



THE WORKING CLASS

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The Safety And Healthiness Of The Working Environment

The Extent Of The Problem

ALTHOUGH THE EFFORTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE to increase occupational safety and health are considerable, the situation in the world as a whole remains disturbing.

Despite the growing number of occupational safety and health standards issued by national authorities and the ILO or suggested to industry by specialised bodies, despite the activities of labour inspection services, despite the existence of more and more safety and medical services in undertakings, despite all the congresses, conferences, committees, symposia and national and international meetings devoted to the subject from time to time, accidents and illness due to work or related to the exercise of an occupation continue to have a serious effect on the active population and to place a heavy burden on the economy of every country. Each year throughout the world millions of men and women die, or are injured, or become incapacitated. In industry alone the number of accidents in the world resulting in absence from work is estimated at 50 million a year, or about 160,000 a day. In the industrialised countries it is recognised that in industry one worker in ten on the average suffers from an accident compelling him to stop work. The average is almost certainly higher in the developing countries. The annual number of deaths is estimated at 100,000. To these figures must be added those relating to agriculture and forestry—where many serious accidents occur—on which world wide data are not collected. Unfortunately it has been found difficult to arouse public opinion to the gravity of the situation. Too often people take only a passing interest in it, when a particularly spectacular disaster occurs.

The figures available are disturbing, however, not only because of their size but also because they reveal no reduction in frequency or gravity rates, indeed a complete lack of progress. In the United States, the absolute number of fatal

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accidents in all branches of economic activity during the past 20 years has been about 14,000 a year. During the same period the frequency rate for all occupational accidents, after falling during the 1960s, has by today risen once more to the 1950 level. In Japan, during a recent ten-year period the number of fatal accidents in industry varied little and that of all occupational accidents fell only slightly.

In certain countries there has even been a rise, sometimes considerable, in the rates. In India, during the 1960s both the absolute number and the frequency rate of industrial accidents gradually rose by 50 per cent. Even an unchanging frequency rate means, if there is an increase in the number of workers, an increase also in the number of accidents.

Statistics, of course, are not a means of grasping accidents in their complex totality or, in particular, of drawing authoritative comparisons between countries. The moment one departs from the undertaking they become inadequate. Given the diversity of standards adopted, it is impossible to draw up a total for the occupational accidents recorded in the various regions of the world. Nevertheless, despite their incompleteness, the figures give a clear enough indication at the national level for no country to be satisfied with its situation. It is true, however, that the problem is complex and varied. There are at the same time old

known hazards to be faced that are far from being overcome and new hazards that are not yet fully identified.

The Nature of The Hazards

Among "traditional" occupational hazards accidents due to dangerous machinery are mentioned most often. They are the hazards that most efforts have been directed against so far. The efforts have not been vain and appreciable progress has been made. There are accidents of another class, however, that have not so far received sufficient attention: these are the most ordinary accidents due to the falling of persons or objects and accidents occurring during handling operations. All the statistics available, whether they relate to developing or industrialised countries, show that accidents of this class represent more than half of all occupational accidents. They must be taken fully into account in deciding what action to take.

The other matter that must be emphasised is the importance of *new hazards*. Some become apparent through pathological disturbances due to substances that are known but whose forms change. The occupational diseases recorded in the various countries do not cover all these hazards, most often the only pathological manifestations taken into account for compensation are those whose diagnosis and whose relation to exposure to the hazard have been established irrefutably on the basis of numerous and strictly controlled observations. Doctors observe

an increase in chronic troubles that are harder to detect at the start and less specific although the substances causing them are known. The working environment in huge workshops where all sorts of emanations exist at the same time makes it difficult to seek causes and decide on preventive measures. Where more than one toxic substance exists at the same time the effect may be increased by addition or by multiplication. The latent period, which can be very long, that elapsed before the first symptoms appear places a further severe limitation on the role of prevention. The result of all this, in the view of certain specialists, is the existence of diseases undoubtedly related to work but not yet so recognised by legislation.

How many new products appear on the market each year whose effects on the human being are not really known? The first victims of toxic substances are the workers, who are exposed to them 40 or more hours a week. Suitable protective measures, even where simple, are often adopted only after a long delay, that is to say when the hazard has been clearly established. Cancer of the pleura (mesothelioma) due to crocidolite does not appear until 15 to 20 years after first exposure. It is true that in some few countries special bodies have been set up to test new chemical products, but they examine only a small part of them. In the United States the National Institute of occupatio-

nal Safety and Health has so far examined and classified 13,000 toxic substances, but 500,000 to 600,000 chemical products are in use, and of the 250,000 more invented every year about 3,000 are put into production. In the USSR a comparable number of new chemicals have been examined by laboratory.

That certain new substances are dangerous cannot be denied. The case of vinyl chloride has given rise to great feeling, for an observant industrial physician established, after carrying out an epidemiological survey over a period of 20 years, that cancer of the liver was caused by certain forms of work on this substance, and the fears aroused have been confirmed by other tests. Accordingly, certain countries having initially fixed the maximum concentration at 500 parts per million and then at 200, have now decided to fix it at 1 part per million. A large chemical manufacturing concern has entirely ceased the production of vinyl chloride. Much is at stake in several respects; the number of workers exposed, the economic and financial importance of the manufacture of a substance with innumerable uses in every day life, the number of workers employed in the industry. There are greater problems in being compelled to stop a manufacturing process in which employs thousands of workers, providing large numbers of families with a living, than in undertaking the production of a different substance with an

adaptation of technique, even at the cost of a few months' delay. The possible social and economic results for employers and workers of early preventive action, and in particular the effect of decisions to prohibit or limit production or to enforce stringent measures of control in certain industries, are referred to in a resolution on occupational cancer adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 59th (1974) Session. And vinyl chloride does not provide an isolated case. "Modern times have witnessed an extraordinarily rapid and widespread development of organic chemistry, petrochemistry, metallurgical chemistry and the chemistry of elementary organic and organo-metallic compounds" a Soviet scientist wrote not long ago, "every year several hundred new chemical substances come into use in industry and agriculture although in many cases their toxicity and danger have not been established in advance." The production of pure metals brings into existence intermediate compounds "much more toxic than the oxides or other salts of the same metals. Moreover the production of many organo-metallic compounds...for use as pesticides has greatly increased the number of highly toxic substances liable to penetrate the air of a working area". The author also mentions "a definite increase of carcinogenic danger in a number of branches of synthetic chemistry", the

atmosphere of work-places so polluted that "at present no fewer than 60 types of pneumoconioses...have been identified", the prominence of "cancer and other tumours affecting the skin, respiratory organs, blood..." and "a marked increases in allergic diseases..." No less serious are mutagenic effects or teratogenic effects, which disturb the development of the foetus if the person exposed is a pregnant woman. "There are several hundred mutagenically active chemicals, some of which have turned out to be more active than ionising radiation."

Chemical products are not alone in seriously harming the health of workers. It has been found that there are complicated diseases due to microwaves, such as radar with its penetrating effects that do not damage the skin, and injuries caused by other types of radiation such as the laser.

These examples show that a clear distinction can no longer be made between the working environment and the living environment. In another age the smallness of production units, the nature of the substances dealt with and the comparative simplicity of techniques restricted the troubles to certain clearly defined fields. Now persons exposed to hazards at the workplace may also be exposed elsewhere. The same substance may be toxic to both the worker and the consumer. The working environment should thus benefit from the

campaign against the pollution of the environment in general.

It has often been thought that, by requiring less muscular effort, work has become less of a burden. Specialists agree today in finding that the burden has simply changed in nature: automation and mechanisation have given rise not only to localised muscular stress but also to increased and more continuous nervous stress. Whereas the activities of an industrial physician with young workers were mainly directed 20 years ago towards the prevention pulmonary, endocrinal and spinal troubles, they are largely directed today towards the detection of increasingly serious neurotic troubles. The symptoms, which lead to or are supplemented by other indications, make necessary a special study of work organisation and its effect on the very content of work. The overworking of managerial and technical staff is also becoming more and more extensive on account of the growing complexity of the problems faced by those in positions of responsibility.

Reference must also be made in this over-brief outline to the vast field of conditions of work, stressing both its innumerable aspects and their close and complex interdependence.

Even a physically healthy working environment where workshops or offices are clean and well lighted can be the site of conditions of work that are damaging to health. Delicate

... And They Quote Marx And Lenin

Marx and Lenin wrote on many questions but somehow or other could not write on Bonus. Perhaps this was because there was no system of Payment of Bonus in their days. This can be proved from the fact that in Marx's Articles on India there is no reference to Bonus.

Sri K. V. Raghunatha Reddy, Union Labour Minister has exhaustively quoted Marx and Lenin during his speech in Parliament to justify the Ordinance on Bonus. In doing so he has given entirely new interpretation to the doctrine of Karl Marx and Lenin.

Though Marx did not write about bonus he did write on Economism. And according to Shri Reddy asking for higher bonus is economism. According to this line of reasoning Khadilkar formula was a symbol of economism, a deviation from Marxism.

Marx criticised economism because he wanted working class

to fight the capitalist class politically which ultimately results in overthrowing capitalist yoke and establishment of Socialism Lenin's attack against economism was also advocating the same ideas.

The Bonus according to Shri Reddy isolates the working class from other sections of the people and he also quotes Karl Marx to support this claim. Perhaps according to Shri Reddy, after the enactment of the new Bill the working class will come closer to its allies.

After proving that Marx and Lenin were against bonus to workers Shri Reddy referred to the issue of Bonus shares to the shareholders and said, "Bonus shares add to the Capital base, provide for the stability of the corporate body and assure the continued employment, production and in all probability further surpluses". He need not quote Marx and Lenin to justify this proposition because the point was obvious.

operations in assembling certain parts, nervous fatigue due to a very rapid rhythm of production, periods of overwork, reductions in staff that increase the workload, are so many factors that can damage the worker's health and make him suffer from the premature

ageing observed by numerous doctors.

— Source :

Making Work more human Working conditions and environment.)

(International Labour Office)
Geneva.

Thirty Years of Vietnamese Trade Unions

by

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On 2 September 1975, the workers, the Trade Unions and the whole people of Vietnam joyfully celebrated the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Looking back, the working class and the Trade Unions of Viet Nam are filled with enthusiasm for having taken part, with their blood and sweat, in the struggle for the conquest, the building up and defence of the new power, the power of the working class and the toiling masses.

In the course of these thirty years, the Vietnamese working class, through its vanguard—the Indo-China Communist Party (now the Workers Party of Viet Nam) has followed the general line of revolutionary struggle. Under its direction, the people of Vietnam have led the Revolution of August 1945 to success, which has given birth to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam—the first State of the Workers and Peasants in South East Asia. It has waged victoriously the prestigious war of resistance against French colonialists, defeated the war of aggression committed by American Imperialism, the ringleader of the gang of imperialists, the international gendarme, bolstered up by the most powerful political and

economic potential in the camp of imperialism. It has completely liberated the country, and undertaken successfully the task of building up socialism in North Viet Nam.

F. S. V. N.

At first organised as Association of Vietnamese workers for National Salvation, this organisation of the mass of the working class became, after 20 July, 1946, General Confederation of Workers of Vietnam, and later, since 1961, Federation of Trade Unions of Viet Nam (F S V N). Fully reflecting the character of the working class and the masses, it organised, educated and stimulated the workers and employees in accomplishing the tasks defined by the party at each stage of the revolution, paying full attention to their material and cultural life.

Victory over Old Colonialism

On 23 September 1945, that is, 21 days after the formation of the DRV, at a time when the working class and the people of Viet Nam as a whole were applying all their power to building up the new regime, to re-establish order and security, to restore industrial and agricultural production and the course of life to normal, the troops of the French expedi-

tionary force, hiding behind the British troops, whose mission was to disarm the Japanese Forces in South East Asia, opened hostilities at Nam Bo (in ex-Cochin-China), and established itself at Saigon.

The population of Nam Bo met this aggression with heroic resistance.

From the beginning, the Federation of Trade Unions of Nam Bo (later, after the formation of the General Confederation of the workers of Viet Nam, on 20 July 1946—the Union of Trade Unions of Nam Bo) organised the workers and the population in the battle for the defence of the town, with simple, rudimentary weapons, batons, pointed bamboos, picks, shovels and other such. These units of workers' self-defence put to death thousands of the enemy, burnt down and destroyed hundreds of French and Japanese industrial enterprises, and kept the enemy encircled in the town for three months.

The FTU of Nam Bo organised the workers in army units—battalions nos. 300, 301, 306, 309, 310 etc. These units fought exemplary courage in all the theatres of war in the South. Later, certain among these units became elite regiments of the Peoples' Army of Viet Nam. More than 100,000 workers have sacrificed themselves in the bloody battle of Saigon—Cholon.

The plantations workers in the region of Nam Bo have equally distinguished themselves in audacious combats, in the

course of which they have destroyed hundreds of the enemy, and before the winning and the formation of zones of resistance, have destroyed plantations and entrepôts.

Resistance escalates

By 19 December 1946, resistance spread and assumed a national character. Workers' formation for self-defence, organised by the trade unions in the towns and industrial centres fought with courage by actions co-ordinated with those of the army, defending each quarter and each street. But faced with an enemy, equipped with modern arms, they had to retire from the towns, for organising a battle of attrition in the countryside and in the mountains.

Before retreat, they dismantled machinery and equipment, sabotaged industrial enterprises and mines, and destroyed the enemy's lines of communications for thwarting his advance. One of the companies of the guerrillas of North Viet Nam which has distinguished itself by a particularly sustained action was composed entirely of the mine workers of Hon gay. It was later to become an elite unit of the Peoples' Army in the Red River Delta.

By the end of 1949, workers constituted 33% of the total effective troops in the whole of the country. The great merit of the trade unions in raising the armed forces of the people, have been recognised by felicitations received from the DRV Govern-

ment: the Union of Nam Bo have been honoured with the Order of Independence, Class I by President Ho Chi Minh.

During retreat from the industrial areas, the members of trade unions have transferred machines and equipment which they had dismantled, and also material and goods essentially necessary for putting on feet bases of production for national defence and for the livelihood of the people in the zone of resistance. The General Confederation of workers has in particular directed on its own this transfer to Bac Bo (ex-Tonkin), and two tiers of the total of the machinery and material have been carried, in the face of numerous difficulties and perils, on the backs of workers, towards Viet Bac or towards the delta country. Since 1949, the workers have set up more than 100 armaments production units (without counting units of lesser importance created by the guerrillas), 21 pharmaceutical units for military supplies, 20 enterprises for cooked food production for the military and divers bases of production for meeting the needs of the people. On top of these production operations, they have maintained a high degree of vigilance, particularly during enemy attacks in the neighbouring areas. During this period of resistance, covering 9 years, despite numerous destructive attacks by the enemy, the workers have been able to save intact, by courageous combats,

90% of their production establishments.

The trade unions have paid particular attention to the organisation and direction of campaigns of intensification of production in the zones of resistance, for rationalisation, and for invention of new techniques. 45 456 valuable innovations have been applied to production. 12,466 workers, men and women have been recognised as elite workers, of whom a great number have received the Order of Resistance. Two of their representatives have been pronounced Hero of Labour—the worker Ngo Gia Kham, and engineer Tran Dai Nghia.

The trade unions were particularly interested in the material and cultural life of their members. Evening courses have been organised for removing illiteracy among workers and employees, for raising the level of their general and professional knowledge. Each enterprise had its amateur artist groups, its libraries, its volley ball and football teams all directed by the trade unions. The canteens were an object of great attention of the trade unions, whose employees were constantly encouraged to devote themselves during off hours to culture and towards uplift of the ordinary ones among them.

Thanks to the solicitude of the Party, the Government and the General Confederation the workers and employees have

(Contd. on page 19)

Size And Distribution Of Land Holdings In India

At the instance of the Food & Agricultural Organisation for the 1970 World Census of Agriculture, the Government of India conducted an Agricultural Census in 1970-71. Although unlike some other countries, where collection of data for all individual holdings are done through direct enumeration, the Census in India was based partly on the land records maintained by some States and partly on data collected from independent sample survey, the Census has brought out some interesting facts *inter alia* regarding the size and distribution of agricultural holdings in India.

The Census covered all the States and Union Territories in India except Mizoram. However, in course of carrying out the Census it was revealed that no detailed land records were maintained in several States and Union Territories including Kerala, Orissa, West Bengal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and Goa. Even in some States where detailed land records were maintained, such records were lacking in respect of some pockets, viz. the Mikir and Cachar hill districts of Assam, hill districts of U.P. and Nilgiri and Kumari districts of Tamilnadu.

The Census was conducted taking the 'operational holding', as distinct from 'ownership holding, as basic unit for collection of data. An 'operational holding' has been defined as "all land which was wholly or

partly used for Agricultural Production and was operated as one technical unit by one person alone or with others without regard to title, legal form, size or location". Thus, an operational holding, whether fully owned or partly owned and partly rented and whether located in one compact block or in scattered fragments, was under single management having its own set of facilities and resources. The operator or holder was the person who assumed responsibility for management of the holding and he may be the owner of the holding or a member of the owners' household, the tenant or merely a share cropper.

Number of Holdings and their Size Pattern

According to the Census, there are 70.5 million operational holdings in the country with a total operated areas of 162.1 million hectares. Thus the average size of the holding works out to 2.30 hectares.

From the Table given on next page, it will be seen that the Census' data available for all the States are for 12 size-classes of holdings, beginning from below 0.5 hectares to 50 hectares and above. However, for facility of analysis, the Census authorities regrouped these 12 size-classes into five categories as given below :

Below 1 Hectare—

Marginal Holding

1 to 2 Hectares—
Small Holding
2 to 4 „ —
Semi-medium Holding
4 to 10 „ —
Medium Holding
10 Hectares and above—
Large Holding.

Preponderance of Marginal and Small Holdings

It will be seen from the Table that, out of a total of 705 lakhs operational holdings in the country, marginal (below 1 hectare) and small (1 to 2 hectares) holdings number 491 lakhs or about 70 per cent of the total. In the words of the Census report itself, "The preponderance of marginal holdings is one of the dominant characteristics of agricultural holdings in India."

Of these again, marginal holdings below 0.5 hectare number 232 lakhs or 33 per cent of the total; marginal holdings between 0.5 and 1.0 hectare number 125 lakhs or about 18 per cent of the total; and small holdings between 1 and 2 hectares number 134 lakhs or 19 per cent of the total.

As compared to this, semi-medium and medium holdings (i. e. between 2 hectares and 10 hectares) number 186 lakhs or over 26 per cent of the total number of operational holding. Large holdings of 10 hectares and above account for about 28 lakhs or about 4 per cent of the total number of holdings in the country.

Table

**Number and Area of Operational Holdings
According to Size**

Size Class (Hectares)	Number of Holdings (in Lakhs)	% of Total No.	Area covered (in Lakh Hect.)	% of Total Area
Below 0.5	231.8	32.88	54.5	3.36
0.5— 1.0	125.0	17.74	91.0	5.61
1.0— 2.0	134.3	19.05	192.8	11.89
2.0— 3.0	67.2	9.54	163.6	10.09
3.0— 4.0	39.6	5.62	136.5	8.42
4.0— 5.0	26.8	3.81	119.3	7.36
5.0—10.0	52.5	7.44	363.0	22.39
10.0—20.0	21.3	3.03	285.2	17.59
20.0—30.0	4.0	0.57	93.5	5.76
30.0—40.0	1.2	0.17	41.8	2.58
40.0—50.0	0.5	0.06	20.5	1.26
50.0 & above	0.7	0.09	59.7	3.69
Total	704.9	100.00	1621.3	100.00

This means that over 70 per cent of the agricultural holdings in the country are below the average size of 2.30 hectares. Of this again 50 per cent of the holdings are of very small size of less than 1 hectare.

Concentration of Land in a few hands

The Census report also reveals the interesting fact that, although the number of marginal and small holdings comes to 491 lakhs or about 70 per cent of the total, the operated area covered by these holdings is only 21 per cent of the total. Of these, marginal holdings below 0.5 acres, which account for 33 per cent of the total holdings, control only 3.36 per cent of the total area and marginal holdings between 0.5 and 1 hectare, which account for 18 per cent of the

holdings, control only 5.6 per cent of the area. Thus, out of the total operated area of 1621 lakhs hectares, only 338 lakh hectares are covered by the marginal and small holdings.

As against this, the operated area covered by semi-medium and medium holdings comes to about 782 lakh hectares or 48 per cent of the total area, although they account for only 26 per cent of the total number of holdings. Large holdings which account for only 4 per cent of the total number of holdings, control an operated area of over 500 lakhs hectares or 31 per cent of the total area.

Thus, 70 per cent of the holdings in the marginal and small category cover only 21 per cent of the operated area, whereas only 4 per cent of the

holdings in the large category cover more than 30 per cent of the area. This obviously means a heavy concentration of agricultural land in the hands of a handful of big land-owners and capitalist farmers.

State-wise distribution of holdings and area

The Census report further classifies the State-wise distribution of operational holdings and operated area covered by them. It appears that Uttar Pradesh has the largest number of holdings in the country (156 lakhs or 22%), followed by Bihar (76 lakhs), Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh (50 to 54 lakhs holdings each).

In terms of area, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra top the list with over 13 per cent of the total area each, followed by Rajasthan (12.5 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (8.4 per cent).

The average size of the holdings varies from 0.5 hectares in Lakshadweep to 6.18 hectares in Arunachal Pradesh. The average size of holdings in Kerala is only 0.7 hectares as against 5.46 hectares in Rajasthan. The average size of the holdings is higher than the all-India average of 2.30 hectares in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Nagaland, Delhi, Andaman & Nicobar and Arunachal Pradesh. In the States of Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu the average size of the holding is

roughly 1.5 hectares, in U. P. it is 1.16 hectares and in West Bengal 1.20 hectares.

In the number of marginal holdings below 0.5 hectares, Uttar Pradesh (32%) and Bihar (15%) account for the largest number of such holdings followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Kerala and West Bengal.

Concentration of Medium and Large holdings in some States

According to the Census report, medium holdings (4 to 10 hectares) constitute 11 per cent of the total holdings and account for 30% of the area. The largest concentration of such holdings is found in the States of Maharashtra (15.5 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (14.7 per cent), Rajasthan (10.12 per cent), Karnataka, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

As regards Large holdings (10 hectares and above) are concerned, the largest concentration is shown in Rajasthan (19 per cent) followed by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

This shows that the highest concentration of land in the hands of a handful of big landlords or farmers has taken place in the States of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, where the number of medium and large holdings is the highest.

The Census highlights the need for introducing genuine land reforms so that land concentration in hands of a few landlords is done away with.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX NUMBERS

(Industrial Workers/ Base 1960=100)

State/Centre	1975			State/Centre	1975		
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Andhra Pradesh				Orissa			
Gudur	327	331	323	Barbil	299	292	285
Guntur	330	335	323	Sambalpur	327	317	308
Hyderabad	320	329	324	Punjab			
Assam				Amritsar	335	331	326
Digboi	301	310	305	Rajasthan			
Doom Dooma	262	255	250	Ajmer	305	301	299
Labac	220	216	231	Jaipur	319	312	308
Mariani	258	260	254	Tamilnadu			
Rangapara	263	250	240	Coimbatore	324	314	302
Bihar				Coonoor	298	300	298
Jamshedpur	299	298	289	Madras	320	322	304
Jharia	310	315	307	Madurai	339	313	303
Kodarma	348	338	327	U. P.			
Monghyr	341	326	310	Kanpur	310	300	288
Noamundi	324	321	292	Saharanpur	308	304	306
Gujarat				Varanasi	345	337	329
Ahmedabad	293	295	289	West Bengal			
Bhavnagar	310	318	312	Asansol	323	325	315
Haryana				Calcutta	301	304	287
Yamunanagar	314	316	320	Darjeeling	269	260	247
J & K				Howrah	298	304	292
Srinagar	285	280	268	Jalpaiguri	266	252	238
Karnataka				Raniganj	316	316	306
Ammathi	354	342	322	Delhi	336	334	328
Bangalore	337	339	332	Other Centres*			
Chikmagalur	341	334	320	Berhampur ('49)	434	439	424
Kolar G.F.	341	340	327	Cuttack ('49)	377	394	380
Kerala				Jabalpur (1949)	418	410	401
Alleppey	394	387	373	Beawar ('51-52)	338	340	341
Alwaye	349	356	346	Tripura (1961)	259	254	254
Mundakayam	339	344	330	H. P. (1965)	226	226	236
Madhya Pradesh				Goa (1966)	212	212	206
Balaghat	320	307	312	Bhilai (1966)	205	203	207
Bhopal	308	307	300	Bhilwara ('66)	189	183	182
Gwalior	328	327	321	Chhindwara			
Indore	330	325	320	('66)	175	174	172
Maharashtra				Kothagudam			
Bombay	305	303	396	('66)	208	205	199
Nagpur	337	339	329	Rourkella ('66)	216	217	211
Sholapur	356	349	338	All India ('49)	384	383	372
				—do—('60)	316	315	306

* Figures in bracket indicate base year.

(Labour Bureau, Simla)

New China has kept its commodity prices stable since its establishment a quarter of a century ago.

Over this period China has developed its socialist economy by self-reliance and by giving full rein to the enthusiasm of the people on the principle of "maintaining independence and keeping the initiative in our own hands and relying on our own efforts". Price stability has been brought about on the basis of a rapid expansion of production and the gradual improvement of the people's living standards.

Security of people's livelihood guaranteed

For two yuan (about Rs. 7.50) any of the following commodities in the specified amounts can be bought in the Peking market:

Rice	5	kilogrammes
Wheat flour	5	"
Mutton	1.4	"
Beef	1.3	"
Tomatoes	20	"
Onions	15	"
White Cotton		
Cloth	2.3	metres

The retail prices of these items have undergone almost no change since 1952. In fact, little change has taken place in the retail prices of all major items of consumer goods and in the case of some manufactured goods of daily use, there have been price reductions. The price of medicines is one example. In the interest of public health, medicine prices have been cut repeatedly, and today average a fifth of those in 1950. House rent, which generally accounts for three to five per cent of

How New China Keeps Commodity Prices Stable

wages, water and electricity charges and fares remain practically unchanged. With the growth of the petroleum industry, the price of gas for household use has been cut.

In socialist new China, a developing country, wages are in general relatively low and the people's living standards need to be raised. However, the supply of basic necessities is ensured and commodity prices have been kept low and stable. Unemployment does not exist. Moreover, no tax is levied on individual income. All this guarantees the people's security of livelihood and creates highly favourable conditions for a continuous expansion of the national economy.

Gradual price readjustment

While maintaining price stability the state has step by step re-adjusted the prices of industrial and agricultural products. This has been carried out in keeping with State planning requirements and with the need to expand production while at the same time taking into consideration the interest of the State, the collectives and individuals.

To enable the peasants to draw a higher income and to speed up farm production and the development of the entire national economy, the State has, on several occasions, raised the prices it pays for farm and sideline products and at the same time has lowered the sales prices of agricultural production requirements such as chemical

fertilizer, pesticides, farm machinery and diesel oil. The prices paid by the state to the communes for cereals are double the 1950 levels while the prices at which these are sold to the people have changed very little and remained stable. The difference between the State-quoted sales prices and the State purchase prices and the trading and management expenses are all defrayed by the State. The State also covers price differentials and expenses in the case of other basic necessities such as vegetable, meat and eggs so as to keep their prices stable. In consequence, the masses of urban and rural people have benefited widely.

By raising the prices paid for farm and sideline products and reducing the selling prices of manufactured goods, the State has greatly narrowed the disparity between the two, thus overcoming a legacy from history. For example, before liberation a herdsman in Chinghai province could buy, with the proceeds from his sale of 50 kilogrammes of wool, only one and a half pieces of brick tea or less than seven metres of dark blue cotton drill. Today he can buy 12 pieces of brick tea or 70 metres of dark blue cotton drill from the sale of that amount of wool.

How China keeps prices stable

First of all and most fundamentally, China's socialist eco-

nomy is a planned economy. Output quotas and prices for industrial and agricultural products are in the main worked out and readjusted in accordance with State plans, they are not governed by the relationship between supply and demand. This means that price fluctuations with prices rising when commodities are in short supply and dropping when they are in surplus, do not occur. Production is not for profit, not dictated by what makes the most money; instead it is aimed at promoting the building of socialism and meeting the needs of the people. The production, circulation and distribution of industrial and agricultural products are controlled under the overall State plan. All the social purchasing power, in the form of the workers' wages, sums paid by the State for farm produce (to be converted into the peasantry's purchasing power), and the appropriations for the administrative expenses and welfare undertakings of government organisations and enterprises (to be converted into the purchasing power of social groupings), comes within the framework of State planning. In this way the contradiction between social production and social requirements is constantly regulated by the State plan and price stability is guaranteed.

Guided by the General Line of going all out, aiming high and achieving greater, faster, better

and more economical results in building socialism and the general principle of taking agriculture as the leading factor in developing the national economy new China has rapidly expanded its industrial and agricultural production over the past two decades and more. Grain output has increased 140 per cent over the early post-liberation period. Output of cotton, oil-bearing seeds, sugar cane and beets, bast fibre, tobacco, tea and other industrial crops as well as of aquatic and animal products has risen anything from several to a dozen or more times. Increases in the output of cotton yarn, cotton cloth, gunny sacks, paper, cigarettes, bicycles, sewing machines, leather and other items also range from several to several dozen fold. The development of heavy industry has been even more rapid. Output of iron and steel has grown over 100 fold. The fast-expanding petroleum industry has made the country self-sufficient both in quantity and variety and also able to export a surplus. In a word, the development of industrial and agricultural production has provided a solid material foundation for price stability as well as ample supplies of goods to the domestic market.

Secondly, a balanced State budget and elimination of currency inflation form an important factor in achieving price stability. In old China under

reactionary Kuomintang rule, currency inflation reached astronomical proportions. In the 12 years from July 1937 to May 1949 under Kuomintang rule, the rate of inflation rose more than 140,000 million times and prices 8,500,000 million times.

Soon after the founding of new China, the State adopted measures to halt the currency inflation and stabilize prices. Over these 25 years a balanced budget with a small surplus has been maintained. China's State revenue comes mainly from the income turned in by the State-owned enterprises which operate on the basis of increasing production and practising economy.

The Chinese currency 'renminbi' is based on the ample supplies of goods at the State's disposal, not on domestic gold or foreign exchange reserves. The currency is issued in a planned way and in complete compliance with the requirements of economic development and circulation. The principle to issue no currency in excess of actual requirements is strictly implemented.

As a result, the 'renminbi' is one of the few stable currencies in the world, and an indicator of the people's confidence in it is the growth of bank savings throughout the country. Internationally, its reputation stands high. Before 1968, China's foreign trade and aid to other countries and other economic transactions were conducted in foreign currencies. Since then, however, an increasing number of countries and regions have

been using the "renminbi" to quote prices and settle accounts in their dealings with China.

China's balanced foreign trade is third factor in its price stability. Under the principle of independence and self-reliance, China has worked out its import and export plans in accordance with the requirements of economic development and within the range of its resources. It has incurred no adverse trade balance, no foreign exchange deficits. The days of old China, when foreign goods flooded the market and the imperialists ruthlessly exploited the Chinese people through exchange of unequal values, have gone once and for all. Likewise, currency depreciation and soaring prices following on gold and foreign exchange reserves depletion and heavy national debts caused by adverse foreign trade, prevalent in old China, have become things of the past. In China today, the big majority of commodities are produced with raw materials supplied and processed domestically. Trade is now carried on with more than 150 countries and regions on the principle of equality, mutual benefit and supplying each other's needs; this also serves to promote the friendship between the Chinese people and the people of other countries. However, China's economy keeps its foothold at home; China's commodities come mainly from home industry and go mainly to the Chinese people, mostly to the peasant masses. There is a vast home market. As a result, changes in the economic situation

abroad do not affect commodity supply and price stability in China.

The fourth factor is that price fluctuations in the international market do not affect domestic market prices because the same commodities China sells at home and abroad are priced differently under a policy of State control of foreign trade, foreign trade departments handle all China's export and import trade and keep business accounting of it in accordance with unified State plans. Imported goods are sold in the domestic market at prices comparable to similar goods made in China. Goods for

export are purchased by the State in the market at the same prices paid in domestic trade. And China prices its export goods fairly and reasonably in accordance with the principle of equality and mutual benefit while referring to the rise and fall of world market prices. In this way, China's domestic market is basically cut off from any direct link with the world market and stable prices can be domestically maintained despite stormy changes that occur in international market prices. This not only protects the stability of living cost for the Chinese people but plays a positive role in developing production in the country.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND OTHER PARTICULARS
ABOUT THE WORKING CLASS
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I, Monoranjan Roy, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sd/- Monoranjan Roy
Publisher

Dated February 28, 1976

Status of Women Workers

The Committee on Status of Women In India, in its lengthy Report published during the International Women's Year, has covered several problems of women in present economic, social and political setting. It is however proposed to deal with the observations of the committee on the question of women workers to see to what extent they go to meet their requirements.

The Committee studied at length the conditions of women workers in organised and unorganised industries. The women workers in the unorganised sector constitute 94 p.c. of which 84.4 P.C. are in agricultural sector. The major problem affecting the women workers in the unorganised industries, according to the Committee "spring from the unorganised nature of all the industries...they are outside the reach of most laws that seek to protect the security and working conditions of the labour". The wages are uniformly lower than those of men, even, "within the low wage structure of all the workers". The Committee has also pointed out that more than half of the women who enter the agricultural field are below 15 years and normally unpaid family workers. The unemployment of women in this sector, surpasses men, 4.5 million women as against 3.2. million men in 1971.

The Committee made the following observation regarding

vast majority of women in agriculture : "no substantial improvement in the condition of women agricultural workers is possible without effective steps to redistribute land...side by side with it, organisation of labour need to be developed to improve the bargaining power of these workers to prevent exploitation and low wages".

The women workers in the unorganised industries outside agriculture constitute about 4 million, and their problems and working conditions are beyond description, because of the excessive hours of work, exceptionally low wages, insecurity of employment and without any statutory legislations. After visiting 3 projects in Patna it was found that 81 P. C. of women had begun their working life as wage labourers very early in their childhood while in Delhi the women were working till the last day of their delivery. Regarding the infant mortality the picture is more sad. Out of 645 children born to these women, 389 were alive in Delhi and rest died, while out of 233 children born to the women on the project in Patna, 67 were dead., 29 of these reaching the age of one year.

Regarding the statutory provision for welfare of women workers, the Committee noted "it appears that most of these regulations are more honoured in the breach than in compliance"and further "no serious attempt was made by the

Government authorities to see that these regulations were enforced....."

The working hours invariably exceeded, overtime was never paid, the housing was "Kutcha". Women were not paid for weekly holidays. The study group which visited Patna, found that though, "43 of the respondents were carrying small children with them to work, no arrangement has been made for creche in any of the 3 sites..."

The working conditions of the contract labour were always worse even after passing the Abolition of Contract Labour Act.

The Conditions in Bidi industry continue to be worse, with a large section not yet brought under any statutory laws. The committee met women in one of the workshops in Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, where they found the extreme low rates of Rs. 2.50 for thousand, and a family of 4 had to work the whole day to prepare 1000 bidis to get the wage. Here also women were found working till the last days of their pregnancy.

The chikan industry employs more than 45,000 women today, mostly working in Lucknow and nearby. The contract system plays a very vital role here since most of these women are Muslim, wearing burkha. The income of majority of these women is below poverty line, the average monthly income coming to less than Rs. 27 only. The pitiable condition of these working women is seen from the fact that they can not continue to work

after 50 or so because of their failing eyesight due to the delicate nature of work.

As for the organised sector, in spite of the growth in the employment of middle class employees in the public and private sector the percentage of women workers in factories and mine has gone down.

The Committee felt that the main reason in the decline of women workers in factories and mines etc. lies "in the relative degree of capital intensity and the choice of technology. These represent part of the General structural changes taking place in our economy". (P. 199)

Though women were the first victims of the rationalisation measures employers made them a target because payment of maternity benefit etc was considered by the employers as unnecessary liability. The Committee however does not agree that this is one the reasons for retrenchment of women workers. It has made out a point that the payment of maternity benefit was a negligible amount. Instead of criticising the inadequate provision of the maternity benefit and the symbolic benefit given to the women workers the Committee brushes aside the reason which has been accepted by several official Committees.

For the very same reason employers refuse to employ a married woman and discharge as soon as she is married. 'Equalisation of Wages' was and is still one of the factors in the decline of women workers.

In the opinion of the committee the "structural reforms" and the "prejudices" of employers are the main reasons for not employing women and in the decline in the employment of women. However it is conveniently forgotten that "prejudices" of employers do not come in the way of employing women in plantations, cashew, Coir, Bidi and agriculture since it is the cheap labour.

Some recommendations made by the committee such as provision for part-time employment, creating self-employment facilities or reserving departments for women etc, though are paliatives, will not solve the basic problem of unemployment among women.

The Committee has made some recommendations which can be implemented only if the trade unions take them as issues of campaign. The suggestion to bring down the limit of employment of 50 women in a concern to 20 for introducing creche and provision of creche near the residential area are useful only if employers can be forced to implement the legal provisions. Similarly the association of Trade Union women representative in the Scrutiny Committee for the Maternity Benefit Act can be effective only if the election of the representative is done through secret ballot.

Though the Committee appreciates the welfare measures for mother and children in Socialist Countries and quotes Karl Marx to explain the question of emancipation of women it

International Support To The Family Members Of The Deceased Members Of Bihar

The Indian and Pakistani Workers of Torrington Co. Ltd., Coventry, U. K. have collected and sent £46.00 to Comrade B. T. Randive, President CITU, as help to the family member of the deceased miners of Bihar (Chasnala accident).

We reproduce below the letter received from Comrade D. S. Pooni, 142, Silverdale Close, Coventry, CV2 IQE U. K. dated 16. 1. 76.

"Dear Comrade

I am sending you International Money Order for £46.00 in the registered post.

This money has been collected by the Indian & Pakistani workers of the Torrington Co. Ltd., COVENTRY, U. K. We request you to forward this money to the families of the deceased miners in Bihar.

We all feel very deeply and convey our sympathies to all concerned."

does not give concrete suggestions to create conditions to relieve women workers from domestic drudgery and assure their participation in "socially productive work." The Committee therefore feels shy of advocating transformation of the present Capitalist system into a genuine Socialist system which alone can pave the way of complete liberation of women in India.

32 Women Workers Retrenched in Ritz Continental Hotel

The management of Ritz Continental Hotel in Calcutta have retrenched 32 women workers of the hotel in the International Women's Year and have started victimising other workers. Led by the Ritz Continental Hotel Employees Union (CITU), the workers have been fighting against the illegal lockout declared by the management from the midnight of August 18, 1975. The hotel re-opened towards the end of December, 1975 after an anti-worker agreement. The majority of the workers led by the CITU union protested against this agreement but later decided to join under protest. (See February, 1976 issue of The Working Class).

When the employees reported for work in the Hotel under protest on January 7 last, the management illegally retrenched 32 women workers, mostly

chamber maids, without notice. Thereafter, they chargesheeted and suspended five active workers of the union including the Assistant Secretary of the Ritz Continental Hotel Employees Union. Since then the management are constantly harassing and intimidating the members of the CITU union. Failing to break their morale, the management refused entry into the Hotel to a number of workers on January 28 last.

The workers led by the CITU union, particularly the women workers have shown exemplary courage and determination in the face of these provocations. The employees are heroically carrying on their struggle with the demands for cancellation of the anti-worker agreement, withdrawal of retrenchment, charge-sheets and suspension orders, restoration of normal condition in the Hotel and settlement of their legitimate demands.

The CITU—West Bengal Committee has appealed to all its affiliated unions to extend full solidarity support to the struggling employees of Ritz Continental Hotel and to send protest telegrams and letters to the Hotel management supporting the struggle and demands of the employees. It has also appealed to all unions to give financial help to the struggling employees who have been fighting since August, 1975 without any earnings and have reached the limit of their endurance.

Anti-Worker Move of J. K. Rayon Management Foiled

A recent move by the management of J. K. Rayon factory, Kanpur to take away some hard-won rights and benefits of the workers and to withdraw recognition to the CITU-affiliated union, was temporarily foiled by an order of injunction issued by the Allahabad High Court.

On January 7 last, the management issued an order under 4-I of the U. P. Industrial Disputes Act announcing that : (a) Floor index of 305 (Simla Series for Kanpur) shall not be taken into consideration for computing variable D.A and there shall be a cut even in minimum D.A. of Rs. 150-25 ; (b) Milk allowance of 45 paise per day shall be stop and (c) the recognition accorded to CITU affiliated J. K. Rayon Workers' Union shall be withdrawn.

The J. K. Rayon Workers Union strongly protested against this arbitrary and illegal order and demanded its immediate withdrawal. The union also requested the intervention of the Labour Department and the administration for the withdrawal of this provocative order, but without any response whatsoever. The union then moved the Allahabad High Court on January 23 and an injunction order was issued by the High Court directing the management not to give effect to their impugned order of January 7 until further orders of the High Court.

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172 Lenin Sarani
Calcutta-700013.

A TOTAL BAN ON CLOSURES

The Working Committee of the INTUC which met in Jamshedpur on 13 February has expressed concern "at the increasing incidence of lay-off, retrenchment and closures in several industries in the country" and demanded prohibition of "all such lay-offs, retrenchments and closures whether continuing or contemplated".

During the speech in Parliament on a Bill imposing restrictions on lay-offs and closures, Dinen Bhattacharya demanded the same thing. The amendments to Industrial Disputes Act, passed by Parliament, only provide that before closure and retrenchment 90 days notice should be given by the management. However, unless the retrenchment, closures and lay-offs are banned such notices will not have much impact on the employers.

Though trade union movement unitedly demands banning of these anti-labour measures by the employers there is no united approach on the question. Unfortunately, the AITUC and the INTUC leadership will not agree to sit with CITU and other trade unions to formulate programme of joint movement so that the offensive of the employers is checked,

The absence of the unity is resulting in continuation of retrenchment, lay-offs and closures unabated. Therefore mere expressing concern will not lead to protection of the interest of the workers. In the National Apex body, the employers repre-

sentatives have openly expressed their inability to accept ban on these measures. The workers of all affiliations should realise how employers are using the division among their ranks and make efforts to build such a unity as early as possible.

Tapioca Industry In Kerala Facing Crisis

According to The Hindu (Madras) dated 15 February the tapioca industry in Kerala is facing a serious crisis with an estimated 20,000 tonnes of tapioca stockpiled with exporters in Calicut and nearly 200 Starch and Flour Mills closed in Malabar area. This stock was registered despite reduced yield this year compared to usual annual production of 65 lakh tonnes.

Over 30 000 workers employed in the industry have been hit hard as a result of this. The cultivators found it a great loss to bring their produce to the market due to sharp fall in prices. The price of dried tapioca chips which was Rs. 75 to 80 per quintal last year had come down to around Rs. 50 this year.

Pithead Stocks Of Coal Increased

According to information given in Parliament in reply to a question, the pithead stocks of coal have increased from 5.64 million tonnes at the end of November 1974 to 7.75 million at the end of November 1975. The current stock is estimated at 4 weeks production.

30 P. C. Price Fall in Basic Exports By Poor Countries

Developing Countries last year suffered a 30 per cent real terms drop in prices of basic products they export, the U. N. Conference on Trade and Development said in Geneva on 18 February.

In terms of their value in dollars at the current rate there was an average drop of 17 per cent but allowing for the average rise in the price of manufactured goods the real terms deterioration was about 30 per cent in the case of basic products exported by developing countries excluding oil.

The UNCTAD index (base 1968=100) fell to 191 average last year against 231 in 1974.

Bronchitis Among Textile Workers

According to a study conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Centre for Community Medicine, over 6 per cent workers employed in a textile mill in Delhi were found suffering from byssinosis and other respiratory diseases. Of the 1064 workers examined 60 had byssinosis because of the presence of cotton dust in the environment. Most of the sick belonged to the weaving department.

The study found that workers even after a short duration of service developed the disease. It worsened the longer they stayed on the job.

Press Censorship In Sri Lanka

The Sri Lanka Government yesterday imposed Press censorship on matters relating to any proposal or recommendation for the withdrawal or curtailment of fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.

The Censorship regulations cover any agitation or movement for secession of any part of the country. Incidents stemming from communal or religious disagreements are also covered by the regulations.

The Press Censorship regulations have been imposed under section 5 of the Public Security Ordinance on the recommendation of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and announced in a special Government Gazette.

(Source : The Hindu, February 7, 1976)

P. F. Arrears Reach Rs. 28.66 Crores

Union Minister for Labour told Rajya Sabha on 23 January that the arrears of Provident Fund throughout the Country was to the tune of Rs. 28.66 Crores. The arrears of Private Sector were estimated at Rs. 25 Crores.

The total amount of default in deposit by Bengal Potteries Calcutta amounted to over Rs. 41 lakhs. The authorities had launched prosecution against the company's Managing Director. However, the company had recently obtained a stay order from the Calcutta High Court, the Minister said.

Shore Workers Win Victory In Tribunal

After a long struggle, 350 Shore workers of Calcutta port have won their demand for Dust Allowance. The Shore workers had been continuing their struggle for several demands, including Dust allowance, for a long time under the leadership of Calcutta Port & Shore Majdoor Union. After a 37-day strike in 1973, which ended after a negotiated settlement, the demands for Dust Allowance for 350 Shore workers and permanency of 17 shore workers were sent by the Government to a Tribunal. Recently, the Tribunal Judge gave his verdict in favour of the workers.

On behalf of the workers, K. K. Roy Ganguly and Hemlal Chatterjee conducted the case before the Tribunal.

Port & Shore Mazdoor Union Leader Victimized

The authorities of Calcutta port have recently issued order of suspension on K. K. Roy Ganguly, Joint Secretary of Calcutta Port & Shore Mazdoor Union (CITU). Some time back the Port authorities introduced a new system of loading and unloading in the Kantapukur section, which resulted in increase in work-load and loss of earnings to the workers. The workers, led by the CITU Union, resented the new system which was introduced without consulting the union. The Port

More Closures And Retrenchments During Emergency —Says Labour Minister

The Union Labour Minister, Raghunatha Reddy, told reporters in Calcutta on February 9 last—'Although workers in general gave their full co-operation to maintain the tempo of production, instances of lay-off, retrenchment and closures increased considerably since the proclamation of emergency.'

He said that about 3 lakh people were laid off throughout the country, and "some thousands" were retrenched. Mr. Reddy, however, could not give any exact figure of the number of units closed.

The Union Minister stated that the loss in the number of man-days dropped sharply during 1975, especially during the last six months since emergency. While the number of man days lost during the first half of the year was 15.4 millions, the second half accounted for a loss of only 1.6 million man-days. Mr. Reddy informed that during 1974 as many as 40.2 million man days were lost.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, February 10, 1976)

authorities later suspended the Joint Secretary of the union on the false plea of inciting the workers. The workers have protested against this act of victimisation for taking part in T.U. activities.

Situation In Bihar Martin Railways

Arrah-Sasaram and Fatwa-Islampur Light Railways owned by M/s BURN & Co. serve the people of vast area. The management, however, are not taking proper interest in the matter. They have not paid wages for three months and bonus for the year 1974-75. They also did not deposit the Provident Fund, Compulsory Deposit and Insurance deductions for the past two years with

Kota Atomic Power Workers Face Retrenchment

The management of the Kota Atomic Power Station have terminated services of 50 workers by the end of January on the ground that they were surplus. Rajasthan Anushakti Karmachari Union, Rawatbhata Kota, earlier requested the management that these workers should be absorbed in other units of the Department of Atomic Energy. The conciliation proceedings did not result in any fruitful outcome.

Meanwhile the management has sought permission of the Assistant Labour Commissioner to dismiss from service Ravindra Shukla, Secretary of the Union under Section 33(3)b of the Industrial Disputes Act. Since Shukla is a protected workman management resorted to this action during the pendency of the Industrial Dispute. The CITU has requested the Union Labour Ministry to intervene in the matter so that the dispute is settled.

the authorities. They had also not given uniforms and other equipments to the workers. As a result there was a protest strike from December 5, 1975 which was settled at the intervention of the District Magistrate on December 15. But the authorities did not implement the agreement fully. On the other hand, when Shri R. C. Mishra, Guard, refused to work the train without a Hand Signal Lamp during night, he was, suspended from January 6. The work stopped work in protest. The civil authorities intervened again and the work was resumed on January 8.

Samar Mukherjee M.P. raised the subject in the Lok Sabha on January 15. The leaders of Bihar Martin Light Railwaymen's Union met the Managing Director on January 29 at Calcutta.

In view of no fruitful result the workers launched a 'no pay — no work' campaign from February 6. The union leaders met the Chief Minister, Bihar on February 13 and apprised him about the fact that workers are virtually starving for non receipt of their earned wage and he assured them that he would take up the matter with the Central Government.

Bhilai Steel Union Leader Terminated

The management of Bhilai Steel Plant has terminated services of K. D. Navaratnam, Joint Secretary Hindusthan Steel Employees Union Bhilai in

Tamilnadu Newsletter

The shareholders of Cotton & Cotton Jubilee Mill Co-operative Stores have elected CITU nominees by vast majority of votes defeating their INTUC, AITUC, ADMK and HMS rivals.

In a memorandum to the Chief Minister submitted on January 21, the President, Vice-President, Secretary and others of Tamil Nadu Farmers Sangh have demanded writing off of all loans to poor villagers, daily wages at Rs. 9/-, sugar @ Rs. 150/- per tonne and other benefits.

Comrades V. P. Chintan and Hari Bhat have been elected by the B & C Mills Workers Sangh by vast majority of votes defeating Shri Ramaswamy and Ganeshan, the State AITUC leaders.

In accordance with the agreement signed on January 21st, the Bidi workers of Dindigul will get the benefit of the minimum wage committee's decision of 4.8.1976. Henceforth the workers will get Rs. 9.10 for thousand bides.

The 2000 teachers employed at Ramanadapuram Panchyat Union Schools have not received their Salary for and from the month of December 1975. The Teachers Front in telegrams to the State Government authorities have informed their decision to fight unitedly till their wages and other demands are fulfilled.

December last without assigning any reason.

Samar Mukherjee M. P. wrote to Chandrajit Yadav, Minister of Steel and Mines and requested him to intervene in the matter.

Thirty Years of Vietnamese Trade Unions

(From page 6)

seen their levels of living and culture constantly raised, in difficult circumstances, in the 9 years of resistance.

In the course of the progress of resistance, the trade unions developed and consolidated their strength on different planes. It brought together in different stages, the whole of the manual and intellectual workers in workshops and services, and private enterprises in the zone controlled by the government of DRV and created clandestine bases in the zone controlled by the enemy. The number of their adherents has gone on increasing without cease: from 140,000 in 1947, it has passed 280,000 in 1949.

In January 1950, the trade unions held their First National Congress. Delegates of all areas where workers live and work, from every corner of the country, South and North, liberated and occupied zones, participated. The Congress summarised the experience acquired in the course of 4 years of national resistance and defined the concrete tasks which are incumbent on the workers and the trade unions for intensifying the resistance, for safeguarding democracy and for defending world peace.

In the zones temporarily occupied, under the direction of the trade unions, workers established clandestine bases and fought for safeguarding their day to day interests. They

sought to sabotage the enemy economy, fought against forcible recruitment of working hands and forced enrolment, launched campaigns for denunciation of enemy agents concealed under the cloak of the trade unions, for denunciation of the so-called "code of labour". On the other hand, clandestine unions had

taken in hand the task of secretly placing their men permanently in the occupied areas to increase their ranks and to defend their bases in industrial enterprises, to prepare for the triumphant entry of our troops in the cities, and the take over of their administration by the people's power organs.

(To be continued
in the next issue.)

Death Toll Since Chasnala Disaster

Since the Chasnala disaster on December 27, 1975, when 375 colliery workers lost their lives in the worst ever colliery accident, about twenty more workers lost their lives and several more were seriously injured in a number of colliery accidents in different parts of the country up to the time of our going to the press. A diary of the accidents leading to these deaths and injuries is given below:

5 January: A conveyor attendant killed in Kunustoria Colliery (West Bengal.)

28 January: Five workers were killed in a roof-collapse in the Bellampalli Colliery (Singareni).

31 January & 1 February: Two workers killed and five injured in two accidents; one in Asansol and another in Dhanbad Coalfield.

2 February: Three workers seriously injured in Nonidih colliery.

3 February: Four workers seriously injured in west Ramkanali Colliery.

4 February: Two workers

killed, in two accidents one each at Katras Choitodih Colliery and Keshalpur Colliery.

5 February: One worker killed in an accident in Patmohana Colliery (Asansol).

16 February: One worker killed in collision with moving Coal tub in a colliery in Dibrugarh Dist. (Assam).

18 February: Three workers killed in a roof collapse in Madhuband Colliery (Bihar) of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.

19 February: Two workers killed in poisonous gas in Bardoloi Colliery in Dibrugarh Dist. (Assam).

22 February: One worker killed and one other seriously injured in a roof collapse in the New Kenda Colliery (W. B.).

Without Comment

"Never did any pretender speculate in more stupid fashion upon the stupidity of the masses" (Eighteen Brumaire And Louis Bonaparte, by Karl Marx, quoted by Labour Minister Shri K.V. Raghunatha Reddy in the Parliament).

TUI Body Protests Against Victimization of Hotel Workers

The Trade Unions international of food, Tobacco, Hotel and Allied Industries Workers has extended solidarity support to the victimized workers of Ritz Continental Hotel in Calcutta.

In a letter to the management of the Hotel, Maria Del Carmen Amaro, General Secretary of the TUI body has protested against the "illegal and arbitrary termination of the services of 32 women workers of the hotel, especially now when the world is observing the International Women Year".

The TUI body has demanded immediate reinstatement of the victimized workers with

CITU Appears Before Chasnala Court of Enquiry

The Chasnala Court of Enquiry presided over by Ujjal Singh had a sitting at Dhanbad on 26 February. The CITU and its two affiliated unions, Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India and Bihar Colliery Kamgar Sangh appeared before the Court. A list of documents required was earlier submitted by the CITU.

... ..
The next date of hearing would be on 11 March while all parties have been asked to file the Statement regarding the causes and circumstances of the Chasnala accident by 10 March.

payment of back wages and full continuity of service and "withdrawal of all chagre-sheets and suspension order issued to the members of Ritz Continental Hotel Employees' Union fighting against the unfair agreement that has been rejected by the great majority of the workers of your hotel.

Kerala Newsletter

In the elections to the Works Committee of the PWD Engineering workshop at Chakka, CITU Union has won a big victory—capturing seven seats out of 10. Of the remaining seats, two were won by the AITUC and one by UTUC.

102 workers have been laid off in the Travancore Rayon Factory at Perambavoor. Besides, about 70 casual workers have been denied jobs. No prior intimation or notice was given by the management about this lay-off.

The hosiery industry in Kerala is in crisis. Twenty factories were in existence since about 20 years back, but today only four are working. According to the owners, the continuous increase in sales tax imposed by the State Govt. has brought about this situation. The total yearly demand of hosiery in Kerala amounts to Rs. 6 crores, but only Rupees one crore worth of hosiery is being produced in the State. Even half of this production is lying unsold.

UN Staff On Strike

The Strike by employees of the United Nations on Feb. 25, brought the work of the UN Human Rights Commission, the International Narcotics Control Board and other UN agencies at Geneva to a complete halt.

It is likely that the strike will also prevent the reopening tomorrow of the disarmament conference which has been taking place at Geneva for the past 14 years.

Ninety per cent of the employees were said to be supporting the strike called to demand a 20 per cent pay increases and better family allowances.

Some 2,000 persons are said to be involved in the strike action which is the first in the 40-year history of the Palace of Nations.

To The Readers

We are not able to publish Legal Notes in this issue.

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