loved Bulgarian people sincerely and was worthy of esteem an love of Bulgarian people. Her tribute to the flourishing of friendship and multilateral cooperation between Bulgarian and Indian people was decisive. Central Council, Bulgarian Trade Unions is sending deepest condolences on occasion of the heavy loss and ask you to convince all working people in India that at those painful hours the hearts of the whole Bulgarian people are filled up with measureless sorrow. Time cannot obliterate from our memory the bright image and deed of Indira Gandhi.

The Secretary
Central Council of Bulgarian
Trade Unions,
Sofia
Peoples Republic of Bulgaria.

Dear Comrade,

We thank you for the message dated 1st November, 1984 conveying the horror of the working people of Peoples Republic of Bulgaria and their angry condemnation of the criminal attempt on the life of Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India who succumbed to this dastardly attack.

We note the rich tributes paid by the Central Council of Bulgarian Trade Unions to Smt. Indira Gandhi and the expression of love and friendship between the people of our two countries.

We assure you that the working people of India will carry forward the friendship and multilateral cooperation between our two countries and the struggle for peace.

We firmly believe that the bonds of friendship between our two organisations would continue to be strengthened in future.

Yours fraternally
Nrisingha Chakrabarty
Secretary.

Consumer Price Index Numbers

Base 1960

State/Centre	June 1984	July 1984	August 1984								
Andhra Pradesh				Bangalore	628	641	644	Coonoor	627	628	635
Gudur	502	513	512	Chikamagalur	585	587	590	Madurai	615	610	615
Guntur	614	628	632	Kolar G.F.	585	594	590	U.P.			
Hyderabad	572	581	589	Kerala				Kanpur	548	562	557
Assam				Alleppey	674	682	672	Saharanpur	556	572	575
Digboi	602	607	590	Alwaye	637	643	628	Varanasi	627	645	649
Doom Dooma	475	480	480	Mundakayam	603	619	588	West Bengal			
Labac	475	475	463	Madhya Pradesh				Asansol	559	575	578
Mariani	505	510	506	Balaghat	602	595	597	Calcutta	574	587	592
Rangapara	500	511	513	Bhopal	605	616	625	Darjeeling	464	473	478
Bihar				Gwalior	575	588	595	Howrah	525	539	542
Jamshedpur	517	535	538	Indore	606	616	623	Jalpaiguri	456	472	479
Jharia	506	515	519	Maharashtra				Raniganj	512	523	525
Kodarma	583	592	598	Bombay	604	611	610	Delhi Territory	589	598	602
Monghyr	556	596	601	Nagpur	585	597	605	Other Centres			
Noamundi	527	529	541	Sholapur	601	605	611	Berhampur ('49)	788	822	838
Gujarat				Orissa				Cuttack ('49)	732	741	744
Ahmedabad	564	572	575	Barbil	527	524	536	Jabalpur ('49)	778	763	763
Bhavanagar	550	570	583	Sambalpur	608	616	622	Beawar ('51-52)	663	658	665
Haryana				Punjab				Tripura ('61)	545	548	540
Yamunanagar	577	586	591	Amritsar	551	596	578	H.P. ('65)	414	418	421
J. & K.				Rajasthan				Goa ('66)	431	441	437
Srinagar	641	644	639	Ajmer	561	570	580	Bhilai ('66)	380	392	395
Karnataka				Jaipur	585	599	610	Bhilwara ('66)	332	340	341
Ammathi	586	590	591	Tamil Nadu				Chhindwara ('66)	390	304	308
				Madras	559	569	571	Kothagudem ('66)	374	370	375
				Coimbatore	607	620	620	Rourkela ('66)	383	385	387
								All India ('60)	574	585	586

(Figure in bracket indicate base year)

WEST BENGAL

The forward march continues

Looking back at the seven-year span of the Left Front Government in West Bengal, what is the picture that emerges? It is a picture of a State which has remained free from communal, caste, linguistic and other divisive conflicts which weaken the nation; a State where the law and order situation is better than that in many other states; a State where the people's democratic rights are secure; a State where specially the under-privileged and the toiling people have the assurance that the Government is their friend and ally; a State where there are no internal dissensions in the Ministry which can threaten the stability of the Government.

The Left Front Government has been implementing its minimum programme with all sincerity despite the constraints of the present socio-economic structure and the Central Government's obstructive and discriminatory policies. The Government has been laying stress on Land Reforms Programme and on activities relating to the welfare of the people, particularly of the deprived sections of the society. Emphasis is also placed on upholding the dignity of the common people in the towns and villages. In the Rural Development Programme, participation of the rural poor who constitute the vast majority of the population

in the countryside has been specially ensured and their rights have been assured. The Panchayat system which was non-existent in the State now symbolises the new life.

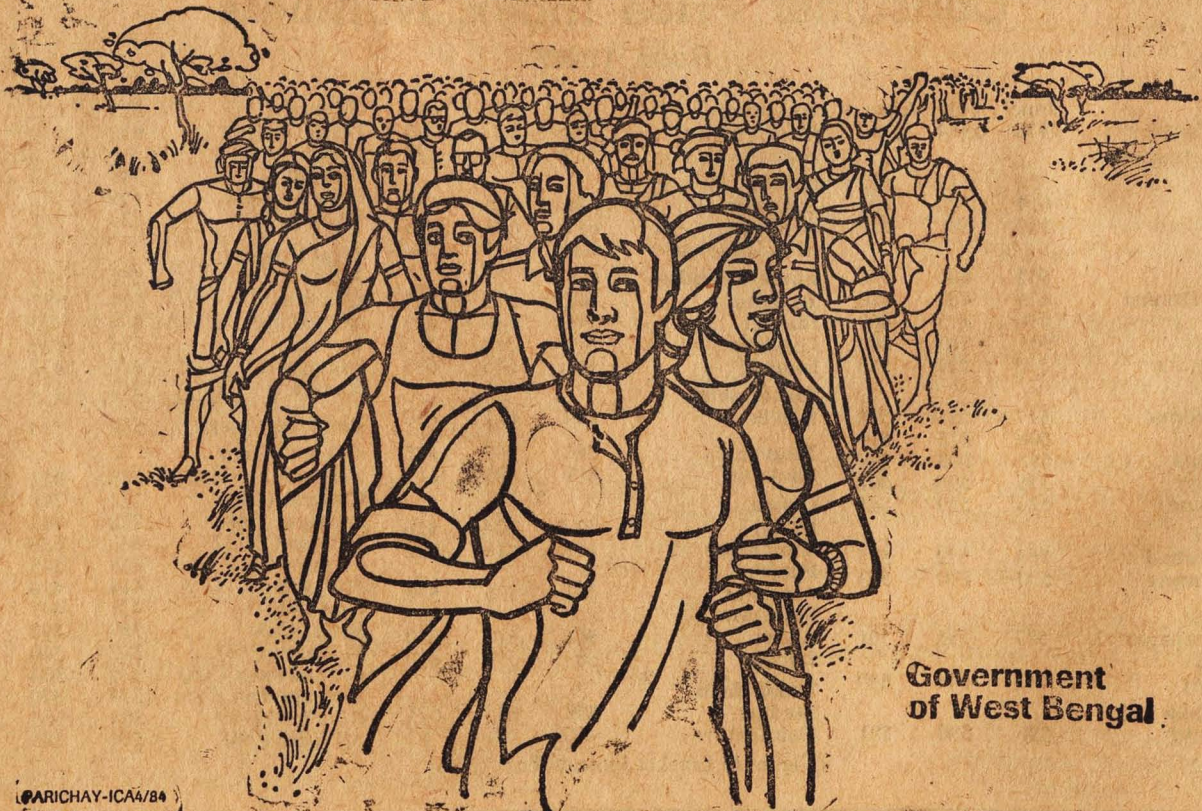
A number of far reaching measures have been initiated in a short period to spread education throughout the State. Chaos and disruption in the academic sphere are things of the past.

The suppressed rights of the industrial workers have been restored and collective bargaining has been encouraged. The workers are being motivated to fully honour agreements arrived at and render their help in the matter of industrial advance. The Left Front Government has made significant strides in the sphere of cottage and small-scale industries, handloom and khadi. It has been continuing its fight against the unjust policies of the Government of India on issues like new investments and the setting up of modern industries in this State. The Union Government's latest decision to withhold the implementation of the 8th Finance Commission's recommendations for the current year is a step to deprive the state of its rights.

due. The people of the State can well gauge the intention of the centre and they raise their protest in unequivocal terms.

The review of centre-state relations which was mooted by the Left Front Government is today a paramount subject of national discussion.

There have been many hurdles in the way of progress. Devastating floods and drought have played havoc with the economy. There is opposition and there will be opposition from many quarters, particularly from reactionary forces opposed to the interest of the people. The Government at the Centre, too, is encouraging such forces to create problems for the State. If the new development process in West Bengal is to succeed, it has to succeed in spite of the opposition — by overcoming it. The Left Front Government stands committed to raise further the consciousness of the people and enlist their active support by serving their interests continuously and improving the performance in various sectors for the benefit of all sections of the society. The people of West Bengal will continue to march forward.



Government
of West Bengal

Conference of Water Transport Workers Federation of India

THE Third Conference of the Water Transport Workers Federation of India which was scheduled to be held at Tuticorin from 31st October to 2nd November had to be adjourned after the inaugural session in view of the shocking news of the assassination of the Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi. A resolution adopted by the conference sharply condemned the dastardly crime and held foreign powers responsible for the conspiracy to destabilise the situation in the country. It demanded a thorough probe into the well led conspiracy so that all the culprits are given drastic punishment. All the delegates stood in silence for one minute to express their heartfelt condolences.

The Reception Committee made excellent arrangements for the Conference. All the main thoroughfares in the City were covered with chainflags and arches. The Hall of the Conference was dedicated to the memory to the veteran CPI (M) leader Annachi Shankara Narayana who played a notable role in building the working class movement in Tuticorin.

Over 125 delegates and observers who came to Tuticorin from all the major ports in the country were well housed despite limited resources. A good and trained volunteer squad looked after the arrangements meticulously. Within a short time the workers of Tuticorin collected necessary funds to meet the expenses of the Conference while the Tamilnadu State Committee of CITU gave a helping hand in meeting the shortages wherever they occurred.

The Working Committee of the WTWFI met on 30th October to finalise the preparations of the Conference. To suit the convenience of Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister, West Bengal a public rally was fixed on 31st October and good preparations were made to make it a grand success. The rally had to be cancelled due to the assassination of Mrs. Gandhi and several buses and trucks had to be sent back on their way.

The Conference commenced with the hoisting of the flag by M.M. Lawrence, President of the WTWFI. Delegates placed flowers on the martyrs column to pay homage to the memory of the valiant martyrs.

A presidium consisting of M.M. Lawrence, Md. Ismail, M.A. Sayeed, Sitaram Manjrekar and V.P. Chintan was elected to conduct the deliberations of the Conference.

V.P. Chintan, Chairman of the Reception Committee while welcoming the delegates explained the background of the anti-imperialist struggles of the people in the farthest Southern end of the country. He mentioned the activities of indomitable V.O. Chidambaram and the revolutionary poetry of Subramama Bharathi in the vicinity of Tuticorin. He

also referred to the working class struggles conducted in the region.

B.T. Ranadive President CITU while inaugurating the Conference referred to the deepening economic crisis in the country and explained at length how it affected the living standards of the working class. He pointed out that the crisis was getting aggravated as a result of the policies pursued by the Government of India. He particularly mentioned the growing inflation, unemployment and attack on trade union and democratic rights of the workers.

BTR paid glowing tributes to the unity of the port and dock workers built during the all India 26 days strike which resulted in winning substantial concessions for the port and dock workers. He pointed out how the authorities have been going back from the commitments and emphasised the need for united struggles to ensure full implementation of the agreement.

The advance made by the seamens movement in India under the banner of the Forward Seamens Union of India was specially mentioned by BTR. The 72 hour successful all India strike was the first action of its kind in the history of the movement of Seamen in India. Criticising the attitude of the Government of India in dealing with problem of Seamen who are denied wages prescribed by ILO, job security, unemployment allowance and adequate welfares measures, he called upon seamen of India the redouble their efforts to achieve the longstanding demands.

Welcoming the countrywide unity of the working class under the banner of National Campaign Committee in the struggle against the anti-working class policies of the Congress(1) Government he stressed the need to further strengthen this unity. He however noted the limitations of the National Campaign Committee and suggested adoption of different forms of united movement to suit the requirements of the situation. He mentioned some of the joint struggles in which even the INTUC could be involved.

BTR then mentioned about the imperialist conspiracies to dismember India for which they have been encouraging divisive and fissiparous tendencies in the country. The working class in India is becoming a victim of these conspiracies in certain sectors. It is therefore the duty of the trade union movement to explain to the workers the dangerous consequences of these conspiracies so that they can be squarely defeated. In this connection he pointed out that the policies of the Government of India have been helping these disruptive forces.

The U.S. imperialists have been making serious preparations for a nuclear world war which would wipe out humanity from the entire world. He condemned U.S. President Reagan as a war monger who may behave like a madman to trigger the nuclear war all over the globe. He welcomed the growth of the united peace movements in all the continents which is the guarantee for averting the threat of a nuclear war.

While concluding his speech BTR emphasised the importance of strengthening the organisation of the WTWFI, so that it could play still more important role in fighting for and safeguarding the vital interests of the port and dock workers.

Jyoti Basu, who was the Chief Guest of the Conference, at the outset announced the attack on the Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi and strongly condemned it. He charged that imperialist agencies had masterminded the attack and called upon the people of India to come together in the struggle against these conspiracies.

He pointed out the foreign agencies who instigated Assam agitation, extremists in Punjab and divisive forces all over the country have engineered this attack to destabilise the situation in India. He further referred to the developments in Tripura where imperialist agencies are instigating extremist elements to divide tribals and non-tribals in the state.

The outbreak of communal riots in different parts of the country was also a part of imperialist conspiracy to disrupt the rising democratic movement in the country. These riots have taken place in some of the industrial townships which only highlights the serious nature of this conspiracy. The Congress run State Governments have failed to take action against these communal elements which only strengthen their hands.

He congratulated the activists of the WTWFI who played an important role in the recent countrywide strike of port and dock workers. The West Bengal Government fully supported the action of the workers and advocated settlement of their legitimate demands. He pointed out that in West Bengal several disputes have been settled with the intervention of the State Government without strike action.

He pointed out the difficulties of the West Bengal Government due to failure of the Central Government to allot sufficient funds for development. Several factory units were closing down but the state Government did not have resources to take them over. The West Bengal people had to organise several state level bandhs to press the demands for more powers to the state. He also criticised the Central Government for not endorsing several pro-worker and pro-people bills passed by the West Bengal Assembly.

He said that with the help and support of the people all over the country the people of West Bengal will continue to fight for more powers to the State Governments.

In the end he congratulated the workers of Tuticorin for the remarkable efforts they have made to make the conference successful.

B. T. Ranadive and Jyoti Basu had to leave earlier for Delhi in view of the sudden development in the country.

V.P. Chintan released the Souvenir brought out by the Reception Committee on the occasion by selling the first copy to Ashutosh Banerjee, General Secretary, Forward Seamen Union of India.

After the inaugural session the Working Committee of the WTWFI met to review the situation. By this time the news of the death of the Prime Minister was available. The Working Committee therefore took the following decisions:

1. The public meeting to be held in the evening should be cancelled and the Third Conference should be adjourned in view of the assassination of the Prime Minister.

2. A Delegates Conference should be held at a suitable date to elect new Working Committee and the office bearers of the WTWFI. Meanwhile the existing Working Committee should continue to function.

3. The Working Committee was authorised to finalise the resolutions of the Conference.

The decisions were explained to the session in the afternoon and the Conference was declared as closed.

Meanwhile the report came in that the CITU flag was torn by some Cong (I) gangsters and police arrested some of them. The chain flags of the Conference were also torn by miscreants in some places. Due to prevalent tension in the town the Reception Committee had to make great efforts to provide security to the delegates. The railway and bus traffic came to a standstill for three days and the delegates had to remain stranded at Tuticorin itself. It was only on 3rd November evening that the first batch of delegates could leave for Madras. In Madras City, the CITU activists did their best to help delegates in arranging their stay and return railway journey.

Despite holding only of the inaugural session the delegates returned home with confidence in the strength of the WTWFI and determination to carry forward the work among waterfront workers in the forthcoming days.

International Struggles

United States

General Motors: Organised under the United Auto Workers' Union (UAW), the workers of General Motors went on strike from September 19-20 as the negotiations for collective agreements broke down. On September 21, however, an agreement was reached on the basis of an increase of 8.5 per cent in wages over three years, job security upto an outlay of one billion US dollars and creation of a job development fund designed to maintain pay for workers affected by technology changes or to provide them training for new jobs. But 1984 has been the beginning of struggle by the workers of General Motors all over the world. In Canada, the economic proposals made by the General Motors did not satisfy the workers, nor the UAW, and they are preparing for strike. In Britain, 13,000 workers of Vauxhall, a General Motors subsidiary, went on strike. In F.R.G., during the spring strike for reduction of working hours, 4,000 workers in Kaiserslautern, 8,000 in Berhumburg and 33,000 in Hesse of Opel, another G.M. subsidiary went on strike. In Strasbourg in France, the G.M. was forced to accept expert examination of the social and economic consequences of the introduction of new technology.

Silicon Valley: The Silicon Valley, the major electronic manufacturing centre of USA, has become a centre of "high technology, low wages and vanishing jobs." There are about 8,000 factories here employing about 2,50,000 workers. But the cost of the rapid development of the area with the glamorous "high technology", as propagated by the Reagan administration, is being paid by the workers, 75 per cent of whom are women and 40 per cent immigrants. They receive the lowest wages in the country. The worst exploited are the blacks. The owners stop formation of trade unions by various legal methods. The workers are under continuous threat of removal of plants and overseas production to low wage countries. The owners frequently fluctuate the productions thus hiring and laying off the workers at ease. In all this, the monopoly controlled Reagan Government cooperates 100 per cent. The US military and economic aid to repressive regimes maintain anti-labour Governments that serve the transnationals. When an organising drive began among the 40,000 lowly paid workers in the semiconductor plants in Philippines, President Marcos decreed an industrywide ban on strikes. When labour protests arose in a Control Data firm in Seoul, South Korea, it closed down the establishment. Solitron, a US Semi-Conductor firm closed its plant at Mexico when the workers formed a union. Similarly, the Texas Instruments closed down its plant in Curacao when a union was formed there.

The White House is in the process of carrying out programmes for vanishing jobs and eliminate trade union rights. The claim of creating 2,50,000 jobs in Silicon valley has been off-set by two million jobs

lost from 1980 to 1982. Some years ago about 50 per cent of the unemployed received unemployment benefit for a specified period. Now the lucky figure is only about 25 per cent. With its avarice for profits, the Electronics industry is a prototype of the worldwide drive by finance capital to slash down wages, reduce the work force and dominate all economic and political life. The only answer to it is ofcourse international working class solidarity.

Great Britain

The strike of the two lakh coal miners in Britain entered the ninth month on November 13. The historic strike to save the industry and 20,000 jobs has led to a chain of unprecedented international solidarity. Apart from CITU and AITUC, the Bank Employees Federation of India, All India Insurance Employees Association, the All India Coal Workers Federation, etc. have extended support to the strike. Outraged by the determination of the strikers and the international solidarity, the Thatcher Government has embarked on a still dirtier path than ruthless repression on the workers in order to starve them. It has blocked imports of food stuffs destined for the miners and their families. Around 30 tonnes of food was confiscated on arrival at Hull in the Solidarity Ship *Libra*, despatched by the trade unions from the socialist countries like USSR, Bulgaria Czechoslovakia, GDR, etc. The transport workers of the Hull TGWU however are determined to move the cargo despite all impediments. In and around London, the police has like wise intervened to stop all collections of food and fund for the striking miners. At least forty serious incidents of police harassments for street collections have been reported till early September. The workers in Picadilly Station went on strike when the rail transport police tried to stop collection by NUR there. Picketing, huge rallies and severe clashes with the police continue unabated.

Chile

Mass agitation demanding end to the military rule reached its peak on October 30 at Santiago and other parts of Chile. A meeting of 300 leaders of Confederations, Federations and National Unions, integrated into the National Workers' Command (CNT), held on October 4, gave a call for nationwide strike on October 30, demanding restora-

Editorial Board

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**Manoranjan Roy, Niren Ghosh,
M.M. Lawrence, P.K. Ganguly**

M.K. Pandhe

tion of democracy, dissolution of Pinochet's Secret Police, of the provisions of the Constitution which grant special prerogatives to the authorities to take action against the opposition, immediate wage rise to counter the soaring inflation, etc. The coalition of leftwing and central parties, viz, the People's Democratic Movement (MDP) and Democratic Alliance (AD) along with the local residents' associations and the self employed and the university and the students' associations endorsed the call. Immediately following the call, Pinochet ordered arrest of eight opposition leaders and promulgated a state of seige. The armed police and military were flooded on the streets, curfew imposed and the offices and residences of the leftists were raided. More than 15 people were killed, 1000 arrested and over 500 more were sent to jails more than 1000 miles off. This was the worst crack down since 1973 when the military junta took over. Pinochet muzzled the opposition press, banned public meetings and stopped the media from publishing any news. But the people fought back and continued the strike for four days. They raised barricades and showered rocks at the police and army. About 70 bombs exploded and six policemen were killed. The students battled the same way protesting against the killing of one and arrest of their leaders. 30 more students were arrested. The battle has reportedly caused deep disarray within the Government. The influential Interior Minister Jarpa had resigned, but resumed at the request of Pinochet. The Roman Catholic Church also condemned Pinochet's repression and restriction on civil liberties. The Government have banned the chief of the Church's Human Rights Organisation, Ignacio Gutierrez from returning to the country from Europe. But with more than half a million people jobless and the economic blight ravaging the country's working class and the poor, the opposition alliance is determined to further intensify the battle for return to democracy.

South Africa

In the face of the upsurge of movements by the black workers, the reactionary apartheid regime of Pretoria has been mounting up widespread terror and repression against the black people. In a special report submitted to the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in June, 1984, the Director General of ILO, Francis Blanchard said that the objective of the minority white regime is to create a land with no black citizens by making "home lands" for them. The policy of resettlement of blacks in ten Bantustans or "homelands" is an obvious attempt of the regime to remove all "black spots" from the rural zones inhabited by the whites. As a consequence, around nine million blacks the inhabitants of "home lands", have lost South African citizenship and the right to participate in the political life of the Republic of South Africa. The attack has been most viciously concentrated on the black trade unions. To break the strikes which have increased in recent years, the racist regime has resorted to systematically using police force — on an average, once in every two days against the workers. Over 155 workers have been killed till early November,

more than 22 alone in the continuing strike of the blackminers. But despite the inhuman repression, the movement has been spreading. The number of strikes has gone up by 40 per cent since 1982, about 1,42,000 black workers participated in 394 officially registered strikes causing 3,65,000 mandays loss. From the end of 1983 to the beginning of 1984 alone, 336 strikes took place. The ruthless repression on the miners has resulted in mass upsurge among the blacks and riots between the white regime's police and the black population. Congratulating the black workers, the students and the people, the South African Trade Union Congress (SACTU) said that the working class and people's actions are taking place within the context of the unfolding revolutionary mass upsurge throughout the country, boycotting the tri-racial elections and against subjugation of working class rights.

South Korea

Over two thousand workers, students and other sections of people staged large scale anti-Government demonstrations in Seol in early November. The demonstrators denounced the military dictatorship of Chon Du Hwan and demanded gurantee of workers' rights. The riot police encircled the meeting place. But defying the riot police, the demonstrators continued the rally and spread it to other places. Several thousand clothing workers also staged a massive rally and a large number of them staged a hunger strike demanding reduction of working hours and the right to organise.

Unemployment and Working Hours

The reduction of working time is a long standing demand of the trade union movement. In the capitalist countries the workers have undertaken large scale struggles to win reduction in working hours (recent strike in West Germany) not only as a means of improving working and living conditions, but also as a measure in the struggle against unemployment. The ILO Convention No. I concerning Hours of work is yet to be implemented by the Government of India. The following chart (Source: ILO) shows the hours of work in some capitalist countries:

Austria	138.7 hrs. month
Belgium	33.6 hrs. week
Spain	39.2 hrs. week
Finland	40.4 hrs. week
France	38.7 hrs. week
Great Britain	42.6 hrs. week
Ireland	40.8 hrs. week
Norway	33.4 hrs. week
F.R.G.	41 hrs. week
Switzerland	43.2 hrs. week
USA	40.9 hrs. week
Japan	42.8 hrs. week