



THE WORKING CLASS

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29

Seventh November Greetings

B. T. Ranadive

ON the great epoch making day of Seventh November the CITU sends its revolutionary greetings to the working class, the trade unions, the AUCCTU and the peoples of the Soviet Union. The CITU calls upon all its State Committees and its unions to observe the day as a great international day in defence of peace, of opposition to the war plots of the imperialists against the USSR and the socialist world.

The Salvos of Liberation that were fired on Seventh November, 1917 announced the beginning of a new world, free from exploitation and poverty. The promise was kept by successive generations of revolutionaries who remained loyal to the behests of Marxism-Leninism, to the aspirations and ideals of those who worked and sacrificed for the cause of the great revolution. The proof is seen in the contrast between the two worlds of socialism and imperialism. The former inspite of the restraints put on its developments by increased defence expenditure rendered necessary to meet the war plots of the imperialists, has forged ahead with its economic advance, prosperity and well being of the people. The latter has got deeply stuck in the mire of crisis, and inflated defence expenditure for genocidal weapons to find a way out of its economic impasse.

The USSR succeeded in abolishing unemployment half a century back. Today also everyone is provided with a secure job in the midst of a rapid advance of industrial and technological revolution. In contrast the advanced capitalist countries, the USA and its western European partners, find themselves saddled with mass unemployment as a price for the advance of industrial and technological revolution.

The USSR is not affected by economic crisis as the capitalist countries are today. During the last five years its national income increased by 19 percent compared with six per cent in the USA. Industrial output rose by 18 per cent as against one per cent in the USA, and labour productivity increased by 14 per cent over the same period as against three per cent in the United States.

While registering this continuous advance the USSR and its people also took care of the defence of the country, of the armed defence of socialism.

Surrounded by a hostile imperialist world, facing its economic crisis and intent on war plots, the USSR had to keep its defences in tact and warned the would-be attackers that they would meet with powerful retaliation. Had it not prepared itself to meet all eventualities, the imperialists would not have hesitated to unleash aggression till now. The imperialists, the USA especially have been feverishly working to secure overwhelming technical and military superiority so that they can attack without much loss to themselves. The USSR and its working class have spoiled this game matching technical advance by technical advance and aggressive preparations by effective defence preparations. They had to divert billions of roubles from economic constructions but they did it. All this had a salutary effect and the imperialist aggressors were warned that nuclear war will not be a one sided affair.

The recent rush of destructive missiles to Europe once again is meant to ensure arms superiority to the imperialists before launching aggression. The USSR has again foiled the game by warning that she would deploy cruises and other missiles in submarines cruising within striking distance of the USA and that the USA will not escape unhurt if it dares attack with its missiles stationed in Europe.

The USSR correctly insists that in the present conditions parity in arms strength is the only guarantee of peace and it should not be disturbed. But the USA not only refuses to withdraw the missiles but is also preparing for chemical warfare and space warfare. This vigilance regarding defence, this preparedness to meet the aggressive moves effectively has saved the world from the holocaust of a war. What stands today between peace and US attack on socialist countries is the Soviet deterrent, the armed strength of the Soviet Union. The strength of the Soviet Union is a factor in favour of peace and the freedom of the Third World countries. India

herself will not be able to protect herself against attacks from the well armed Pakistani regime without the friendship and help of the USSR.

It will be seen from this how reactionary is the outlook of those who indulge in talks about two superpowers.

The liberating role of the Soviet Union and its defence was seen in practice after the November revolution. By defending the revolution against internal civil war and external intervention of 1919 and 1920 the revolutionary fighters kept the door open for national liberation of people and their advance to Socialism.

During the Second World War when they faced the barbarous attack of the Nazi army the Soviet leaders and people did not forget their responsibility to the peoples of the world. Stalin the great leader and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the all union Communist Party addressing the Soviet People on July 3, 1941 said, "the goal of the patriotic war being waged by all peoples of our country against the fascist oppressors is not only to eliminate the danger hanging over our country, it is also to aid all European people groaning under the yoke of German Nazism".

Over 20 million Soviet people lost their lives in the anti-fascist struggle. But their sacrifices unleashed vast forces of liberation throughout the world bringing liberty to millions of enslaved people. The historic victory of the Chinese revolution, the independence of India, the collapse of the colonial system were all facilitated by the mighty victory of the Soviet army over Hitler's hordes.

While keeping its powder dry the USSR, a Socialist country does everything to avert war and spare the world's millions the horrors of nuclear destruction. As a working class state acting in solidarity with the workers of the world and the toiling people, it seeks imposition of peace on the imperialists as the best way of frustrating the war mongers. It knows that tens of millions, all innocent people in all countries will be done to death if the U.S. madmen succeed in their designs. It knows that a nuclear war may make the world uninhabitable for human being and end in the extinction of human race and civilisation just at a time when prospects of freeing millions from poverty are open and bright. It therefore exposes and opposes the diabolical war plans of Reagan and the U.S. administration and calls on all people to carry the battle for world peace. That is why Soviet leaders make one proposal after another to protect peace. They have called for nuclear free zones to start with. On August 27 the Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko said that the Soviet Union stood for the establishment of nuclear free zones. He also called for battle field nuclear weapons to be withdrawn from Central Europe and for Europe to be rid of medium range and tactical nuclear weaponry altogether. Acceptance of these proposals will immediately remove the main danger spots in the world and relax the international situation. But the U.S. and its European allies are not willing to withdraw the Pershing and Cruise missiles stationed in Europe. Withdrawal of these missiles occupies a central place in the struggle to

avert war.

The USSR has assured the peoples of the world, the toiling millions of all countries, men and women of the globe, that it will not be the first to use the nuclear strike. Imperialist powers have not responded by giving a similar assurance, thereby revealing their treacherous intention. The U.S. in fact is preparing for a first strike and assuring its people that such a strike will lead to a limited nuclear war with danger and destruction only for one side.

All peace loving forces, all who prize freedom and democracy, hail the constant struggle for peace waged by the Soviet Union and the socialist countries. Everyone must be conscious and grateful that the USSR is fighting a battle for human survival through its struggle for peace. Both its struggle for defending itself and its efforts for averting war have a liberationist meaning for mankind.

On Seventh November while calling on the Soviet people to defend the country the Central Committee of the CPSU has not forgotten the peoples of Asia and Africa fighting for their freedom. The Seventh November slogans of the CPSU conveys its fraternal greetings to the peoples waging courageous struggles for stronger national independences and social progress; they include fraternal greetings to the fighters for freedom, democracy and socialism, languishing in fascist prisons; they convey warm greetings to the people of Africa fighting against imperialism, colonialism and racism. They call upon the peoples of the world to demand an end to the aggressive action of the USA against Nicaragua and to press for the liberation of Grenada from US occupation.

Asking all people to participate in the mighty struggle for peace the CPSU appeals to them to step up the struggle to remove the danger of nuclear war, resolutely expose the aggressive intrigues of imperialism, militarism and revanchism, expand and rally the anti-war movement.

This initiative to protect peace and the freedom of other peoples can come only from a socialist state and the socialist system. On Seventh November we hail the mighty defensive strength of the Soviet Union. We hail its principled efforts to save world peace, we hail its concern for freedom of all people and protecting the gains of socialism.

The workers and unions following the CITU must throw themselves heart and soul in the struggle to take the message of peace to our people and rouse them to frustrate the war plots of U.S. imperialism. International solidarity demands that India's workers should occupy front line position in defeating U.S. plans to disturb world peace, launch nuclear war and destroy the gains of socialism.

They should warn the people that the U.S. war plans are not directed only against the USSR, they are an instrument to achieve U.S. global domination to re-enslave countries of Asia and Africa. The hostility towards India which stands for peace and non-alignment and the incitement to Pakistan to develop enmity towards India are part of the war plan. India's freedom and integrity are inextricably linked with the success of the peace struggle.

CITU General Council Meeting

- **Fight Authoritarianism**
- **Consolidate Working Class Unity**
- **Expose Imperialist Conspiracies**

THE General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 gave the clarion call to further consolidate the working class unity to save democracy against the authoritarian onslaught of the Congress(I) Government and its drive towards a dictatorial one party rule. It further called upon the working class to build up an impregnable unity to defeat the divisive and secessionist forces and the imperialist conspiracies to dismember the country and forge ahead with its task from protecting the working class unity to protecting the unity and integrity of the country.

The meeting which was earlier scheduled to be held from August 24-26, was postponed in view of the unprecedented situation created by the Congress(I) by toppling the N.T. Rama Rao ministry, and to enable the CITU unions to participate massively in the Save Democracy Day on August 25.

The meeting granted leave of absence to the following comrades who informed about their inability to attend the meeting:

Manoranjana Roy, Krishnapada Ghosh, Ahiliya Rangnekar, S. Y. Kolhatkar, Sushila Gopalan, Mythily Shivaraman, V.P. Chintan, Haridas Malakar, P. Thirugmana Sambandam, K.K. Roy Ganguly, Ananda Pathak, N.V. Bhaskara Rao, Santi Ghatak, Ajeya Rout, Rabin Majumdar, P. Satyanarayana, Amal Ghosh Dastidar, K. Ramani, Santosh Dutta, Haradhan Jha, Lakhan Bagdi, Sujit Das, Ardhendu Dakshi, Radhika Ranjan Banerjee, B.P. Mukherjee, D. Bhattacharjee, Balaji Das and P.L. Mankar. Tripura State Committee sent a telegramme that no body will be able to attend. T.K. Rengarajan could not attend the meeting as he was in jail.

The meeting was held in Parmanand Hall, the arena being named Durga Das Shirali Nagar to commemorate his memory and his great contribution to fight and defeat the Punamia-Dhanda group of disruptors and uphold the banner of CITU in the State.

The meeting was preceded by hoisting of the red flag by Com. B.T. Ranadive, President of CITU amidst slogan shouting. Com. BTR then placed wreaths on the martyrs memorial followed by all other members. Com. Krishna Kant Verma, President of the State CITU thereafter read out the welcome address. In his address he traced the development of the CITU in the state after coming out from the erstwhile reformist and collaborationist leadership, following the path of class struggle facing

- **Save Democracy**
- **Defeat Divisive Forces**
- **Struggle for Peace**

ruthless repression and through bloodshed and defeating the designs of the disruptionists.

Com. B.T. Ranadive then delivered his presidential address. (Full text of BTR's address has been published in the last issue).

Com. Samar Mukherjee then moved the resolutions on martyrs, on homage to Com. Yuri Andropov and on condolences expressing deep sorrow over the passing away of Comrades Sudhin Kumar, Vice-President, P. K. Kurane, Working Committee Member, D.D. Shirali, Nerode Chakraborty, General Council members and Hrish Banerjee, former Working Committee member of CITU.

The meeting then elected the Resolution Committee and Credential Committee as follows:

Resolution Committee: P.K. Ganguly (Convenor), K.N. Ravindranath, Chittabrata Majumdar, Biren Roy, A.K. Padmanabhan and P. Sanzgiri.

Credential Committee: Kali Ghosh (Convenor), N. Padmalochanan and P.R. Krishnan.

On Verification

M.K. Pandhe placed a note on the question of verification with which the Govt. was proceeding for the determination of the status of the Central Trade Unions. The procedure adopted by the Government has been heavily loaded in favour of the INTUC. CITU in principle was therefore for conduction of secret ballot in this respect which both the Government and the INTUC opposed. Since several other trade unions had submitted their claims to the Government, Com. Pandhe reported that the constituents of the National Campaign Committee had submitted proposals for modification of the present procedure. Supplementing the report Nrisingha Chakraborty pointed out that the Government has already taken a move in Food Corporation of India for recognition through check off system. CITU unions therefore should be very particular about payment of affiliation fees, giving affiliation numbers and submission of Annual Returns. After discussions it was decided that all CITU unions should keep their records up to date so that the Government cannot bypass and exclude the CITU from the various committees.

General Secretary's Report

Placing the General Secretary's report, Com. Samar Mukherjee dealt at length on the drive to-

wards a one party dictatorial rule by the Indira regime. The recent topplings of the Farooq Abdullah Ministry of Jammu and Kashmir and the N.T. Rama Rao Ministry of Andhra Pradesh made it clear that the Congress (I) Government was bent upon to scuttle all democratic institutions and the verdict of the people. The debate floated on the Presidential form of Government with the express sanction of Indira Gandhi was a diabolical measure to destroy Parliamentary democracy which stood as an obstacle to her dictatorial ambitions. It was only because of the united and determined countrywide actions of the people and particularly in Andhra Pradesh, that the attack was stemmed for the time being. But it was only a temporary respite. The working class has to remain vigilant and step up the united battle against the authoritarian drive for the safeguard of democracy. On the rise of the divisive and secessionist forces, he drew the pointed attention of the members to the imperialist conspiracies behind them to dismember the country. The happenings in Assam and Punjab have laid bare the role of the U.S. imperialists and their allies to balkanise the country. He made a scathing attack on the Congress (I) Government which not only failed to protect the unity and integrity of the country, but was not above making alliances with the divisive forces for its narrow electoral gains sacrificing the national unity. He called upon the members to carry the message to the grass root level of the working class that they have to accept the task to unite the people against the divisive forces, expose the role of the imperialists and fight against the policy of the Government. Referring to the increasing offensive of lockouts and closures and the draconian measures to take away the right to strike, he explained the anti-labour policy of the Government which subverted the interests of the monopolists. He highlighted the united struggles of the working class under the banner of the National Campaign Committee and impressed upon the fact that but for the initiative of the CITU such united actions could not have been made. He urged for further stepping up of the independent activities of CITU to draw in wider sections of the working people and the trade unions and consistently carry forward an ideological campaign among the working class to channelise their growing resentment against the bourgeois-landlord Government towards the development of left and democratic forces. He reiterated the CITU's call for a Confederation so that a blue print for an alternative policy on vital questions affecting the labour and the people could be chalked out and the united actions of the working class could be advanced accordingly.

(Abridged form of the General Secretary's report has been printed hereafter).

M.K. Pandhe reported on the situation in coal industry and said that although the Government has now called a meeting of the JBCCI, the workers will continue to make preparations for the proposed indefinite strike if their demands are not taken up in the meeting and acceded to.

Discussions on General Secretary's Report

The report of the General Secretary was elaborately discussed by members from all the states. It was very pertinent that the entire discussions were focused on the happenings in Andhra Pradesh and in Punjab and the unremitting efforts put up by the CITU unions to launch united struggles to resist the authoritarian drive of the Congress(I) on one hand and the divisive forces on the other, along with their fight against closures and lockouts.

Based on the Presidential speech by B.T. Ranadive, they also specifically deliberated on the crisis in the textile industry. M.K. Pandhe reported on the development in the efforts made by CITU for an all India convention in this respect along with other trade unions. The meeting decided to go ahead with the efforts for a countrywide united movement demanding nationalisation of the textile industry.

Speaking on the General Secretary's report, Prabhakar Sanzgiri (Maharashtra) pointed to the severe crisis in the textile industry. He said that in Maharashtra alone about 1,10,000 workers are affected by closures and retrenchments. While the number of workers have been drastically reduced in the textile mills, the profit hunting owners have increased the number in the power looms, and in the powerlooms there are no labour laws. After ten years the Government revised the minimum wage, but again suspended its own notification under pressure from the owners. He also focused at the tyre industry where the tyre magnates had cut down productions by 25 per cent and reduced the wages by 40 per cent. He briefed about the struggle of the CITU unions which had been the particular targets of the managements. Sanzgiri also briefed about their participation in the struggle on NTR issue and highlighted the efforts of CITU to maintain communal harmony during the recent Bhiwandi riots.

S.N. Solanki (Haryana) elaborated the struggles waged by the CITU unions and their consistent efforts for bringing in other trade unions to fight against the closures and lockouts in the state and against the attempt of the Government to sell the public sector undertaking, Haryana Concast to a private shark. He also described how the Bhajanlal Government openly fanned up communal passions and propagated the son of soil theory to disrupt the united struggle of the workers. He said that despite all provocations the CITU unions worked hard to maintain communal harmony and also joined the struggle on the Andhra Pradesh episode.

R. Umanath (Tamilnadu) elaborated the joint struggles initiated by CITU in the State against closures, lockouts and against the anti-labour policies of the State and Central Governments of AIADMK and Congress(I) respectively. He gave examples of the various strike actions and of the 12th September statewide general strike in which the workers participated in massive numbers despite ruthless repression by the police. He impressed upon the point that

in struggle against closures and lockouts the CITU has to draw in the support of not only all sections of the workers, but also of the people, as these are anti-social acts throwing thousands of workers jobless. So far it has been a fight between the employers and the employees. It has to be turned into a fight between the employers and the people. Referring to the proposal of Workers' Sector advanced by A.K. Roy he said that in this situation of capitalist crisis, the economist advocates of capitalism all over the world have been suggesting Workers' Sector as a method to pass on the burden of the sick units to the workers while retaining the profitable undertakings. In the Indian context when there is an urgent need to expose the anti-social acts of the industrialists who siphon away funds from various industries in quest for super profits and render them sick and throw out thousands of workmen to the streets jobless, the suggestion of Workers' Sector would be a plea to enable the industrialists to cover up their anti-social acts and pass on the burden of the crisis to the workers. No one advocating revolutionary theories should confuse the slogan of Workers' Sector with anything favourable to workers, he said. He also highlighted the massive participation of CITU in all the continuous action programmes demanding the reinstatement of N.T. Rama Rao. On the Punjab happenings, he briefed about the efforts of the State CITU to educate the workers on the conspiracy of imperialism to dismember the country and the failure of the Congress(I) Government to maintain the national integrity, rather trying to utilise the divisive and secessionist forces for its narrow electoral gains. He also deliberated on the crisis in the textile industry in the state and said that the managements were demanding Rs. 200 from each worker to make the industry healthy. He reiterated the demand for nationalisation of the textile industry. He briefed about the efforts of the State CITU to mobilise the working women in trade unions and champion their specific demands, and also explained the efforts of CITU to fraternise the peasantry and agricultural workers. He said that the state CITU has already collected Rs. 40,000 from the workers for contribution to the struggles of the peasants and agricultural workers in the state. Speaking on the situation in Sri Lanka where the Tamil speaking people were subjected to genocide, he described how the State CITU and the comrades struggled to ensure that the anger of the people was not directed to chauvinistic channels helping the imperialist conspiracies.

Mangat Ram Pasla (Punjab) explained how the policy of drift by the Centre and failure of the Akali leadership to denounce the activities of the extremists accentuated the situation in Punjab. He said that the consciousness of the workers and the people regarding the conspiratorial role of imperialism to destabilise the country however was very low despite the fact being fully laid bare. He explained how braving all dangers to their lives the CITU activists made continuous efforts to draw in other trade unions and hold campaigns to maintain communal harmony and expose the real story behind the

secessionist movement.

Md. Amin (W. Bengal) said that CITU was carrying forward the struggles in W. Bengal facing stiff opposition and gangster attacks from the INTUC. In the process 400 cadres of CITU had lost their lives during the last seven years of Left Front Govt. He rejected A.K. Roy's observation that incidence of strike struggles had come down in W. Bengal and said that during the last seven years the maximum number of strikes had taken place in the state as compared with other states. All the struggles had the support of the Left Front Govt. Of course the Left Front Govt had opposed several unjustified strikes initiated by INTUC only to slander the left front Govt. without any justified demands. He highlighted the united strike of the jute workers in which the INTUC also was compelled to join. Considering the rabid anti-labour and adamant attitude of the jute barons, getting the support of the Congress(I) Central Govt, he said that the strike would not have been successful without the support of the left front government. The jute barons however, true to their character, were not implementing the agreement and had created an artificial shortage of raw jute, selling it at exorbitant prices. He said that the jute barons were bent upon to ruin the industry and make the workers and the millions of jute growers destitute. The struggle for nationalisation of jute industry therefore was being carried forward. Md. Amin also drew attention of the members to the attitude of Centre making political discrimination against the Left Front Government squeezing all the rightful financial grants. He said, the trade unions have to take up the demand for more financial resources to the states to enable them to implement their developmental plans. He referred to the 18 point demands of the Left Front Govt. to the Centre and the successful bundhs in pursuance of the same. He also referred to the bundh of 25th August on the Andhra Pradesh issue. Denouncing the divisive forces, he explained how despite provocations the Left Front Government had successfully kept the forces at bay with the support of the people. He also briefed about the struggle for peace in the state and described the massive participation of the workers on the 1st September Peace Day all over the State. He said however, that the workers have to be roused politically, the CITU in the State is making consistent efforts to guide the workers accordingly so that they take up the task of waging struggles on all fronts confronting the working class and the people.

K.N. Ravindranath (Kerala) pointed to the struggles of workers in the traditional industries in the state like cashew, coir, bamboo, toddy tappers, fisheries, artisans, etc. who were denied of minimum wage even. He said that the policy of the Karunakaran Govt. was affecting those industries adversely, where 15 to 20 lakh workers were employed and over one crore people were dependent on them. Initiated by CITU workers of seven traditional industries had now started joint struggles. He also highlighted the glorious strike struggle of the electri-

city workers of the state and the general struggle of the workers against closure and lockouts.

Premkrishan Sharma (Rajasthan) referred to the struggle in J K Synthetics and said that the Government, police and the management gangsters had all combined to attack the CITU union in the establishment. However, braving all repressions the workers were carrying forward the struggle heroically. Referring to the crisis in the textile industry he said most of the textile mills were closed in the State. He reiterated the proposal for an all India movement demanding nationalisation of the textile industry. He also referred to the small industries in the state which were adversely affected by the closures and said that the State CITU was making full efforts to build up joint struggles on these issues.

G.K. Parmar (Gujarat) referred to the massive closures of the textile mills in the state whereby more than 50,000 workers have been affected. He highlighted how CITU was initiating joint struggles demanding nationalisation of the textile industry.

Chandi Prasad (Bihar) elaborated in glorious strike struggle by HEC workers, NGOs and others. He also described the successful Bihar Bundh on the NTR issue and also the efforts of CITU to mobilise workers in struggle for peace and observance of 1st September.

Joginder Sharma (Delhi) high-lighted the various struggles conducted by CITU and also the joint struggles initiated by it against closures, on NTR issue, in Modinagar, the observance of 1st September, etc.

Daulatram (UP) highlighted the undeterred struggles waged by CITU against closure of J K Rayons and other units despite the repression unleashed by the state machinery conniving with the gangster elements. He gave examples of the jail bharo movement, the 11th July statewide strike and other programmes in this respect.

K. Venkateshwaralu (AP) highlighted the massive participation of the workers on the NTR issue in the continuous movement and the series of bundhs.

P K Maitra (MP) referred to the weakness of the Joint Action Committee in coal in the state as also the NCC. He however explained the efforts of CITU to build up joint struggles on various issues.

Sivaji Patnaik (Orissa) also referred to the various closures including the textile mills in the state and the united struggles initiated by CITU in the various issues.

C. Nanjundappa (Karnataka) highlighted the 25th August bundh and the joint struggles against closures and lockouts.

S Manjrekar (Goa) referred to the struggles initiated by CITU against closures, retrenchments and also against the divisive forces mobilising large sections of workers.

Jamini Saha (West Bengal) referred to the crisis in textile industry. He said that the textile magnets in W. Bengal were refusing to implement the previous agreement. He urged for an all India movement demanding nationalisation of the textile industry.

Speaking on the problems of working women Vimal Ranadive urged for formation of coordination committees in all the states under the guidance of

CITU and holding of regular conferences and conventions of the working women. She emphasised the need for organising the working women in unorganised sectors like beedi, construction, etc. Elaborating the point BTR said that although CITU was coming up in many states with the problems of working women, yet much more has to be done. He warned the members of the imperialist backed feminist organisations and urged upon them to champion the demands of the working women and elevate them to share leadership in the trade unions.

The Credential Committee thereafter placed its report which was passed on to the Secretariat for correction of some anomalies. According to the corrected report, 168 new applications were received for affiliation with a membership of 36,167. Affiliation was granted to 115 unions with a membership of 22,366 which had completed all formalities. The rest would be granted affiliation subject to their completing all formalities. Because of lack of time, the resolutions however could not be moved, except the resolution on danger of war which was moved by Samar Mukherjee and supported by P.K. Ganguly. All other resolutions were passed on to the Secretariat for adoption with amendments if necessary. *(All the resolutions after being adopted by the Secretariat in its meeting held on October 12, are being published in this issue).*

M.K. Pandhe thereafter briefed on the visit of the CITU delegation to China. Addressing the meeting on the second day, Jyoti Basu urged upon the members to carry forward the campaign for the united struggles at the grass-root level. He underscored the falsity of the Approach Paper on the Seventh Five Year Plan and said that capitalist planning cannot alleviate poverty. Highlighting the 18-point Demand Charter formulated by the Left Front Government of West Bengal to the Centre, he urged upon the members to campaign for it.

Summing up by BTR

Concluding the meeting B.T.R. explained the role of the CITU as the unifying force and urged upon the members to carry forward the task meticulously correctly adopting united front tactics. Trade union unity is essential to bring the masses of the working class to the point of class struggle. Along with this the CITU unions must wage unrelenting struggle for peace and expose the U.S. imperialists for bringing the world to the brink of a nuclear war. The working class has to support the efforts of the Soviet Union and the Socialist countries for peace and safeguard the achievements of Socialism against the imperialist manoeuvres. At the same time the working class must realise that all their efforts to unite the ranks will lead nowhere if they do not fight the divisive forces and expose the conspiracies of imperialism. The CITU unions have to fight the internal divisive forces and the external forces of imperialism, as well as against the policy of the bourgeois-landlord government to achieve the objective.

A mass procession and rally was held on 29th in which thousands of workers from all over the State participated. The rally was addressed by BTR, Samar Mukherjee and Jyoti Basu.

Report of the General Secretary

(Abridged Form)

Samar Mukherjee

THE period of 16 months that have passed since our last conference at Kanpur are packed with events of great significance. The report placed by the State Committees will reveal the hurdles that were in their way and how, almost single handed they had to defend the line of CITU, keep the working class united and carry on the struggle in defence of national integration of our country as well as against the ferocious attacks that were unleashed by the ruling class in order to pass on the burden of the economic crises to the working class and the people. This period shows how determined struggles have been conducted against closures, lock outs and retrenchments. This period also will show as to how the slogan of united action of the working class was implemented by us, how vacillations had cropped up in the united movement and how we had to take up the threads of unity and reforge the unity to resist the onslaughts.

Guidelines from Kanpur Conference

An over-all review was made in our Kanpur Conference which had laid down the policies to be followed by the CITU and we have to render an account to ourselves as to how far we have been able to implement the directives of the conferences on all important events.

Struggle for Peace

The conference in the resolution 'Danger of War and Struggle for Peace' directed as under "The conference warns the working class of the growing danger of a nuclear holocaust and calls upon it to build up mass united struggle for the defence of peace exposing the US designs".

Com. President in his address to the Kanpur conference stated "but it has to be recognised that the trade union movement of our country under the influence of different ideologies is hardly playing its part in this gigantic struggle against human genocide. We ourselves have been some what lagging behind".

A little progress has since been made. From our Working Committee meeting held at Jamshedpur we had given a call for observing December 20-28 as the period to intensify campaign on peace and both on 20th December in West Bengal and on 28th December in Kerala there have been huge mobilisations for the struggle of peace. In Tripura on 24th April this year a huge mobilisation has been organised. There has been some developments in the

national political arena also. The CPI (M) and seven other left and opposition parties along with the mass organisations following them held a convention in Delhi on March 8 & 9 from which a call was given to observe a Peace Day on April 13, 1984. In Calcutta there was a huge demonstration before the USIS building.

Our comrades in Delhi conducted a cycle procession. There are no reports, however, from other states as to how this date was observed. Some of the reports from various state committees are eloquently silent on this point. Also, September 1 this year was not observed as widely as last year. Our weakness in this respect persists and therefore we have to continue to educate the working class on the necessity of continuing the struggle against "Dangers of Nuclear War and For Peace". We have to consider our weakness in the background of the developing peace movement through out the world in which forces hitherto sceptical to the movement are now taking part and the movement has now acquired a very wide dimension. We have to remedy this situation and have to conduct programmes of our own.

Rise of Divisive and Secessionist Forces

In our last conference we discussed at length the situation in Assam, the U.S. hand behind it, the Punjab situation and the communal and casteist forces which are threatening to disrupt the working class unity. It was stated in relation to the oppressed castes, "it cannot be said that our trade unions are aware of the danger, are aware of the fact that large sections of these people are already showing their indifference to trade union organisations. Unless the trade unions recognise this reality, take into consideration that large sections of workers have vital problems other than the one relating to the common problem of defending the economic conditions, their appeal will cease to be all pervasive. In Indian conditions the workers are not free from feudal social discrimination on the ground of caste and religion. This fact our trade unions must grasp in conducting their activities".

The resolution on struggle against divisive forces gave the following call to the working class: "The Conference calls upon all its units to protect the unity of the working class by carrying on a consistent fight against the divisive forces of caste, communalism and secession, unite all sections of workers under their banner and on their strength fight the

disruptive forces, foil the game of imperialism and protect the unity of the country”.

Then came the Sri Lanka situation in which the Tamil speaking people were subjected to a genocide by the Sinhalese. It naturally affected the people of Tamilnadu and all parties vied with each other to rouse the passions of the people from a chauvinist angle. It was a very hard task for our Tamilnadu comrades to ensure that the just anger of the people was not directed into chauvinistic channels helping imperialist conspiracy. The danger due to communal disruption also increased manifold. Both the Hindu and Muslim fundamentalists are active. There had already been riots at Hyderabad, Bhiwandi etc.

What we are witnessing is a lack of awareness of this great danger. A campaign on the Punjab situation has been taken up by the CPI(M), and our comrades of CITU had co-operated in the campaign. We have to continue this campaign with a view to fighting secessionist activities, promoting class outlook, with an all India consciousness, expose the bankrupt policies of the Indira Government and develop united action of the working class throughout the country.

Closures, Lockouts

“The growing industrial sickness and closures and lockouts had been dealt with in the 5th Conference of CITU at Kanpur by Com P. Ramamurti in his report. The resolution adopted in Kanpur called upon the working class “to devise new effective forms of struggle to combat the managements’ new offensives and to mobilise public support to expose the Government against these anti-social acts”.

The total number of mandays lost during the period from 1980 to 1983 since Shrimati Gandhi had come back to power are as follows:—

Number of Mandays Lost (in Millions)

Year	Strikes	Lockouts	Total
1980	12.00 (55)	9.90 (45)	21.90 (100)
1981	21.20 (58)	15.30 (42)	36.60 (100)
1982	15.60 (47)	17.70 (53)	33.40 (100)
1983	9.6 (32)	20.1 (68)	29.8 (100)

(Figures in brackets represent percentage)

During 1983 the average duration of lock out was 64 days as against 36 days due to strike. The above figures are exclusive of the mandays lost due to the

Bombay textile strike which is nothing but a lockout imposed on the workmen.

Industrial Sickness

The mismanagement of the economy and its growing collapse leading to waste of productive power of society and loss of jobs for the workers is seen in the increasing number of sick industries — official euphemism for recession and mismanagement. The Annual Report of the Reserve Bank of India 1982-83 gives the following figures. It says that the provisional data on sick units in this category at the end of June 1982 was 439 involving aggregate bank credit of Rs. 1728.40 crores as compared to 422 units with aggregate outstanding bank credit of Rs. 1429.29 crores at the end of June 1981. Of the 439 large sick units identified by banks, viability studies in respect of 374 units have been completed; of these 320 have been considered as potentially viable, which means the rest 50 or so will have to close permanently. As at the end of June, 1982, banks identified 26,973 small scale sick units involving aggregate bank finance of Rs. 393.67 crores as compared to 22,360 sick units involving aggregate bank finance of Rs. 321.53 crores at the end of June '81. Of these, 5316 units were considered by banks as potentially viable and 14,576 units non-viable which again means, they must close. This is a picture of recession, mismanagement and bankruptcy. Sickness is spreading in an epidemic form in small-scale units. The Government admits that the total number of sick units has jumped from 22366 at the end of December 1979 to 60157 by the end of December 1982. During the last year it has increased by nearly 20 per cent. And a majority of these are destined to go out of production. Society must step in to stop this rot. All these industries can be put on their feet if the workers are taken into confidence and the owners share with them the responsibility of the management. Nationalisation of big sick industries accompanied by workers' participation in management, timely help to small scale units to be run with the help of the workers will rehabilitate all the sick industries and save enormous productive power from going waste.

The situation in the textile industry is very serious. The Government informed the Rajya Sabha that in all 1,09,773 workers employed in various textile mills in different states have been rendered jobless because of the closure of the mills. The statewide break up of the workers rendered jobless is Andhra Pradesh 2584, Bihar 500, Gujarat 36,753, Haryana 6,385, Karnataka 3,304, Madhya Pradesh 2,636, Maharashtra 15,276, Orissa 4,805, Rajasthan 2,212, Tamilnadu 12,839, Uttar Pradesh 4,046, West Bengal 4,723, New Delhi 6,847 and Pondicherry 6,860. But the report seems to be an under estimate. I would refer to you the report placed by the Gujarat State Committee of CITU which shows that in Gujarat alone 54,425 workers are affected due to closure. It is also known that in Bombay over 1 lakh textile workers are still out of job. This leads us to conclude that the figures given by the Government in

Rajya Sabha relate to permanent workers and not the casual and Badli workers who are rendered jobless due to closure of these textile mills.

As for the situation in the engineering industry, a report submitted by the West Bengal State Committee showed that in all 161 units are affected by closures and over 41,000 have been rendered jobless. This refers to only those units in which the CITU has its unions. Naturally the position all over the country is very serious. The report from Kerala State Committee shows how badly the traditional labour intensive industries have been affected in the present crisis. The special convention against retrenchment, lock outs and closures which was held in New Delhi on 20-1-84 therefore suggested concrete steps regarding closure, lockout, retrenchment, lay off and denotification. The resolution, warned the working class that "the struggle for a complete reversal of the anti-working class, anti-people policies of the government is going to be a long drawn battle and unless all sections of the working class and the people are united to resist these policies, the Govt. of India is not likely to give them up. It is only when a detailed analysis of an undertaking is made, the reasons for its becoming sick or being closed down are found out and the people made aware of the corrupt practices of the management, then only a powerful movement throughout the country for reversal of the policies of the government can be unleashed. CITU must take up the lead to unleash a campaign so that the people realise and act against these anti-social acts.

Growth of Struggles and Repression

The period from our last Conference at Kanpur till this General Council meeting is replete with the struggles of working class in various states and industries. The sweep of the movements took a new dimension with 17 political parties who joined in the Calcutta Conclave having supported various demands of the workers and calling upon people to observe February 13 as "Demand Day" which was observed on a large scale.

One marvels at the courage and determination with which our comrades in Assam are continuing their struggle although semi-fascist conditions have been imposed by the secessionists who with the connivance of the bureaucracy have occupied many unions. The struggle in Punjab was more for maintaining unity of the working class so that the communal passion which the secessionists have been trying to raise does not affect the working class. The struggles of our comrades in Haryana are being conducted in a situation where the Government machinery does not lift its little finger to resolve the industrial disputes which are raised by the CITU unions. The brutality with which the heroic struggle of Kota workers against retrenchment has been suppressed are known to you all. Despite such brutal repression and dastardly attack on the Kota Divisional Secretary Com. R.K. Swamy, the workers of J.K. Synthetics again struck work for which the

management deducted 8 days' wages as a penal measure. Similar murderous attack was made on the life of Com. Sudevan, leader of coal workers in Surakachar (MP) by the goonda hirelings of the local manager of W.C.L.

I would like to draw your attention to the united struggle of the jute workers which continued for 84 days. This was supposed to be an all India action. But U.P. Government invoked ESMA to illegalise the strike in jute industry just before the struggle and the management offered to the workers that they would implement whatever settlement is arrived at in West Bengal. With this assurance which the other unions accepted, the CITU had to fight single handed and they struck work for one day. Similar assurances were given to the jute workers of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Assam. But now after the West Bengal struggle is over the management in all other States are refusing to implement it. The workers in Raigarh, who joined the strike action are also continuing their struggle.

The united struggle of the Port and Dock workers from 15th March, 1984 was the longest ever strike in Port and Dock industry which continued upto April 11th, 1984. Here also all the four major federations of Port and Dock workers including that of the INTUC unitedly conducted this strike. But for the vacillation of the INTUC leadership the Port and Dock workers could have secured a better settlement.

I would also refer to the continuous struggle of the J.K. Rayon workers of Kanpur who are fighting against closure for over 15 months. After having conducted dharnas in Lucknow as well as in Delhi when assurance was given that the Government will take over the mill which was not fulfilled, the workers under the leadership of the CITU and various other central trade unions started a Jail Bhara movement where the police brutally lathi charged them.

I have also to refer to the determined struggle of the workers of Bhaskar Textile Mills (Orissa) and Anglo French Textile Mills, Pondicherry, who are fighting against illegal closure and lockout. I denounce the brutal firing and killing of 2 teen aged workers in Kandla Free Trade Zone who were fighting against bonded-labour-like service conditions. I also denounce the shooting down of Com. Khokan Bhoumick of Tripura who was leading a procession with the dead body of another Com. Bidhu Chakraborty who was brutally murdered by the extremists. I also condemn the firing that has been made at Vishakapatnam and other places. I have also to report to you with profound grief that the CITU activists in Modi Nagar were subjected to a brutal murdering spree by anti-socials who paraded themselves as HMS workers. In Tamil Nadu on July 1, last year, Com. Shakthi Vel, a leader of CITU union in Ashok Leylands, Hosur was done to death by a member of rival union. A most dastardly attack was made on the family members of Com. Ananta Rout, a member of Orissa State

Committee of CITU on September 24, last at Kalta iron ore mine by a gang of RSS workers killing his 5 year old son Sanjay and brutally wounding his wife and sister-in-law who survived after fighting against death for some time. Repression is now being organised by the Government by deployment of Central Industrial Security Force in various Central Public Sector industrial undertakings and by imposing ESMA banning strikes. We must understand that the growth in the struggles is now unnerving the ruling class and the ruling party which wants a docile working class in order to pass on the burden of crises on them, which the presence of a militant CITU union in any undertaking has almost made it impossible and hence the repression on the CITU workers is the heaviest.

On United Struggles of The Working Class

In the resolution on the anti-labour policies of the Govt. of India the Kanpur Conference called upon the working class "to further gear up the organisational machinery, mobilise all sections of the workers and launch consistent, militant and united struggles to resist the growth of authoritarianism and force the Government to change its policies". The Second National Convention of Trade Unions was an important step towards that. The action programme adopted in this convention for organising State level or District level conventions could not be carried in all States.

The CITU took initiative for fixing the dates for convention against lockouts, closures and retrenchment, on January 20, 1984. This convention also adopted a programme of action. After adoption of this programme efforts were made to implement the same at state levels. Thereafter the Workers March to Parliament was organised on April 18 by the National Campaign Committee.

In the meanwhile the workers in the Coal Industry went on token strike for 48 hours on June 4-5, 1984. The CIL management came down heavily by way of penal wage cut for 8 days, transfers, dismissals, suspensions and various other penal measures. The Joint Action Committee of 5 Central Trade Unions decided to go into an indefinite strike if the charter of demands which they had formulated was not considered by the authorities. The Government banned strikes in coal industry for 6 months by imposing ESMA. In this grave situation, at our initiative, the NCC met and had taken a decision to observe August 5, as coal miners solidarity day. It also condemned the ordinances on NSA and Special Courts. It has called upon all constituents of State units to hold demonstrations in the second week of September, 1984.

We must understand that the urge for unity is now gripping the working class. Even the workers following INTUC now feel that they cannot for all the times keep away from the united struggle. This powerful urge for unity must be utilised as a weapon in order to stem the growth of authoritarianism, to protect the working class and other toiling masses against the fierce attacks of the ruling class and the ruling party. But we cannot do it unless we make

the CITU strong, carry forward our systematic struggle for united action of working class, keep our independent initiative and adopt flexible attitude towards our partners trying to keep them as our allies in this struggle.

Ideological Campaign

In order to fight the divisive forces successfully and also to understand the role of the working class in the present social system particularly when alien influences is pervading the working class, it is necessary that our ideological campaign amongst the working class should be intensified. The resolution on Karl Marx adopted at our Kanpur Conference called upon the CITU unions and the working class "to assimilate the teachings of Karl Marx and carry forward their struggles on the basis of the Marxist doctrine with the objective of changing the social system".

In the Kanpur Conference, analysing the Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka election results, it was stated that "if the trade union movement and the working class is not active and conscious in the democratic struggle the discontent of the people centres round parties other than the left parties. The initiative of the united trade union movement is necessary to ensure that in the coming critical days when the masses who will be leaving the Congress (I) and searching for a new leadership, their discontent should be channelised towards left. Without this the masses will be oscillating between parties whose class outlook is not different. Only ideological struggle side by side with general democratic movement can make the working class active and conscious. The CITU journals, the Working Class and CITU Mazdoor are weapons to organise such a campaign on topical issues.

The Task Before the Organised Sector

Without developing close links with the peasantry, the agricultural labour and the democratic masses in and around isolated industrial establishments the workers would not be able to sustain themselves in the struggles against the owning class. The working class in the organised sector hardly form more than 1.5 per cent of the total population. They have therefore, to expand themselves beyond the ordinary trade union movement and come out in support of the peasants and the agricultural workers. The resolution on the struggles of the peasants and agricultural workers, adopted in our Kanpur Conference says "the Conference therefore, while hailing the rising struggles of the peasantry and the agricultural workers, calls upon the State Committees and the affiliated unions to take initiative to forge working alliance with the kisan and agricultural workers' organisations and lead the struggles championing their cause as well".

I am happy to report that Tamilnadu State Committee had decided to collect one Rupee per member per annum as solidarity fund for developing the movement of peasants and agricultural workers. The working class of Bombay, Thane and Raigad struck work on January 31, in support of the

struggle of the peasantry. The workers of Karnataka under the leadership of CITU participated in a general strike on June 11 this year and also resorted to mass picketing in support of the struggle of the peasantry and the agricultural workers. This trend of solidarity action with the struggle of the peasantry and the agricultural workers would have to be advanced much more in the coming days.

Equally important is the question of organising the unorganised labour. In the resolution on unorganised labour the Kanpur Conference directed that "CITU State Committees and the unions must therefore pay attention to the unorganised labour, take up their cause, organise them in order to ameliorate their conditions and bring them in the same stride of working class struggles to achieve the objective of united struggles". With the trend of the owners diverting work of perennial nature to contract labour in the organised sector it is necessary that the organised labour take up the cause of contract labour for an end to the contract labour system.

This also brings us to the question of unemployment. The resolution adopted in the Kanpur Conference sounds a note of warning in the following terms: "the Conference warns the affiliated unions to realise that unless they take up the cause of the unemployed, this vast army will be utilised by the Government and pit against their organised movements and demands. The conference therefore calls upon the unions and the working class and urges upon all other central trade unions to voice the demands of the unemployed and build up united struggles for a change in the policies of the Government.

We have not been able to do much in this regard but we must constantly remind ourselves of our failure so that while struggling against closure and retrenchment the conditions of the unemployed also are borne in our mind. We should also take note of the fact that a very powerful movement for reduction in working hours is sweeping the advanced capitalist countries and in some cases they have been able to fix 38.5 hours-week for a large number of workers.

Industrywise Activities

A new federation, Electricity Employees Federation of India has emerged during this period. Their foundation conference is marked with a demand by the organised labour to formulate a national energy policy. The papers circulated in the seminar constituted a basis on which the entire workers engaged in electricity industry would be roused and the people could be convinced about co-operation from the electricity workers in regard to the acute problem of electricity which is being faced by them in their daily life.

The All India Coal Workers Federation has held its second Conference on May 25-27, 1984 during this period. Here also an effort was made to pin

point the ills of the industry. But an indepth study of the problem rousing public opinion is yet to be made.

The All India Road Transport Workers Federation has very recently held its Second Conference at Madras on August 13-15. We hope the Federation will be able to make advancement by bringing together many non-affiliated unions to the Federation.

A broad meeting of the unions of construction workers was held at Delhi in August 1983, which has formed a co-ordination committee. If all the state committees pay attention to this industry in which approx. 6 million workers are engaged, the movement is bound to take a bigger sweep as this is one of the most sweated industries.

From the report of the All India Plantation Workers Federation it may be seen that certain problems have arisen in its functioning. A meeting of the working committee has been scheduled to be held here and we hope it would be able to overcome the difficulties.

Struggle in Public Sector

Most important is the question of struggle of the public sector employees. With the setting up of the DA Review Committee in January, 1983, the proposed on day country-wide strike was deferred. But there is an inordinate delay in reviewing the quantum of increase of DA and the government has taken a move to change the series of Consumer Price Index number from 1960 base to 1981-82 base on the basis of the recommendations of the Seal Committee. Protest has been raised when the Government elicited the opinion of the Central trade unions on the recommendations of Seal Committee. The CITU has submitted a memorandum on this question. The recommendations of the Seal Committee are so designed that the index number would not reflect the increase in prices of consumer goods.

The inequalities in wages and emoluments even among the organised sector have forced the workers to demand parity in wages. The State Government employees have not been paid the interim relief that has been granted at the central level and bonus which was granted last year on an ad-hoc basis. There are 67 public sector units who are governed by the Third Pay Commission recommendations including central rates of DA. The Bureau of Public Enterprises has intervened and in the name of bringing parity in the wages, industrial pattern of DA is being imposed. The peculiarity is that they have not proposed to give similar wage scales which have been settled in the Steel, Coal, BHEL and other 130 public sector units. So the Government is moving towards reducing wages wherever possible. The policy of the Government has brought the question of struggle in the public sectors once again.

Criteria for Minimum Wage

In the Central Advisory Committee on Minimum Wages for the past 2 years the CITU nominees are fighting to fix up criteria for fixing minimum wages. Programmes for fixing a reasonable minimum wage have been launched in many states but we have not been able to develop it on a countrywide basis. We have therefore to build up a campaign for proper minimum wage.

Organisation

I am happy to report that a new State level Organising Committee has been formed in Andaman and Nicobar Islands on December 6, last year. Several State Conferences have also been held. Our Assam Comrades who were not able to hold their State Conference due to the disturbed situation for the past few years have been able to hold a State Council meeting after a long time. One good feature in these State Conferences is that they self critically analysed that we are lagging behind in membership campaign. Almost all the reports in the State Conference admitted that our membership does not reflect our actual strength.

Membership campaign has got a significance of its own. A comparative analysis can show the change in co-relation of forces. In case the membership becomes stagnant or if the membership is reduced the union must analyse the reasons for the same and then only we would be able to bring about a change in co-relation of forces within the working class through movements. This would also enable us to judge to what extent we have been able to forge unity of the working class on the basis of a policy of class struggles as against the policy of class collaboration. It would therefore be our endeavour to impress upon the affiliated unions to undertake a membership campaign and correctly show the membership in the annual returns.

Democratic Functioning

The most important element in any trade union organisation is its democratic functioning. I hope every state committee and our unions would follow the principles of democratic functioning by involving the general masses of members in policy making on issues. This is a very important aspect of our functioning. Unless our members feel that they are a part of the policy making body of the organisation our mass base cannot be expanded. It must also be understood that failure to function the union democratically leads to bureaucratism which kills all initiative on the part of the masses of working class rendering them incapable of organisation and leadership. It impedes the task of organising the class that has the responsibility for championing and leading the democratic struggle in the country.

Working Women

Since the 4th Conference of CITU at Madras the question of organising the working women and pro-

moting them in the executive of trade unions has been emphasised in every meeting. But the situation has not changed much. I wish that our negligence to this very important section of our class must come to an end.

Our International Link

You must have noted that our link with the International trade union movement has been continuing to grow. Our relationship with both the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions (USSR) and All China Federation of Trade Unions have grown stronger. There have been numerous delegations from CITU who attended many international seminars or trade union conferences in socialist countries during this period. Many trade union representatives from various countries have also visited the CITU office. Our firm adherence to the line of Proletarian Internationalism has brought this happy state of affairs. Let us keep our loyalty to the principle of Proletarian Internationalism firm and unsagging.

The Task

The five year term of Smt. Indira Gandhi's Government is coming to an end. Talk of election is in the air. The past five years have shown that Smt. Gandhi has not learnt any lessons from her defeat in 1977. The policies remain unchanged. The authoritarian trend has started to grow.

There is also a talk of Presidential Form of Government. The coming election would be another political battle to organise the working class and the common people so that their wrath against this oppressive authoritarian Government is expressed in their denunciation of the party leading the Government, in the ballot box. It would be the task of every member of CITU to defeat Smt. Gandhi who represents the bourgeois-landlord class particularly the monopoly houses and protects the multinationals, as this is inseparably linked with the struggle for protection of trade union and democratic rights and for betterment of the standard of living of the people.

Com. Bhaskara Rao

CITU deeply mourns the sad demise of Com. N.V. Bhaskara Rao, Working Committee members of CITU, Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh State Committee of CITU and Secretary of the Hyderabad city unit of CPI (M), on October 24 following a heart attack. Com. Bhaskara Rao was only 55 at the time of his death. CITU recalls his great contribution and sacrifice for building up united struggles of the working class and the advance of CITU. It sends heart felt condolences to the bereaved members of his family.

JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 28-30, 1984

Resolutions

On Martyrs

THIS General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 pays homage to the memory of those martyrs who laid down their lives under police firings and gangster attacks, for their devotion to the cause of the working class and the toiling people, since the last General Council meeting.

The meeting pledges to carry forward the task for which those martyrs have laid down their lives. The meeting dips its red banner in memory of the martyrs.

Homage to Com. Yuri Andropov

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 expresses its profound shock and grief at the passing away of Comrade Yuri Andropov, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Soviet Union and the President of the Presidium of Supreme Soviet of the USSR, on February 10, 1984 at the age of 69.

Comrade Andropov headed the CPSU and the Soviet Government from November, 1982. Within such a short time he had earned the appreciation of all peace loving forces of the world as a relentless fighter of peace while never forgetting for a moment the responsibility of consolidating the defence of USSR and the socialist countries against the growing threat of a nuclear war from the U.S. imperialists. In his death the world communist movement and the people and the working class of USSR have suffered a great loss.

The General Council meeting dips its red banner in memory of this great revolutionary communist leader and conveys its heart-felt condolences to the AUCCTU and the working people of Soviet Union.

Com. D.D. Vashist

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 deeply mourns the sad demise of Com. D.D. Vashist, the General Secretary of Hind Mazdoor Sabha, on February 14, 1984.

The meeting recalls the services rendered by Com. Vashist towards strengthening the united movement of the working class under the banner of the National Campaign Committee. The meeting expresses its condolences to the bereaved members of his family.

On Condolences

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 expresses deep sorrow over the passing away of Comrades Sudhin Kumar, Vice-President, P.K. Kurane, Working Committee member, D.D. Shirali, Nerode Chakrabarty, E.S. Reghuvaran, General Council members and Hrishu Banerjee, former Working Committee member of CITU. The meeting remembers the sacrifices and services rendered by these comrades towards CITU and development of united trade union movements. The meeting sends its condolences to the bereaved members of their families and relatives.

On Danger of War and Struggle for Peace

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 denounces the U.S. imperialists for further endangering the peace and security of the world by escalation of the nuclear arms race and spreading it to the outer space. Having sabotaged the Geneva talks the Reagan administration and its NATO allies have precipitated the escalation by deploying the Cruise and Pershing-2 missiles not only in Europe, but also to other regions with reequipment of U.S. naval fleets and military bases in Asia, the Pacific, the Indian Ocean etc with new nuclear missiles. It has laid bare its political duplicity by talking of resumption of the Geneva talks while at the same time deploying new missiles against the Soviet Union.

The same duplicity and subterfuges are being resorted to by the U.S. imperialists on the June 29 proposal of the Soviet Union for holding talks at Vienna in September for an agreement against militarisation of outer space. Under its military-space programme the USA is rapidly building up a new anti-satellite system called ASAT to be made operational by 1987. Apart from escalating the nuclear and star war programme the Reagan administration has launched a planned programme of escalation of chemical and biological warfare also.

The combination of all these nuclear, chemical, biological and star warfare — the pursuit of the Reagan administration to exterminate the achievements of socialism and dominate the world has brought the world to the brink of the third world war. The inferno that will be created will lead to end of human race and cataclysm of the world itself.

This General Council meeting condemns the Reagan administration for embarking upon this

beastial path defying world opinion and the massive struggles of the people for peace most particularly in Europe and USA itself. This meeting demands immediate withdrawal of Pershing and Cruise missiles from Europe and resumption of talks for limiting, rather destruction of all nuclear weapons of mass annihilation and extends full solidarity to the struggle of the international working class and democratic movement against nuclear war and for peace.

This meeting expresses its grave concern over the expansion of the naval base of USA at Diago Garcia, in the Indian Ocean which has brought the danger of nuclear war at the doorsteps of our country. Self critically reviewing that the struggle for peace in India remains as weak as before, the meeting calls upon the State Committees and the affiliated unions to gear up the organisational machineries to mobilise all sections of working people and wage a continuous struggle for peace, thus joining the mainstream of the international struggle to frustrate the U.S. imperialists and their NATO allies in their war designs, not only as its international duty but also to safeguard peace in this sub-continent.

On Struggle of the Working Class in Advanced Capitalist Countries

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from Sept. 28-30, 1984 extends warm greetings to the working class of the advanced capitalist countries who have been waging united, determined and militant struggles against unemployment, inflation, closures, cut in social security measures, attack on trade union rights and for peace.

The characteristic feature of the struggles is the sharpening of class struggle in the background of a mounting anti-war movement, as the economic and social demands have merged with anti-monopolist and anti-imperialist demands and for overall democratic rights and freedom from imperialist interventions headed by their gendarme, the USA. The struggles indicate that the working people in the capitalist countries are increasingly becoming aware of the direct connection between the monopolist onslaughts on their living standards and the arms build up by the imperialist countries and their zingoist foreign policy. While inflation is running in double digits, registered unemployment in the OECD countries soaring to 35 millions, and closures have become a regular offensive on the working class to shift on them the burden of the deepening economic crisis, these capitalist Governments have been increasingly spending for militarisation of the economy and boosting up the profits of the military industrial complex as the only way to wriggle out of the crises. In USA alone, the centre of the military industrial complex, the registered unemployment has soared to 15 millions and over 15 per cent of the people have been thrown back below the poverty line.

The most significant of these struggles has been

the British coal miners' strike which began in March and has become the longest in Western Europe. The indomitable struggle put up by the two lakh coal miners against closure and loss of 20,000 jobs has built up in its stride the support of port and dock workers and various other sections of the workers including the TUC. Braving ruthless repression of the armed police, the workers are determined not only to save their jobs, but also to save the nationalised industry from being handed over to private sharks. The other struggles which rocked the capitalist world were steel workers strike in FRG for 35 hours work a week as a means to create new jobs and safeguard the existing ones, of the copper workers' strike in USA which completed one year on July 1, the wave of strike struggles in Belgium by the Steel workers, Port workers, aircraft engineers, school teachers, civil servants, etc., strike of shipyard workers of Greece and Spain, a general strike in France against closure of mines and furnaces, a general strike in Denmark, etc. Apart from these big struggles, innumerable strike actions took place against militarisation and austerity drives by the capitalist Governments. All these strike struggles have been waged braving violent counter attacks by the police.

This General Council meeting condemns the capitalist rulers for unleashing ruthless repression on the workers and extends full solidarity to the struggles of the working class in these countries.

On Repression of Political Workers in Iran

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 condemns the repression of all progressive forces by the Government of Iran, who have not only kept many political workers and progressive people under detention without trial but also are harassing them and demands of the Government of Iran early release of the workers of the Tudeh Party and OIFF (Majority).

This meeting also expresses concern over the continuing war between Iran and Iraq and demands an end of the same and early restoration of peace and amity between the people of these two countries.

On Divisive Forces and National Integration

This General Council meeting held at Jaipur on September 28-30, 1984 expresses serious concern over the rise and growth of secessionist and divisive forces, which being aided and encouraged by the imperialists, have threatened to dismember the country while at the same time disrupting the growing unity of the working class and democratic movement of the country. National integration, built up through decades of anti-imperialist struggle for independence, has been threatened as never before.

This meeting draws the pointed attention of the working class that by utilising the general dissatisfaction and discontentment among the people for the deterioration in the socio-economic condition including phenomenal rise in unemployment, seces-

sionist slogans were raised and movements initiated in Assam and Punjab, behind which the hands of the imperialists were clearly seen. Documents have come to light which show that there is a conspiracy to dismember our country and blakalise it and material help is being extended for insurgent activities in Tripura and Punjab.

Utilising the same discontentment, efforts are being made to alienate the ethnic groups and the minorities from the general democratic movement. The church, the Islamic fundamentalists and communal obscurantists and casteist forces have all tried to unleash fratricidal riots in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and elsewhere in the country and disrupt the growing unity of the working class movement. The ruling class instead of rousing the secular and democratic people of the country against these happenings relies solely on administrative machinery and sometimes patronises religious and communal feelings and utilises the same for narrow electoral gains.

This meeting calls upon the working class to realise that only a united working class with an all-India class outlook can mobilise the democratic masses around them and on their strength fight back the secessionist and disruptive forces and foil the nefarious imperialist plan of dismembering our country. This meeting congratulates the State Committees and affiliated unions who have already shown their awareness of this menace and are consistently struggling against these braving all dastardly attacks by these forces. This meeting appeals to them to intensify their struggle against these forces in its own class interest to protect the unity of the country and also for economic and democratic advance.

On Punjab

This General Council meeting held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 expresses deep concern over the developments in Punjab which lays bare a deep imperialist conspiracy heralding a grave danger to national unity and a big set back for the working class and democratic movement of our country, as the feeling of the Sikh masses have been wounded and there is a division among the people of Punjab.

Taking advantage of the persistent refusal of the Congress (I) Government at the Centre to settle the democratic demands of the people of Punjab and the attempt of the Akali leadership to combine the religious demands with the democratic ones, the secessionist and extremist forces turned the Golden Temple into a base from which they conducted mass killing of innocent people and raised the demand of Khalistan. The Akali leadership further compounded the situation by not denouncing the mass killing of innocent people and turning the holy shrine into a hotbed of imperialist conspiracy and an arsenal. The Congress(I) Government, by deploying the army to the Golden Temple, which could have been avoided if they had not gone back on the agreement arrived at with the opposition parties earlier and followed a

policy of drift, alienated the entire Sikh masses. The situation calls for immediate steps to assuage the hurt feelings of the Sikhs and to overcome the division among the people by restoring peace and amity among the people of Punjab, so that the imperialist conspiracy to dismember our country can be defeated.

This meeting therefore demands of the Congress(I) Government at the Centre to start a dialogue for a political settlement of the democratic demands and restoration of amity. This meeting while congratulating the Punjab State Committee and affiliated unions of CITU for their struggle to maintain the unity of the working class, appeals to them to continue their unremitting struggle against imperialist conspiracy and for winning over the Sikh masses to the democratic movement of the country.

On the Seventh Five Year Plan

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 draws the attention of the working class to the fiasco of planning in India laid bare by the Seventh Five Year Plan Approach Paper. The Approach Paper indulges in the same arguments as before of alleviation of poverty and growth of employment opportunities etc.

The Government's claim that the percentage of people below the poverty line have been brought down from 48 per cent at the beginning of the Sixth Plan to 37 per cent at the end of it, is totally unconvincing. So the objective set in the Seventh Plan to further reduce it to 23 per cent and then again to a more 10 per cent at the end of the Eighth Plan is a hoax to mislead the working class and the rural poor.

The claim of the Approach Paper that the growth rate during the first four years of the 6th Plan was 5 per cent, is also misleading. Taking even the 5th Year's growth rate into consideration which was maximum, the average growth rate during the five year period has been only 3.2 per cent.

The Approach Paper says that "a rapid advance to agricultural production is central to the strategy of the Seventh Plan". The two main planks of this agricultural strategy are expansion of cultivated areas and provision of inputs in new sectors. But the Approach Paper is silent about the vital question of land distribution. According to the draft 6th Plan document, after allowing for self cultivation by surplus owners, 215.1 lakh acres of surplus land could be taken over for distribution to the landless. But according to the mid-term appraisal, only 29.4 lakhs acres were taken over by the Government and only 20.5 lakhs acres were distributed. The scuttling of land redistribution is not simply due to the lack of political will of the Government. But it is a deliberate exercise of political will in favour of the landlords — the class which shares power in the Government. It is evidenced from the refusal of the Government to allow Presidential assent to the

Land Reform Bill passed by the left front Government of West Bengal more than three years ago. Regarding the provision of inputs also, it is known that the benefits accrue to the landlords only and the vast majority of the peasantry are debarred from them.

The Approach Paper is totally silent about urban unemployment. While it was admitted that the beginning of the 6th Plan there was a backlog of 22.1 million unemployed and that 32 millions would be new job seekers, a fantastic claim was made that 30 millions would be provided with jobs during the 6th Plan period. That the claim was simply bogus is evident from the fact that the registered employment recorded a rise from 19.75 millions at the beginning of 1980 to 22.60 millions till April, 1984 a short period of four years.

Regarding housing also the Approach Paper maintains meticulous silence. In the 6th Plan it was estimated that 37 millions would require housing accommodation by 1985, out of which the planners intended to provide housing to about 2 millions only. Regarding rural housing, they estimated that 14.5 million families would be requiring housing. The total omission of this item from the Approach Paper is obviously because of the utter failure of the Government to achieve even the minimum target and will lead to further multiplication of the slum dwellers.

In the economic scene, the Approach Paper is not only evasive but also ambiguous with respect to import liberalisation or restriction. While at one stage it calls for substantial import substitution to contain the balance of payment pressure, in another stage it advocates for foreign collaboration and a more liberal attitude to the multinationals for improving efficiency and economy in the cost of production. The evasiveness on this serious issue is nothing but a deliberate avoidance of a planned response to this vital question. For, pursuing the bankrupt path of capitalist development, the Government cannot afford to incur the wrath of the imperialist agencies like the World Bank and IMF. The plan professes to mobilise the required resources through the Public Sector and minimise dependence on external sources or deficit financing which, it is now admitted have high inflationary potential. This is another hoax on the people, as under the benign Government at the centre the bureaucratic and corrupt managements of the Public Sector have been inflicting losses instead of contributing to the resources of the state. The situation cannot change unless the Government changes its policies and accept a genuine scheme of participation of workers, on equal footing enabling them to accept their responsibility for the management of the industries. Seen in this context the new scheme of workers participation announced recently is another hoax to deceive the gullible and attempt to increase the work load on the workers.

The Seventh Plan thus will have to increasingly

depend on foreign debts and huge deficit financing for securing its financial resources which will further shoot up the already alarming price spiral. The plan will therefore instead of alleviating poverty will aggravate the situation. What the Approach Paper truly reflects is that in the current deepening crisis of the world capitalist economy, the government is caught in a jam, and to release itself, it is bound to adopt further draconian measures and mount attack on the working class, the peasantry and the common people.

The meeting denounces the Government for its demagogy in the so called poverty alleviation programme and calls upon the affiliated unions and all sections of the working people to close their ranks and build up united movements demanding moratorium on foreign debt payments, nationalisation of the Indian and foreign monopoly houses, distribution of surplus land to the landless and other steps to ameliorate the conditions of the poor.

On Struggle Against Authoritarianism

The General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 draws pointed attention of the State Committees and the affiliated unions to the recent developments in the country which signify an increased drive towards authoritarianism by the Congress (I) Govt.

The manner of dismissal of Bhandari Govt. of Sikkim, the Farooq Abdullah ministry and the N.T. Rama Rao ministry of Andhra Pradesh amounts to a monstrous attack on the verdict of the people and on the Constitution, using the Governors as agents of the Centre. The dismissal of these Govts proves not only the crude attempts of destabilisation of elected non-Congress (I) Govts but also intolerance to any State Govt. which the Centre does not approve even if it belonged to the same party. The continued confrontation with the other non-congress (I) State Govt. of Karnataka and the left front Govts of West Bengal and Tripura foretells the danger to these States also. The Tripura unit of the Congress (I) has already been demanding imposition of President's rule in the State while being in league with the TUJS it is creating insurgent conditions through the Tripura National Volunteers to make grounds for imposing President's rule in the State. And, to help them to precipitate the situation, the Govt. of India instead of helping the State Govt. with adequate BSF and CRP forces to contain the extremist activities, has unilaterally decided to send a central team of CRP and BSF to study the insurgent activities in Tripura so as to extend the Disturbed Area Act to the State and bring it under a virtual military rule. Coupled with these moves, the drive towards complete authoritarianism has further been heightened by the organised campaign by the ruling party spokesmen for a Presidential Form of Govt., replacing Parliamentary democracy and the federal feature of our Constitution.

In its game of toppling the non-Congress (I)

Govts by engineering defections, the Congress (I) is afraid to face the people as was seen in Jammu & Kashmir where a continuous curfew was imposed and even the opposition leaders were kept under house arrest. To suppress the voice of people firings were being resorted to both in Jammu & Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh killing a number of people.

As a part of its plan for destabilising the left front Govts of West Bengal and Tripura it is putting all financial stringencies against them to make their plan for the benefit of the people impossible to implement. By its arbitrary refusal to implement the recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission, for 1984-85, these states have been deprived of Rs. 300 crores and Rs. 46 crores respectively.

Being unable to redeem its electoral pledge in 1980 about bringing down prices, more job opportunities, etc. due to its pursuit of the bankrupt path of capitalist development for which she had been succumbing to the imperialist pressures, Indira Gandhi, feeling the isolation from the people, has taken to growing authoritarian path once again while unleashing a tirade against the opposition parties, blaming them for all ills which her Govt. has created.

The Govt. has armed itself with more rigorous powers by amending the National Security Act and by legislating to set up special courts to hold summary trials in camera of so called terrorist activities. The working class has also not been spared from the recent authoritarian drives of the Govt. The use of ESMA in coal and other industries laid bare the Govt's. authoritarian way of dealing with the problems of the working class.

The meeting calls upon the State Committees and the affiliated unions and all sections of working people to analyse the situation in the perspective of the above developments and forge a greater unity with all democratic forces and fight against the growing authoritarianism and for democratic rights.

On Movement Against Lockouts and Closures

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from Sept. 28-30, 1984 denounces the Government of India for not taking any effective steps to stem the growing incidence of lockouts, closures, retrenchment and industrial sickness.

While the mandays lost due to lockouts continue to be more than that due to strikes since 1982, the number of workers affected by closures and retrenchments is also on the increase. Although the Government claims that the number of industrial closures has come down from 286 in 1982 to 228 in 1983 and only 96 till June, 1984 the number of workers affected have gone up from 26,602 in 1982 to 43,262 in 1983 and to 34,801 till June, 1984. The number of workers retrenched also has recorded an increase from 15,922 to 20,376 in 1983 according to Government datas. Similarly, the number of sick units has

gone up from 22,336 in December, 1979 to 60,157 in December, 1982. With all the so called viability strategies of the Government, by June 1981 more than 50 large units and 14,576 small units were declared non-viable and so closed down. It has to be noted that the Government data is a gross underestimate of the real calamity. But despite such massacre of jobs of workers, as revealed by the Government's data itself, the attitude of the Government is still to put blames on the workers. The official statement which was submitted in the last Labour Ministers' Conference, although accepted the fact that lockouts had eaten up more mandays than strikes, stated that the production loss due to strikes has been more than that due to lockouts.

The Government's criminal callousness to this problem can be gauged from the fact that despite the two memoranda submitted to the Government by the National Campaign Committee after the January 20 convention against lock outs and closures and the 18th April rally and despite the continuous agitations being launched by the workers throughout the country thereafter, the Government has not taken any measures in this respect. The Ministry of Labour has even come out with the plea of not having received any memorandum at all. On questions raised in the Parliament and in the Labour Consultative Committee meetings, it simply refers to the so called amendment of Industrial Disputes Act which after notification is supposed to put some check in the matter. The subterfuges given by the Government only lays bare its class bias supporting the monopolists to unleash the offensive on the working class to pass on them the burden of the crisis born out of the capitalist path of development. This offensive has been further intensified to satisfy the conditionalities of the IMF and the World Bank.

While congratulating the working class for their valiant struggles against lockouts and closures the meeting appeals to all sections of the working people and the trade unions to further intensify the united actions and mobilise public opinion against these anti-social acts.

On Price Rise

This General Council Meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984, condemns the Government of India for its utter failure to check the price rise which is going up unabated despite the tall claims to control it. It is significant to note that the prices have been spiralling alarmingly particularly after the return of Indira Gandhi to power in January, 1980. 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 acceleration in the spurt of the price spiral can be seen from the fact that the Consumer Price Index Number for industrial workers (1960-100) has jumped from 558 in March, 1984 to 585 in July, 1984. The wholesale Price Index

also, on the basis of which the Government calculates the rate of inflation and which is not much relevant to the common people, has recorded increase by 8 per cent and 17 per cent over the last two years during the period ending August 18, 1984. The myth of seasonality of the prices depending on the productions as repeatedly put forth by the Government has been exploded. The rise in prices in fact was spread over all commodities — food or non-food, irrespective of the lean or peak seasons. And despite the high productions the Government has also ordered record imports of some of the commodities under compulsion for seeking various loans. It has been a syndrome of record production, record imports and record price rise in several essential food and non-food items like rice, wheat edible oils sugar and cement. The prevailing retail prices of these items along with tea, soft coke etc. have recorded increases between 60 per cent to 100 per cent as compared to their prices in January, 1980. This has resulted in severely affecting the standard of living of the middle income and low income groups and ruthless fleecing of the poor classes, the peasantry and the agricultural labourers. To further aggravate the situation the public distribution system has virtually collapsed despite higher productions and import of food grains.

The reasons of the above crux in price rises is that the entire economy is in the hands of the big business, landlords, hoarders and speculators and the bourgeois-landlord Government is exercising its political will in favour of them. Its policy of induced price rise through deficit financing and inflation has been increasing the assets of the monopolists, making the poor poorer.

Under such circumstances of unabated price rise, the only way out for the working class to maintain even the minimum standard of living is to wage militant struggles along with all sections of the working people, the peasantry and the agricultural workers against the economic policies of the Government. This meeting therefore calls upon the State Committees and the affiliated unions to draw up continuous action programmes in cooperation with other trade unions demanding control on prices, strengthening of the public distribution system and take over of the wholesale trade in food grains.

On Repression

The General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 denounces the Government of India for unleashing its machineries to ruthlessly suppress the struggles of the working class in the country. Dealing with the workers' demands in an authoritarian manner, trampling underfoot their trade union and democratic rights, the repressive machineries have been tightened up to discipline the workers under the diktats of the World Bank and IMF. While the strike struggles of the workers are being illegalised, the Government has given a free hand to the managements including

in public sector to resort to lockouts and closures to force the workers to submit. While the managements are using the organised strike breakers and the hired anti-social elements to intimidate and beat up the workers, the Government has been releasing the police force under the plea of law and order to connive with the gangster elements to suppress the workers' struggles.

The CITU unions and the activists have been the special target for this repression. In Modinagar in Uttar Pradesh, in Raniganj Coal belts in West Bengal, in Hosur in Tamilnadu, at Udaipur in Tripura, at Kalta in Orissa and other places CITU activists have been murdered by the anti-social elements. In Haryana the jhuggis of migrant workers' from Orissa have been burnt down twice and the police have not taken any action against the goonda hirelings of the management.

Apart from the murderous attacks the Government's machineries have been mounting up unprecedented repression on the long drawn workers struggle at J.K. Synthetics, Kota; J.K. Rayons, Kanpur; Hissar Textiles, Haryana; in Dewan Rubbers, Meerut; Bharat Wagons, Muzaffarpur, Bihar; Hindustan Photo Films, Tamilnadu; Anglo French Textile Mills, Pondicherry; Bhaskar Textile Mills, Orissa; Silghat paper mills, Assam etc.

Repression by the CISF and hired hoodlums of the managements particularly in ECL and BCCL is unparalleled in the entire coal industry. The Government has resorted to all draconian measures from deduction of 8 days' wages to mass scale dismissals and finally imposition of ESMA, banning strike. The Government is using the CISF to unleash repression in other industries also as on the contractor workers in the National Fertilisers at Panipat, where the CISF and the police even went to the extent of fanning up communal passions also. Shooting down of two teen-aged workers in Kandla Free Trade Zone, firing on the Steel contract workers at Vishakhapatnam, and repression on the contract workers of Bhilai Steel by the police have laid bare the rabid anti-labour attitude of the Congress(I) Government.

While denouncing the Government's repressive policy, the meeting congratulates the workers for their undeterred fight against the repressive machinery even at the cost of their life and limb to defend their rights and interests. The meeting warns the working class that with growing crisis of the capitalist economy and increasing pressure from imperialism the Government is bound to further let loose its repressive machineries on all sections of the working people to subserve the interest of the monopolists. The meeting calls upon all trade unions to further close their ranks, establish contact with the democratic mass organisations and the working people and with their help chalk out a course to effectively resist the repression to safeguard their interests.

On United Action of the Working Class

This General Council Meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 congratulates the State Committees and the affiliated unions for initiating and organising consistent united struggles of the working class in defence of their jobs and living standards and against the anti-labour policies of the Government of India.

The period between our Kanpur Conference and this meeting is full of heroic struggles by the working class in different states. In this background of the growing struggles the second National Convention of trade unions held on August 21, 1983 and the Convention against Lock-outs and Closure held on January, 1984 culminated in a Workers' March to Parliament on April 18, 1984 which was overwhelmingly participated by the workers. These are significant advancements in the united struggles that have taken place in the country. The coming together of eight central trade unions and several national federations against the anti-labour policies of the Government has created a condition for further advancement of united struggles and this meeting directs the affiliated unions to strengthen and advance the unity that has already been reached there.

But the struggles waged all over the country by different sections of working people namely the State Government employees, teachers, junior doctors, nurses, airline employees, the municipal employees, the medical representatives, banking and insurance employees, etc indicate a tremendous growth in the spirit of united struggles. The heroic strike actions of the Jute and Port and Dock workers could bring in the INTUC as well and establish complete unity in these two industries which led to their resounding success. The sweep of the movement can be gauged from the fact that during this period there have been several Statewise Bundhs and industry wise strikes which have been conducted braving ESMA and the repressive machinery of the Government. It is evident that the appeal for united and joint actions is reaching wider sections of the working class as a result of which the trade union unity is being forged and steeled. This meeting calls upon the working class to carry forward this spirit of united struggles in close co-operation with the democratic masses so that the working class demands and the people's demands should merge together for a powerful struggle against the policies of the Congress(I) Government.

The working class of India, created another landmark in the annals of united action in August and September this year when moving shoulder to shoulder with the democratic masses of the country it stood up against the attempt of the Cong.(I) to throttle the verdict of the people by illegal and arbitrary dismissal of the NTR ministry in Andhra Pradesh. CITU and other Central T.U. organisations gave a call for observing Save Democracy Day on August 25 to which the working class responded through strike actions in eight states. Supporting the

call of Bharat Bundh on Sept. 20, CITU and five other Central T.U. Organisations called upon the working class to make the Bundh a success. The relentless struggle of the working class and the people of Andhra Pradesh thus supported by the working class and democratic masses succeeded to reinstate NTR ministry once again throwing out the usurpers.

This meeting also takes note of the fact that the task of uniting the working class to rouse them for a change in the co-relation of forces is yet to be taken up seriously. The rise of divisive forces and growing trend of authoritarianism by the ruling party at the Centre make it imperative for the CITU unions to conduct ideological campaign among the working class so that their united action can channelise the working class resentment towards the growth of left and democratic forces.

This meeting taking into accounts the fact that the National Campaign Committee only represents the Central Trade Unions while quite a large number of Federations not associated with any Central Trade Unions are not drawn in the day to day activities of the National Campaign Committee which has become an urgent necessity, once again reiterates the call for the formation of a confederation and appeals to all the trade union centres and National Federations for a favourable response so that the policy issues could be debated and alternate policy of the labour on all vital questions like management of the country's economy, its industries and production could be formulated on the basis of which united action of the working class could be advanced further.

On Struggles of Peasants and Agricultural Workers

This General Council Meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 congratulates the All India Kisan Sabha and the All India Agricultural Workers' Union for organising joint struggle along with other organisations in various parts of the country. The meeting denounces the Government for projecting a fake poverty alleviation programme in the Approach paper of the 7th Plan while with the same class bias all the previous plan turned out to be a bundle of fiasco. The so called land reform programme has not been able to stop further pauperisation of the vast masses of the peasantry and agricultural labourers.

The Government has on the country enhanced the prices of inputs and increased the tax burden. While the prices of consumer articles have been rising and the cost of production in agriculture has gone up, the Government is denying remunerative prices to the peasants. While the inputs and other benefits are being cornered by the landlords, the peasants are groaning under heavy indebtedness. Thousands of share croppers are being evicted from lands which they were tilling since decades. The number of agricultural workers are multiplying and the Government has refused to make a comprehensive

sive legislation for them under pressure from the landlords. Over and above, the landlords with their hired goondas and helped by the police have mounted up repression to suppress the struggles of the peasants and agricultural workers, sometimes camouflaging these as caste riots. While congratulating the peasants and the agricultural workers for their undeterred struggles braving all repression, the meeting demands of the Government to grant remunerative prices to the peasants for their produce, fair wage to the agricultural workers and a comprehensive legislation for them and proper land reforms with distribution of surplus land to the landless. The meeting calls upon the State Committees and the affiliated unions to extend full solidarity to the struggles of the peasants and the agricultural workers.

On Nationalisation of Jute Industry

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 congratulates the 2.5 lakh valiant jute workers for their 84-day glorious strike which compelled the jute barons to come down to settlement on April 17, 1984. Workers did not waver even though the strike took place after prolonged lock-outs just when the locked out mills re-opened.

The strike which was launched with the demand for nationalisation of the Jute industry and for the implementation of 1979 tripartite settlement and for the settlement of the new charter of demands, united all the trade unions in the continuous strike. Although the demand for nationalisation of the Jute industry became a people's demands, uniting all the political parties in effect and a large number of maternal trade unions extending full support to the demand, the Govt. of India refused to respond to giving a filip to the jute barons to continue their rapacious exploitation of the several lakh workers and millions of jute growers in the country.

Role of the Left-Front Government of W. Bengal helped the striking workers in a big way and also a settlement of strike. True to their previous practice the jute barons are back again to play their nefarious game of violating the agreement and resort to mass reduction of workforce on a cooked up plea of shortage of raw jute. While pre-varicating in the implementation of the agreement on monetary gains, they are resorting to lay-offs, sealing of looms and machines and playing other tricks to render the workers jobless. Under the bogey of shortage the monopoly houses have in fact cornered the raw jute and are selling them at high price to earn a big amount of unaccounted money at the cost of the thousands of workers and the growers.

The meeting notes that while the Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union has demanded of the Union Commerce Minister to take immediate steps to dehoard raw jute for equal distribution, there is no response from the Commerce Minister in the matter. The meeting condemns the Govt. of India for subserving

the interests of the monopolists at the cost for ruination of the industry.

The meeting further condemns the Govt. for refusal to intervene in the struggle of the workers in other places so as to compel the employers to extend the benefit of the West Bengal settlement in these places as was promised by them. While extending full support to the struggling workers, the meeting demands of the employers to implement the agreement in full and extend the benefits to all jute workers in the country.

The meeting further reiterates the demand of nationalisation of the entire jute industry including raw jute trade and export of jute. It calls upon the State Committees and the affiliated unions to extend active support in the struggle of the jute workers.

On Nationalisation of Textile Industry

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 expresses serious concern over the severe crisis in the textile industry which has thrown tens of thousands of workers jobless. The crisis has affected not only the factory workers of the industry direct but also lakhs of other people who are connected with textile trade and production.

According to the Government information which is a gross under estimate, leaving out the casual and budli workers, about one lakh ten thousand workers have been rendered jobless due to closures of different mills in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Pondicherry, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bangal. The magnitude of the crisis can be seen from the fact that it has affected the entire textile producing centre of the country. In actual estimate more than one lakh twenty five thousand workers have been thrown out of employment. In Bombay after the last strike, over 50,000 workers are still on the streets despite take over of 13 mills.

The crisis in the textile industry which was brewing over the last several years, has been due to the Government's policy of throwing this basic necessity of life to the vagaries of inflation and greed of textile tycoons causing price rise out of the reach of the mass consumers. This resulted in progressive decline in cloth off take inspite of decline in availability of cloth. This can be seen from the fact that when in 1978 the average value per meter of cotton textile was Rs. 5.96, the per capita off-take was 11.60 metres. But in 1981 when the average value per metre went up to Rs. 8.22, the per capita off-take fell down to 9.40 metres.

In this situation when the mass consumers require cloth at lower prices, the textile monopolists are refusing to attune themselves to the domestic market and are looking for foreign markets for higher profits. The foreign imperialist countries however,

particularly USA and Europe, because of their protectionist policies have drastically reduced imports of cotton textile from India. The total exports to these countries including Africa which valued at Rs. 2622 millions in 1976-77 came down by 50 per cent to only Rs. 1345 millions in 1982-83. It is only the exports to USSR which have risen during the period that have come to the rescue of the industry. To make the situation worse, the managements are crying for modernisation which is bound to make thousand of workers redundant.

The meeting is of the firm opinion that the textile industry cannot be allowed to remain in the hands of the private sharks who have ruined it in the pursuit of their super profits. The meeting reiterates its demand for nationalisation of the entire textile industry. However, nationalisation with the bureaucratic and corrupt management, as is being seen in NTC, will not solve the problems. The meeting therefore demands that nationalisation must be accompanied by workers' participation in the management of the industry with equal status in policy and decision making. The meeting calls upon the State Committees and affiliated unions and appeals to all other trade unions to mobilise the workers to the maximum extent and intensify the united struggle with the above demand.

On Workers Participation in Management

This General Council meeting held at Jaipur from Sept, 28-30, 1984 draws pointed attention of the State Committees and the affiliated unions to the resolution adopted by the Ministry of Labour on December 30, 1983, embodying a scheme for employees' participation in management. The present scheme does not materially make any departure from the old schemes of 1975 and 1977, which were essentially to impose high work load on the workers without giving them any say in the management of industries. Like the previous schemes the present scheme also rejects secret ballot as the mode of representation of workers in the participative forums and virtually gives arbitrary powers to the managements to pick and choose the workers' representatives to favour the patronised unions.

The CITU, fully realising the mismanagement of the public and private sectors and the corruption that is rampant, had proposed to participate in management in terms of equality, ever since the first scheme was published.

Under the present context of rampant closures, lock-outs, retrenchments and industrial sickness, and under-utilisation of production capacities which are not only throwing thousands of workers out of employment, but also hampering productions and adversely affecting the economy and needs of the people, the workers have to take responsibility of management of the industries, both public and private, with equal status. Looking to the interest of the people the trade unions cannot afford to allow the private sharks and the corrupt managements of

the public sectors to loot the national property.

This meeting therefore reiterates its stand that CITU is prepared to participate in the management of industries, both public and private with equal footing at all levels including Board level with equal rights on question of policy matters with respect to production, sale, purchase, pricing, accounts, technology and including the right to hire and fire. The meeting calls upon the affiliated unions to educate the workers and demand as above.

On the Struggle of the Central Govt. Employees

This meeting notes with great concern the growing attacks on the Central Government employees, on their jobs and living standards. While arrears of 4 instalments of DA which have been released to them are not being paid in cash, the Government is not taking any steps to ensure that the prices do not rise any further. The 5th instalment of DA has also fallen due.

The Central Government employees are agitated over the fact that the proposed interim report on parity in wages with public sector employees is not likely to come in October, 1984 as assured and hence they have demanded a second instalment of interim relief and are agitating on this issue.

There is widespread resentment among the Central Government employees on the question of squeezing of job potential and increasing work load on the staff. Vacancies have not been filled up for the past few years and now work of perennial nature and new constructions are being transferred to contract labour thereby squeezing the existing staff strength which not only affects the Central Government employees but the whole rank of the unemployed who can no longer aspire for Govt. services.

The failure of the entire Central Govt. employees to come to a united platform for struggle on the question of bonus is a matter of worry. The Government has been able to successfully divide the ranks of Central Govt. employees by offering productivity linked bonus to railway and some other departments of the Govt. while recommending ad-hoc 15% bonus to the rest. The Central Govt. employees are fighting for statutory minimum bonus of 8.33% as deferred wage.

This meeting of the General Council notes the fact that quite a large section among the Central Government employees are striving hard to forge unity, achieving these basic demands and are holding dharnas and other programmes. This meeting pleads for full support in the just struggle of the Central Government employees.

On Support to Railway Workers Struggle

This meeting of the General Council takes note of growing resentment among railway workers who have found its expressions in Post Card Campaign.

and programmes of demonstration organised by the National Campaign Committee of Railwaymen, the decision of one day token strike by Bhartiya Rail Mazdoor Sangh and the call for indefinite strike from September 28, 1984 by the AIRF which was withdrawn after the agreement on PLB was given clearance by the Govt. The Central Govt. which had committed earlier to give its final decision by March 1983 on the question of parity in wage with public sector employees, had gone back on its commitment and referred the issue to the 4th Pay Commission with the assurance that the Commission would be requested to give its findings on this question on October 1984. The manner in which the question has been included in the questionnaire circulated by the Pay Commission has given rise to a genuine apprehension that this issue is not going to be finalised by October 1984 as envisaged. Hence a demand has been raised that a second instalment of interim relief be given. Besides like all other General Government employees the railwaymen also are suffering because the arrear instalments of Dearness Allowance which had already been sanctioned to them have not been paid in cash and further instalments of DA have become due. The pity is that all these organisations which are leading the Railwaymen are unable to forge unity on common demands.

The lack of unity has resulted in the trade union movement among railwaymen remaining unaffected about the growing rate of accidents in which hundreds of lives are lost every year, of the miseries of travelling public, which has resulted in their being alienated from the public. The Congress(I) Govt. at the Centre is taking full advantage of this and pursuing a policy of mechanisation and computerisation in the name of safety and victimisation in the name of bringing discipline. Although the Railway Minister has said that six lakh jobs will be rendered redundant, the railway trade union movement does not appear to have taken any note of massacre of jobs which is being planned.

The deficiencies in the railway trade union movement can only be overcome by a serious effort for forging unity of all trade union organisations which want to secure their just demands and by establishing link with all democratic mass organisations.

The meeting notes that several organisations which were earlier constituents of the NCCRS built up in 1974, have come together on a platform called National Campaign Committee of Railwaymen. This is a good development and efforts for strengthening and further expansion of this unity are being made.

This meeting while appealing to all these organisations to reforge their earlier unity which had been broken up after 1974 struggle, pledges support to the just struggles of railwaymen.

On the Struggle of the State Govt. Employees

This meeting of the General Council of CITU held at Jaipur on September 28-30, 1984 congratulates

the state Govt. employees for their successful strike on September 4, at the call of the All India State Government Employees Federation.

The employees of various State Govts find erosion in the real wage caused due to price rise which is a direct outcome of the policies followed by the Congress (I) Govt. at the Centre. The Centre is thus morally bound to provide adequate funds to the State Govts so that with the release of every instalment of Central DA, the State Governments also are able to release equal amount of DA to their employees so as to keep parity in living standards of State Govt. employees. The Eighth Finance Commission has accepted the validity of this argument and therefore has earmarked sufficient funds to the various states so that the back log in sanction of DA to its employees could be covered.

To other demand which is agitating the State Government employees is the question of bonus. After the government employees were excluded from the purview of Bonus Act-1965, the action of the Central Govt. to sanction productivity linked bonus to railway men and then to other departments and finally 15 days bonus on an ad-hoc basis to the remaining section of Central Govt. employees last year constitutes a discriminatory action as the Central Govt. has refused to provide adequate funds to the State Govts so that they can also treat their employees equally and pay them bonus at least at par with the Central Govt. employees if not bonus according to Bonus Act.

The State Govt. employees after coming to the end of their patience had given call for one day token strike, then found that Government of India has arbitrarily changed the decision of the Eighth Finance Commission by not releasing money during 1984-85.

This meeting congratulates the NGOs, Primary and Secondary Teachers of Bihar who after 24 days of continuous strike have been able to secure bonus, release of DA in cash and other demands through a negotiated settlement, braving the repression let loose on them.

The meeting pledges full support to the struggle of State Govt. employees for winning their just demands.

On Struggle of Working Women

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 condemns the Government for its failure to take any welfare measure for women, to improve their employment position, to protect them against discrimination or give them protection against crimes.

The colossal nature of the rising number of Women's unemployment can be gauged from the fact that only the registered job seekers are rising at the rate of 4 lakhs per year. From the start of

January, 1981 to the beginning of January, 1984 the figure went up from 23.45 lakhs to 35.82 lakhs. In case of retrenchments or during mechanisation and automation women are the first targets. Women have been retrenched in thousands in Tobacco due to introduction of mechanisation. In Coir and other industries also they are confronted with the same danger.

Discrimination in wages, promotion, working hours, etc. still continues despite the ILO Conventions and the Equal Remuneration Act. It is reliably learnt that Government is thinking to employ women in the night shifts, ignoring the ban for women in the night shift. Even after promising the legislation on women in the unorganised industries including in agriculture, nothing has been done with the result that women workers are deprived of the minimum statutory benefits and minimum wage. The meeting denounces the Government's sham talk of self-employment which is nothing but a crude joke on the tens of thousands of women living as destitutes.

The meeting further condemns the Government for its criminal apathy over the increasing crimes committed upon the women which include the most savage crime of dowry deaths. Even when being compelled to bring in the Dowry Amendment Bill due to the militant struggles launched by the AIDWA, AICCWW and other women's organisations, the Government has practically negated the major recommendations of the Joint Select Committee, giving a free hand to the vested interests to continue the crime of bride burning with impunity. It has also not accepted the recommendations for constitution of Women's Commission and more employment opportunities to women. The meeting demands of the Government to incorporate the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee in the Dowry Amendment Bill.

The meeting further demands of the government to create more opportunities for employment of women, implement the existing legislation for women, ban on retrenchment due to mechanisation, rationalisation, etc., introduce legislation for women in unorganised industries and introduce the women's welfare bill for working women for discussions.

While congratulating the working women for their rising militant struggles, the meeting calls upon them to further step up their united struggles along with all other mass organisations and democratic forces to compel the Government to concede their demands. It calls upon the State Committees and the affiliated unions to concentrate to the specific demands of the working women, constitute Coordination Committees and encourage them to accept responsibilities as trade union functionaries to ensure their participation in the mainstream of trade union movement in the country.

On Solidarity with Coal Mine Workers

The meeting of the General Council of the CITU

held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 warmly congratulates the seven lakh coal mine workers for their glorious 48 hour strike on 4-5 June 1984 in protest against non-implementation of the third national bipartite coal wage agreement, arbitrary deduction of 8 days wages for one day's strike, penal transfers of large numbers of workers, summary dismissals and termination of services on flimsy ground, violation of safety rules, reckless use of CISF against trade unions and non-convening the meeting of the joint Bipartite Committee for coal Industry.

The INTUC leadership did its best to break the strike by making false propaganda among the workers. However, their propaganda could not hoodwink even the INTUC workers who also joined the strike in large numbers. In several places the INTUC workers actively co-operated with the striking workers. The strike has thus highlighted the growing isolation of the INTUC in coal industry.

The CIL management under the Chairmanship of M.S. Gujral has resorted to large scale victimisation of workers. Eight days deduction of wages, dismissal of casual workers, de-recognition of unions, issuing of thousands of charge sheets and suspension orders have only evoked further resentment among the workers. Protest actions were organised in all the coal belts against these draconian measures.

The Government of India invoked ESMA for the coal industry to suppress the legitimate struggle of the workers. The entire coal belt except in West Bengal was converted into an armed camp to terrorise the workers.

The General Council of the CITU strongly condemns the repressive measures taken by the Government and the CIL authorities against the coal miners. The CITU fully supports the call given by the Joint Action Committee of Coal Unions for an indefinite strike in coal industry if the Government of India and Coal India management do not withdraw the repressive and vindictive measures against the coal mine workers.

As a result of the policy of confrontation with the workers the production of coal fell considerably in the coal mines. Even industrialists openly complained about supply of bad quality of coal as a result of non-removal of shales by the coal mines. The CIL circular to inflate figures of coal production by 2½ per cent also came under sharp criticism.

Faced with this situation the Government of India was forced to discuss with the Joint Action Committee and agree to convene a meeting of the JBCCI and as well as company level meetings with trade union representatives. The Government also agreed to review all the penal measures against the coal workers.

The CITU notes that one month's time is given to the Govt. by the Joint Action Committee of coal unions to implement the assurances given to the trade unions.

The CITU hopes that the Government of India will honour the commitment given to the coal workers' representatives and take all steps to restore normalcy. The CITU warns the Government that if it fails to implement the assurances, the coal workers' united movement will be left with no other alternative than to fix up a date for indefinite strike in all the coal mines.

The General Council of the CITU calls upon all the affiliated unions to rally behind the coal mines so that the Government of India will be forced to settle all the outstanding demands of the coal miners.

On the Struggle of the Workers in J.K. Group of Industries

This meeting of the General Council held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984, views with serious concern the rabid anti-working class and unfair labour practices followed by the owners of J.K. group of industries, which have left a long trail of closed industries diverting funds from one industry to the other in building up of a huge industrial empire now occupying the third place after the Tatas and Birlas.

In the recent past they with the direct patronage of the U.P. Govt. had unleashed a calculated attack on the workers of the J.K. Rayon, Kanpur. Having failed to break the militant J.K. Rayon Mazdoor Union (CITU) with the help of goonda-hirelings who posed themselves as INTUC workers, it ultimately closed down J.K. Rayon factory from May 16, 1983. After having closed it for 9 months for modernisation earlier, this closure was a calculated attempt to disperse the militant workers through starvation, so that it could start the factory again in the pattern of Reliance Textiles.

The next attempt was on J.K. Synthetics, Kota where the modernisation programme had been started from 1980. In January 1983 the Management retrenched 2500 workers, almost half of its work force, with a view to reaping super profits. This particular factory which has four plants now, had been a virtual gold mine in view of the fact that it had helped the J.K. group to spread its empire over new sectors like Cement, Steel, etc. They could not break the resistance of workers who went into a strike action in defence of jobs and against work load. The Rajasthan Government although admitted that the retrenchment was illegal as no permission was sought from them, had provided police who unleashed a reign of terror and entire Kota wore a look of occupied territory where workers had been forced at gun point to resume their duties.

This meeting condemns the action of the Gov-

ernment in providing the highest loan of Rs. 35.43 crores in 1982-83 from Public Financial Institutions to this group of industries, which had emboldened them in perpetuating unfair labour practice. The meeting congratulates the heroic workers of Kanpur and Kota who are fighting against this policy of the management repression. This meeting demands immediate intervention by the Govt. of India.

On HEC Workers Strike

This General Council meeting of the CITU warmly congratulates the 17000 workers of Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi for their successful 21 day strike in support of 19 point charter of demands.

The complete strike was a reflection of strong resentment prevailing among the workers against the treacherous agreement signed by the scab INTUC union with the management behind the back of workers. The management however refused to negotiate with Samyukta Abhiyan Samiti of the 10 non-INTUC unions which spearheaded the struggle. This adamant policy of the management only made the strike prolonged causing a loss of over Rs. 10 crores worth production to this major public sector undertaking.

The Government of Bihar promulgated section 144 and arrested several leading Trade Union activists. The Congress(I) anti-social elements were intimidating the workers every day. However the unity and determination of the workers resulted in foiling the game.

The people of Ranchi observed one day strike on 17th August in support of the HEC strikers. Thousands of women and children demonstrated before the Chairman in support of the demands. In the face of united strength of the workers the HEC management was forced negotiate with the Samyukt Abhiyan Samiti and settle the demands of the workers. The strike was thus a big defeat to the policy of the management of boosting the scab union over the heads of workers. The CITU congratulates the Hatia Mazdoor Union for the important role played by it in bringing about unity of the workers and conducting the strike effectively.

The General Council of the CITU appeals to the HEC workers to preserve the unity achieved in the strike so that the other outstanding issues are settled in favour of the workers.

On the Successful Strike of P&T Employees

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 congratulates the Extra Departmental Agents of the P&T department for their successful strike on September 19.

The meeting condemns the Govt. of India for perpetuating the system of EDA personnel introduced by the Britishers and thereby continuing this

colonial exploitation even 37 years after independence. It is most reprehensible that the most justified demands of the EDA employees for pro-rata wages given to the permanent employees is being refused by the Government. It is further reprehensible that the DA which they were receiving earlier has been arbitrarily stopped since 1973 and the interim relief which was paid to other Central Govt. employees has also been refused to these employees. While demanding of the Govt. to accede to the demands forthwith, the meeting fully supports the decision of the EDA employees to carry forward the struggle with further actions till the Government accedes to the demands. The meeting calls upon all the CITU unions and appeals to all other trade unions to extend full support to the struggle of the EDA employees.

On ILO Convention Concerning Hours of Work (Industry)

This meeting of the General Council of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984, draws pointed attention of the International Labour Organisation as well as the Government of India that the discrimination imposed on the workers of British India, when ILO Convention No. 1 concerning Hours of Work (Industry) was adopted in 1919 has been allowed to perpetuate till date. Taking advantage of this discrimination a lot of industrial workers were denied the benefit of 8 hours working day and 48 hours week.

Since India attained the freedom in 1947 when the then British India was divided into free India and free Pakistan this discriminatory clause should automatically have ceased to operate. But the Government of India while amending the Factories Act in 1948 excluded the Loco Running Sheds of Indian railways from the provisions of Factories Act and thus imposed discriminatory working hours as formulated in HOER of thousands of railway workers forcing them to work 23 hrs. more in a month without any payment. The entire railway workers struck work throughout the country in 1960, 1968 and 1974 demanding 8 hrs work a day. The Loco Running Staff in particular had repeatedly struck work for limiting the same to ten hours in 1973. But the Government went back on this agreement and once again imposed duty hours which stretched to 16/20 hrs. a day. All struggles to secure reduction of the duty hours are being ruthlessly suppressed. There are other sections of industrial workers like workers engaged in Agriculture, Road and Inland Water Transport including Sea-going fishing trawlers, who are denied the benefit of 8 hrs. work day and other protections given to all industrial workers in ILO Convention No. 1. The Government of India has a special responsibility in terms of Article 14 and Article 23 of the Constitution.

This meeting therefore demands immediate scraping of this discriminatory Article in ILO Convention and introduction of not exceeding 8 hours work-day for all industrial workers except those who have

already secured a lesser work day through Convention or otherwise, so that more job opportunities can be created which would ease the growing unemployment in the country. This meeting directs its affiliated unions to start a powerful campaign for reduction of duty hours and creation of employment potential.

On Maharashtra Powerloom Workers' Struggle

This meeting of the General Council of the CITU held at Jaipur on 28-30, September, 1984, condemns the Govt. of Maharashtra which is conspiring with the powerloom owners to sabotage the implementation of its own notification revising the minimum wages of powerloom workers issued on 1st August, 1984.

The meeting warmly greets the 5 lakh powerloom workers of Maharashtra who are fighting for the implementation of the revised Minimum Wages, and it specially congratulates the workers of Ichalkaranji and the neighbouring centres who led by CITU are spearheading the struggle facing lock-outs and braving physical assaults by the management hirelings.

The Government sat tight on the recommendations of the Minimum Wages Revision Committee and it was only after the united agitation of the powerloom workers culminating in a state-wide protest strike on 9th May, 1984 and notice of an indefinite strike, that the Govt. was compelled to announce the acceptance of these recommendations and issue notification revising the minimum wages. But within two weeks, surrendering to the pressure of the powerloom owners many of whom had closed down the looms, the Govt. illegally suspended the implementation of its own order and referred the issue to the Minimum Wages Advisory Board. The High Court has declared the suspension as illegal and void. But the Government continues to encourage the owners to deny the revised Minimum Wages.

The meeting demands of the Government of Maharashtra to implement the revised Minimum Wages immediately. The meeting calls upon all CITU unions, particularly unions in the powerloom industry in other states to extend solidarity actions in support of the powerloom workers in Maharashtra.

On Demands of Indian Seamen

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 condemns the Government of India for its recalcitrant attitude towards the 9 point demands of the Forward Seamen's Union of India and its inordinate delay to implement the recommendations of the S.M. Nanda Committee. Eventhough the recommendations of this Committee will give only fringe benefits to the Seamen, the Government despite a series of agitational actions including strike struggles and dharna staged before the Prime Ministers's residence, is

reluctant to implement them and adopting delaying tactics. Furthermore, the Govt. has taken no steps to negotiate the other demands of the Seamen who are hard pressed against unemployment. The recent amendment of the Section 102 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 has on the contrary further squeezed the scope of casual extra temporary appointments of the Indian Seamen on foreign ships by leaving it at the disposal of a few bureaucratic officials.

While demanding of the Govt. to concede the justified demands of the Indian Seamen, this meeting calls upon all the CITU unions and appeals to all other trade unions to launch a systematic campaign expressing solidarity with the struggle of the Seamen.

On Struggle of Kerala Traditional Industries Workers

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 condemns the Karunakaran ministry of Kerala and the Congress(I) Govt. at the Centre for pursuing retrograde policies which are ruining the traditional industries in the State, like cashew, coir, handloom, fisheries, toddy tapping, artisan, bamboo, etc. While demanding of the Governments to change the policies to safeguard the interests of the 20 lakh workers engaged in the industries in Kerala, the meeting calls upon the CITU unions and appeals to all trade unions to extend full solidarity to the struggle of the workers for the protection of these traditional industries against the policies of the Government.

On Struggle of Project Workers in Punjab and Haryana

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 extends full support to the struggle of the project workers in Punjab and Haryana who are fighting for their job security. The meeting denounces the retrograde judgement recently given by the High Court of Punjab & Haryana debarring over thirty thousand workers engaged in the construction of dams, projects, canals, bridges and other construction works in the public sectors in Punjab and Haryana, from the benefits of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Following this judgement cases for reinstatement of the construction workers in the states are being dismissed.

The meeting condemns the barbarous lathi charge and firing by the police on the workers of Thein Dam Project on August 18, who were on strike protesting against retrenchment of 2500 workers. While congratulating the workers for their undeterred struggle, the meeting demands of the Government to take back all the retrenched workers, ensure full job security and enactment of a central legislation to safeguard the interests of the construction workers.

On Production Cut in Tyre Industry

This meeting of the General Council of CITU, held at Jaipur on 28-30th Sept., 1984 views with grave concern the decision of Tyre Industries magnates to cut down production of Truck tyres in all tyre factories by 25 per cent, posing a grave threat to the employment and earnings of thousands of workers in India. Already the Modis have drastically reduced production, cut wages, started lay off and retrenchment and mass reprisals against workmen. Other tyre companies are planning similar measures.

This combined offensive by tyre magnates to cut production and force unemployment, while otherwise they are engaged in cut throat competition, is the result of over production and shrinking demand and reflects the bankruptcy of capitalist path of development and planning. Lured by the super-high profits of tyre industry in late sixties and early seventies, big capital and the Govt. planned for more than doubling the automotive tyre production capacity but when that was achieved, found that truck production and truck transport had fallen far short of expectation leading to the present glut in truck tyres. The burden of the issue is now sought to be passed on the shoulders of the workers.

This meeting notes with surprise that the Government of India is keeping silent over this concerted effort of the tyre monopolists to curtail production to pressurise workers and keep prices high and demands that the Government take steps to ban this restrictive practice by monopolists.

This meeting calls upon the tyre industry workers to fight the monopoly offensive unitedly and instruct the CITU unions in the industry to take immediate steps to bring together all trade unions in the industry for collective action to protect employment and earning against this offensive.

On Struggle of Modistone Employees

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 extends full support to the struggle of the Modistone clerical and subordinate staff all over India who are on indefinite strike since the last one month with their justified demands for wage rise and job security. The meeting demands of the management to settle the demands of the employees through negotiations forthwith.

On Closure of ILTD Branches

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 condemns the management of India Tobacco Ltd., ILTD Division for serving notice of closures of its four branches, viz Chilakaluripet, Guntur, Ongole and Taugutoor with effect from November 1, 1984, which will throw 4,500 workers out of employment. The meeting is of the opinion that the management has notified

these closures only to get of rid the large number of workers and boost up the profits of the company, as the management has planned to continue the operations through various dealers. The management has been pursuing such anti-labour policy and unfair labour practices since long with impunity. In 1983 it closed down the Chirala factory and Parchoor Depot throwing 6000 workers out of employment. Prior to that it closed down 6 branches in 1976 and 1980 affecting 4000 workers. While supporting the unremitting struggles of the workers against this continued offensive of the management, the meeting demands of both the Governments at the State and Centre to intervene immediately and take steps to stop the closure in the interest of the workers.

On Struggle of Bharat Gold Mine Workers

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Jaipur from September 28-30, 1984 expresses serious concern over the crisis that is brewing up at Bharat Gold Mines in the Kolar Gold Fields. On the plea of loss and uneconomic mining, the management under the directive of the Government of India have closed down certain sections of the mining operations and transferred the workers to the BGML mining

construction contract divisions in other states like Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, etc, creating immense hardship to the workers and their families. Apart from this, in pursuance of the policy of the Govt., permanent posts falling vacant due to superannuation, death, resignations, etc are not being filled up, thus reducing the work force.

This meeting is of the opinion that the plea of loss as put forward by the Govt. is untenable because of the irrational policy of pricing the gold. Whereas in other gold mines the price of gold has been fixed at the rate of the Indian market, in Kolar gold Fields it has been fixed at the rate of the international market which is much lower than that of the Indian market and was fixed during the British regime which is still continuing.

The meeting therefore demands of the Government of India to adopt a uniform pricing policy of gold and fix the price of gold in the Kolar fields at the rate of the Indian market, reopen all the closed mining sections and fill up all the vacant posts in the mine. The meeting extends full support to the struggle of the workers led by the Bharat Gold Mines Employees Union with the above demands.

Airlines Employees on Struggle

ORGANISED under the Air Corporations Employees' Union, the employees of Indian Airlines are on the path of struggle demanding withdrawal of all victimisations. The employees in Bombay went on agitations in June protesting against the brutal beating of a leader by the police on fabricated charges. The police action in Bombay was the culmination of a series of such illegal actions by the police on various occasions. The management of Indian Airlines refused to give protection to its employees from such highhanded actions of the police. On the contrary, it resorted to rampant victimisations of the employees for their participation in union activities. It dismissed one office bearer of the union, suspended eleven others, terminated the services of five probationers, prematurely retired five other and retrenched 57 contract sweepers. Not content with this, the management obtained High Court injunction barring the union from holding demonstrations, meetings and all other legitimate trade union activities. It has further involved a number of union activists in false cases. Violating all provisions, the management is engaging casual labour in the operational area.

In this background the union held a General Body Meeting at Bombay on October 15, which was participated by over one thousand employees. The meeting was presided over by Uttam Singh the all India President. M.M. Ojha, General Secretary of the union explained the developments.

Addressing the meeting, Samar Mukherjee, M.P., General Secretary, CITU, condemned the management for the punitive measures and attacking the

trade union right of the employees. He said that the attacks on trade union rights of the workers and other victimisations were in pursuance of the anti-labour policies of the Government. Highlighting the rising united struggles of the workers, he urged upon the workers to join the mainstream of these struggles against the anti-labour and economic policies of the Government which have resulted in growing unemployment, rising prices, retrenchments, closures and lockouts and unleashing all the offensives on the workers to pass on them the burden of the crises born out of the capitalist path of development. He called upon the workers to carry forward the struggle till their justified demands are met and extended full support to them on behalf of CITU. Others who addressed the meeting were Pramila Dandavate, M.P., K.S. Nair, Regional Secretary of Civil Aviation Department Employees Union and R. Ramanathan, Regional Secretary, L.K. Grahmadhye, Jt. Secretary and J.M. Karekar, Chairman of the Union. The meeting decided to launch all India movement if the management fails to withdraw all the victimisations.

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Government Refuses Central Legislation

A meeting of the Central Standing Committee on rural unorganised labour was held on October 9, at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Union Labour Minister. Nrisingha Chakraborty, Secretary, CITU and P K Kunjchan, General Secretary, All India Agricultural Workers Union attended the meeting as members of the Committee and both of them had suggested additional items to be included in the agenda. The agenda circulated by the Govt. was relating to what has been discussed in the past, whereas the agenda suggested by both Kunjchan and Nrisingha Chakraborty included both old and new items.

After the Chairman's opening speech Nrisingha Chakraborty said that so far the discussions in the Central Standing Committee had been erratic in the sense that each member spoke on all the subjects at a time and as a result specific decisions on each item of the agenda could not be taken. He suggested that the process of deciding each agenda should now be started separately as otherwise the Standing Committee will not be able to deal with the subjects effectively. He said that the question of comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers was decided upon by this Standing Committee. Simply because there was a difference of opinion among the Labour Ministers of different States, the Centre should not have given up the idea of the comprehensive legislation. Besides he had raised two important items, one relating to the hours of work and the second regarding social security of workers not

being covered by Factory Act or other labour legislations.

All the items raised by him were supported by many other members. Kunjchan added that a welfare fund scheme for agricultural workers should be set up and provision for employment of agricultural workers should also be discussed.

However, the Chairman conducted the discussion in the same old pattern and after one round of speeches from different participants concluded the discussion by offering some suggestions. One of them was to set up a Co-ordination Committee for rapport between the IRDP, NREP and RLEGP authorities for conducting an integrated programme of development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, backward areas and backward classes. They also suggested another committee to consider the conditions of fishermen, particularly in the mechanised trawlers, which are going to high seas also. He also informed the members that conditions of service of agricultural workers is a state subject and hence if the States do not agree, there would not be much use for the legislation. The Union Govt. is however persuading the states to make such enactments and three states (Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu) have agreed to make such enactments.

The members left the meeting with the feeling that nothing transpired through the Central Standing Committee except that they are informed about certain steps which the Govt. are taking in this field.

Consumer Price Index Numbers

Base 1960

State/Centre	May 1984	June 1984	July 1984								
Andhra Pradesh				Bangalore	626	628	641	Coonoor	628	627	628
Gudur	497	502	513	Chikamagalur	590	585	587	Madurai	596	615	610
Guntur	598	614	628	Kolar G.F.	590	585	594	Kanpur	517	548	562
Hyderabad	561	572	581	Kerala				Saharanpur	550	556	572
Assam				Alleppey	636	674	682	Varanasi	627	627	645
Digboi	587	602	607	Alwaye	619	637	643	West Bengal			
Doom Dooma	478	475	480	Mundakayam	579	603	619	Asansol	541	559	575
Labac	467	475	475	Madhya Pradesh				Calcutta	539	574	587
Mariani	494	505	510	Balaghat	585	602	595	Darjeeling	457	464	473
Rangapara	479	500	511	Bhopal	592	605	616	Howrah	498	525	539
Bihar				Gwalior	561	575	588	Jalpaiguri	445	456	472
Jamshedpur	509	517	535	Indore	600	606	616	Raniganj	500	512	523
Jharia	498	506	515	Maharashtra				Delhi Territory	575	589	598
Kodarma	579	583	592	Bombay	595	604	611	Other Centres			
Monghyr	537	556	596	Nagpur	584	585	597	Berhampur ('49)	773	788	822
Noamundi	524	527	529	Sholapur	598	601	605	Cuttack ('49)	716	732	741
Gujarat				Orissa				Jabalpur ('49)	762	778	763
Ahmedabad	557	564	572	Barbil	517	527	524	Beawar ('51-52)	625	663	658
Bhavanagar	554	550	570	Sambalpur	603	608	616	Tripura ('61)	548	545	548
Haryana				Punjab				H.P. ('65)	408	414	418
Yamunanagar	561	577	586	Amritsar	551	551	596	Goa ('66)	416	431	441
J. & K.				Rajasthan				Bhilai ('66)	373	380	392
Srinagar	636	641	644	Ajmer	544	561	570	Bhilwara ('66)	327	332	340
Karnataka				Jaipur	567	585	599	Chhindawara ('66)	300	390	304
Ammathi	587	586	590	Tamil Nadu				Kothagudem ('66)	357	374	370
				Madras	550	559	569	Rourkela ('66)	372	383	385
				Coimbatore	615	607	620	All India ('60)	562	574	585

(Figure in bracket indicate base year)

48 Hours Hunger Strike by the LRSA Leaders

ELEVEN members of The Action Committee of All India Loco Running Staff Association staged a 48 hour hunger strike at the Boat Club Maidan commencing at 10 A.M. on 15th October '84 and ending on 17th at 10 A.M. Five hundred Zonal and Divisional leaders of the organisation from all over India assembled at the Boat Club maidan and staged Dharna in support of the hunger strikers.

The Association decided upon the programme of hunger strike because as explained by S.K. Dhar, Secretary General, all efforts to secure settlement of the genuine grievances of loco running staff, specially the question of reduction of duty hours to a maximum of 10 hours at a stretch from 'Signing on' to 'Signing off' which was agreed to by the Government more than a decade back in August 1973, have failed. On the other hand the authorities have taken a vindictive attitude and are punishing all who claim relief on the ground of exhaustion. The position now is that some staff are forced to work, on an average, 13 hours every day without weekly rest, while they are blamed for "human failure" in case of accidents. He asserted that "human failure" in most cases is the end-result of continuous over work. He also said that by such overwork ten thousand posts have been reduced whereas by implementing 10 hours duty 30 thousand additional posts can be created. The Government went back on the agreement during the emergency. Once again there was an agreement in 1979, but the Government again went back on it in 1981 and the protest struggle was ruthlessly suppressed. About 1100 workers have been thrown out of job.

The railway authorities did everything for the failure of the programme. The members of LRSA were refused leave and passes in an attempt to prevent them from joining the programme. In some places leave already granted and passes issued were subsequently cancelled. Threatening circulars were issued in many places to intimidate the members intending to participate in the programme. But as usual the locomen under the leadership of the LRSA made the programme a success braving all threats and surmounting all obstacles.

The hunger strike started with the inaugural speech by Srikrishna, a Joint Convenor of NCCR. Among those who addressed the gathering during the two days of hunger strike and dharna were Samar Mukherjee, M.P., General Secretary CITU, Md. Ismail M.P., Vice-President CITU, Nrisingha Chakraborty and P.K. Ganguly, both Secretaries of CITU, M.K. Ramamurthy, Sr. Advocate of the Supreme Court and the leaders of different organisations of railwayman including N.S. Bhangoo, General Secretary, AIREC.

On October 17, the concluding day of the programme locomen all over the country presented the

same memorandum to their respective local authorities, as a part of the integrated programme to draw the attention of both the Government and the people.

S.K. Dhar, who alongwith T. Hanumaiah, Joint Secretary General, met the Railway Board officials told the gathering of the negative attitude of the railway authorities and appealed for strengthening the organisation for future struggles to realise the just demand.

Meetings

The Annual General meeting of the Eastern Railwaymen's union, an AIRF affiliate was held at Asansol on 12th, 13th and 14th October '84. The meeting was attended by over five hundred delegates. Bimal De, President of the Union presided.

The General Secretary, Sujit Roy in his annual report analysed the prevailing economic and political situation and stressed the inevitability of struggle for securing wage parity which was apparently being denied by the 4th Pay Commission and the Government. Both in his report and in his reply to the discussion on it he emphasised the importance of unity of all organisations of railwaymen in the ensuing struggle. The executives of the union for the next year were unanimously elected with Bimal De as President and Sujit Roy as General Secretary.

The annual meeting of National Railway Mazdoor Union, Central Railway, another AIRF affiliate, was held at Bhopal on September 12-15, which was attended by over 600 delegates. The meeting was inaugurated by J.P. Chaubey General Secretary-AIRF and another HMS leader Vadavkar from Bombay addressed the delegates. On September 14, there was a rally and a mass meeting which was addressed by Samar Mukherjee M.P., General Secretary-CITU, Madhu Dandavate M.P. and Jamuna Prasad Shastri.

The meeting was presided over by S.L. Sethi. P.R. Menon, General Secretary placed the report, which after discussion was adopted unanimously. A resolution on the present national situation was adopted over and above the resolution on the demands of Railway workers.

This meeting took place in the background of growing struggles in Central Railway. There was a massive demonstration before the General Manager on August 21, which was addressed by Umraomal Purohit and others. Another impressive demonstration was held on September 28 in protest against non-payment of D.A. arrears. Programmes of project casual labour had also been taken, which was addressed by Ahiliya Rangnekar and others. S.L. Sethi and P.R. Menon were re-elected as President and General Secretary of the union.

Samar Mukerjee's Letter to Indira Gandhi

(Letter dated 20.10.84 for scrapping discriminatory hours of work of Loco Running Staff)

I AM addressing this letter to you because the Loco Running Staff Association feels that, since your remark in the meeting with the Trade Union Leaders on 1st July, 1980, the relations between the AILRSA and the Railway Ministry have deteriorated.

The leaders of AILRSA were on a hunger strike at Boat Club for 48 Hrs., from October, 15th to 17th, 1984. I am enclosing a copy of the memorandum which they have submitted thereafter for your special attention.

The main demand, ofcourse, is the question of reduction in duty hours. I am also enclosing a copy of the memorandum submitted by the Centre of Indian Trade Unions on the question of ILO Convention No. 1 Concerning Hours of Work (Industry).

The facts about the struggle of the Locomen for reduction of duty hours are well-known which I am not repeating. There is no shred of doubt that they are being discriminated. This is not a coloured opinion. A recent Seminar held by National Labour Institute on October 15 to 19th at New Delhi, has come to the very same conclusion and requested the Government of India to fix up duty hours of Railwaymen at par with other industrial workers and also to specify the limit of overtime work of all categories of railwaymen.

In order to highlight the charge of discrimination, I would like to draw your notice to Sections 13, 15 and 16 of the Motor Transport Workers Act—1961 which limits the duty hours of Motor Transport Workers to not more than 10 hours in a day and 54 hours, in a week, provides half an hour interval for rest within 5 hrs. of duty or 6 hrs. on any day inclusive of intervals. A Motor Transport Driver has to deal with a combustible engine having 120 to 240 HP whereas a Loco Driver has to man an engine of 1600 to 3600 HP at present, while the Government of India intends to introduce 4500 HP engines shortly. The discrimination therefore is apparent and unjustified. It is also unconstitutional in view of the provisions of Articles 14, 16 and 23 of our Constitution.

The Seminar has desired of the Government to clinch the issues through bipartite negotiations. I would suggest that orders be issued for arranging a discussion between the Railway and Labour Ministry on one hand and the Railway Federations, the All India Loco-Running Staff Association, as well as the Central Trade Unions on the other to finalise the issues. I may add that the Loco Running Staff are

of a special category and they are recognised as such in England, West Germany, Japan, Canada and USA. I hope you would issue appropriate orders on the subject and be kind enough to let me know the same.

CITU Denounces Repression on Loco Running Staff

B. T. RANADIVE, President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement on October 17:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions denounces the Government of India for going back on agreements on ten hours maximum duty from "Signing on" to "Signing off" arrived at with the All India Loco Running Staff Association once in 1973 and again in 1979 and imposing inhuman duty hours on them which goes upto on an average 13 hours every day without any weekly rest day and also withdrawal of the "channel of communication" which the Government was forced to concede to them by virtue of these agreements. It is thus clear that the Government of India is following a policy of entering into agreements when they are forced to do so through struggles and unilaterally withdrawing the same later on which is a most reprehensible form of unfair labour practice cutting at the roots of right to collective bargaining and hamper the growth of healthy trade unionism in a vital industry like railways.

The Association in a memorandum which they have addressed to the Railway Minister today, after conducting 48 hours hunger strike at Boat Clubs on Oct. 15 and 16, has brought in clear terms as to how a reign of terror is being created by punishing anyone who claims relief due to exhaustion after even 14 hours duty and how they are being maligned by the talk of breath-analyser test while attempting to hide the fact that such overwork is the root cause of all human failures. They have also pointed out that by this method while the public is exposed to an increase in accidents, the staff strength has been reduced by ten thousand thus creating problem for the unemployed. The memorandum, besides, contains the genuine grievances of locomen, a vital category of railwaymen.

The CITU demands that the Government instead of taking the attitude of confrontation with the LRSA, should negotiate and settle these long pending issues as early as possible in the interest of industrial peace, as the Government would be solely responsible for any agitation by the locomen to achieve their just demands.

The CITU fully supports the just demands placed by the Loco Running Staff Association and appeals to all other trade unions and democratic organisation to espouse their cause.

Excerpts from AILRSA Memorandum

The AILRSA memo of October 17, squarely pin points the responsibility of the authorities for violation of safety measures. It says that violations of agreement on 10 hours duty compelling them to work more hours on extended run superseding relieving point are jeopardising safety in running of train services. Staff asking for relief are being punished.

"The staff also are being forced to work under rest thus paying overtime of thousands of rupees to a single staff".

"Regarding provision of Assistant Driver with the motor man of BMU coaches, this Association had provided justification for the same since long, by proper arguments that the "Dead man's" handle which is said to be a Safety measure of one man working of EMU coaches is not at all capable of acting as safety measure".

"The maintenance of rolling Stock and the track are seriously neglected. The staff are being forced to work without maintaining the same".

"The staff are being forced to work trains with inadequate brake power".

The memorandum demanded that "Loco Running Staff be classified as "Intensive" staff and their duty hours be brought down to 8 hours from "Signing on to Signing off".

Intensive classification of Superfast trains be restored with payment of overtime after 90 hours duty fortnightly. Their link be prepared basing on the intensive classification.

The on-duty loco running staff should be given 15 minutes break for tea and half an hour break for meal and rest after 4 hours of duty. Whenever such breaks cannot be given within 5 hours of duty, the staff should be declared as "Intensive" and relieved after 6 hours of duty at a stretch. In no case such staff can be utilised for more than 8 hours of the maximum from "Signing on" to "Signing off", their weekly hours being counted at 45 hours per week."

"All the causes of train accidents and late running be prevented. The measures be found out after consulting with the organised labour connected with the train operation including this Association.

"Stop Trade Union victimisation. This is being experienced that the Trade Union rights of the Locomen have been a special target of attack in that leave and passes for participating in peaceful demonstration are being denied to them".

"The Association hoped that the Minister of

Railways will be kind enough to settle long pending demands which will pave the way to develop better industrial relation".

CITU Denounces Banning of Recruitment in Central Government Services

B. T. RANADIVE, President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement on October 8:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions denounces the decision of the Central Government to extend the ban on recruitment to fill up vacancies and creation of new posts in various Ministries, Govt. Departments and Public Sector Enterprises for another six months.

This blanket ban for another six months on filling up of vacancies by new recruitment and creation of new posts which has been existing for the past nine months, would not only jeopardise the employment situation which has already become explosive but also increase the workload of the existing staff by atleast 25 per cent in most of the offices and undertakings. It has to be taken into account that the years 1984 and 1985 happens to be the years in which most of the staff recruited during the Second World War and immediately thereafter are going to retire. The data furnished by Government reveals that during the past 37 years recruitment in the service sector had been much less compared to increase in work. As a result there had been a steady deterioration in the service sector for which the entire people had been suffering. The employees have been protesting against the increased work-load for a longtime and now further increase of the workload on these staff is likely to jeopardise the industrial relations in this sector. It would also hamper implementation of all schemes including the much lauded poverty alleviation scheme. The decision, therefore is in compatible with the professed concern of the ruling party and the Govt. at the Centre about their keen desire to improve the services as well as to undertake a genuine scheme for poverty alleviation.

The CITU, therefore, demands scrapping of the ban order and creation of new posts and recruitment to fill up the existing vacancies, so that the unemployed can get their jobs and people assured of an efficient service system. The CITU directs its affiliated unions to unleash a powerful campaign on this demand and appeals to all trade union centres to raise their powerful voice of protest against this unjust ban on recruitment and creation of new posts.

Conference of Andhra Pradesh AIDWA

“WELCOME the Telangana heroines”, “Long live the heroic fight for land”—amidst slogan shouting, the conference of Andhra Mahila Sangham (AIDWA) began on October 13 at Miryalguda, Warangal District, one of the places where peasants — men and women launched bitter guerilla struggles for land, during 1946-51. Ninety year old Ailemma, the guerilla fighter of the time was honoured by being presented with a red flag at the flag hoisting ceremony which was performed by Mythily Shivaraman.

Ahilya Rangnekar, the Joint Secretary of AIDWA inaugurated the conference. More than 500 delegates and observers participated in the conference. Ahilya Rangnekar in her speech welcomed the great contribution made by the people of Andhra Pradesh in defence of democracy by reinstating the N.T. Rama Rao ministry. She said that the Congress(I) had converted the MLAs into commodities and along with the prices of all commodities the prices of MLAs were also rising. It was reported that even Rs. 25 lakhs were offered per MLA for defection. This could not be done in West Bengal and Tripura where the Left Front Governments were in power. While turning to the serious situation in the country created by the divisive forces in Punjab, Assam, Tripura and other places, she pointed to the imperialist conspiracies behind them to dismember the country. Assailing the Govt. for its utter failure to maintain the unity of the country, she urged upon the members to accept the task and fight the divisive forces unitedly. She further called upon them to see the war danger from the same imperialists headed by USA to wipe out the achievements of socialism and dominate the world and urged for stepping up the struggle for peace and safeguard of socialism. After the inauguration of the conference, M. Udayam, the General Secretary of Andhra Mahila Sangham placed the report for discussion. She highlighted the struggles conducted by the Sangham on the dowry bill amendments, on observance of 8th March, on food shortages, education and other specific demands of women.

The next day session began with the honouring the Telangana heroines, viz, Ailemma, Satyavathi, Sashikala Ramalamma, Janaki Amma and Swarajam. Swarajam introduced each by narrating how they fought for the land against repression while standing firm. All the heroines were presented with red saries as a token of their heroism.

Vimal Ranadive, the Vice-President of AIDWA and the Secretary of AICCW congratulated the delegates on behalf of the organisations. She explained the great struggle of Telangana where the women along with the other people fought a bitter struggle facing unprecedented repression by Razakars and by the Indian Army. She said this tradition of sacrifice must be continued while fighting for the

democratic rights. Turning to the rapid progress made by AIDWA within 5 years of its birth, she explained the various struggles fought in West Bengal, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Bihar, M.P., U.P., Maharashtra, etc. which ultimately resulted in enrolment of 15 lakh members. Even in Punjab, and Assam where the situation was serious due to the divisive and secessionist forces, the AIDWA units were able to enrol a large membership. She mentioned about the increasing unemployment among women which reached about 36 lakhs in 1983 from 32 lakhs in 1982 despite tall promises made by the govt. to give employment to women. The mechanisation in Tobacco in Andhra resulted in unemployment of women in thousands and the Central Govt. has taken further move for modernisation and mechanisation in match, garment, agriculture and so on where majority of women are employed. She pointed out that women's vote is a decisive vote on which Indira Gandhi banks upon. So the women have to play great role in defeating the ruling party in the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

More than 12 delegates from each district participated in the discussion highlighting the contribution of the districts in struggle. The report was adopted unanimously with amendments suggested by the delegates. In between, the resolutions on war danger, price rise, etc were moved and passed. A resolution greeting the people of Andhra Pradesh for defeating the Centre's conspiracies to continue the benami Bhaskar Rao Govt., and reinstating the N.T. Rama Rao ministry was moved by Swarajam. In her deliberation, she also demanded that the widow pensions as promised by the Govt. must be paid to suitable persons. She further demanded house sites for women also as the Government was giving house sites to men only.

A mammoth rally was held on 15th which was participated by thousands of women who came from various places. Women agricultural workers, tribals and harijans were present in large numbers. The packed gathering of women in Miryalguda reminded everyone of the spirit of Telangana. People from villages arrived with bands, and other traditional things, playing and singing in the street. The rally was presided over by Swarajam and addressed by M. Udayam, Ahilya Rangnekar, Vimal Ranadive, Mythily Shivaraman, Hanumantha Rao, N. Prasad Rao, B.N. Reddy, etc.

CITU NOMINATIONS

CITU has nominated P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, CITU as member of the Tripartite Committee on Employees' Participation in Management, constituted by the Union Ministry of Labour.

* * *

C. Govindarajan, Working Committee member, CITU, has been nominated to attend the First Session of the ILO Committee on Food and Drink Industry, to be held at Geneva in December.

CIL's Subterfuges Rejected

THE CIL Chairman M.S. Gujaral had finally to convene the meeting of the Joint Bipartite Committee for the Coal Industry (JBCCI) on 8th October at Nagpur, despite his publicly expressed opposition to it. The October 8 meeting was convened only after the Joint Action Committee of Coal Unions submitted a memorandum to the Energy Minister Shiv Shanker giving him one month's time failing which the JAC would be free to launch indefinite strike any day.

M.K. Pandhe Secretary, CITU, pointed out in details the non-implementation of the coal agreement regarding medical facilities, housing and welfare amenities, educational facilities, provision of drinking water, etc. He pointed out the case of accumulation of huge water under-ground in Walani mines in the WCL below which the work is in progress thus causing serious risk of a new Chasnala-type disaster. He further pointed out that in Silewara area only Rs. 58 are spent per annum on medical expenditure per worker while the actual expenditure should have been about Rs. 350. He demanded full fledged discussion on the entire question of implementation of the agreement.

Intervening in the debate the Chairman CIL claimed that the performance of CIL has been "better than the best in the past", and started taking credit for himself for the entire working of the CIL. He even claimed that the World Bank Officials have been running after CIL for offering a loan. He tried to argue that out of 112 issues involved in the agreement, 98 have been fully implemented and the rest were in the process of implementation. But when he was confronted with facts on certain issues, he could not reply to the points.

Bamapada Mukherjee (CITU) pointed out that if the Chairman's statement in the meeting were reported to the coal workers they would be further incensed at the state of affairs in the CIL.

N.K. Bhatt (INTUC), Kalyan Roy (AITUC) Jayanta Poddar (HMS) and T.C. Jumde—all assailed CIL's anti-labour policy and subterfuges and demanded full discussion in the JBCCI.

Confronted with the volley of factual criticism by the trade union representatives the Chairman had to agree to have a full discussion in the JBCCI in early December after collecting all the details of implementation of the agreement. The management had to stop the deduction of eight days' wage after the Court orders. The Court had also stayed break in service, arbitrary termination of services of casual workers and other penal actions. The management had also to agree to review the other vindictive actions against workers and reopen the dialogue

with the trade unions wherever it had been stopped.

A massive demonstration of coal workers was organised before the venue of the meeting which was addressed by Joint Action Committee leaders. Prior to this a big rally was held at Silewara mines on October 7 which was presided over by B.P. Kashyap and addressed by M.K. Pandhe and Kalyan Roy.

The JAC in its meeting at Nagpur decided to review the implementation of the agreement in the next meeting of the JBCCI and decide the future course of actions.

Ban on Strike in Coalmines Condemned

M. K. PANDHE, Secretary CITU and President All India Coal Workers Federation issued the following statement on October 11:

The All India Coal Workers Federation strongly condemns the order issued by the Central Government banning strikes in coal mines under Essential Services Maintenance Act. The immediate cause of the action is the indefinite strike call given jointly by all the coal unions in Singareni Collieries Ltd. from 11th October 1984 demanding removal of ceilings in the Payment of Bonus Act.

The Bonus Act does not pay bonus to the workers whose salary is above Rs. 1600 per month and if the salary exceeds Rs. 750 per month the workers get bonus as if their salary is Rs. 750 only. As a result of these provisions no worker in coal mines is getting minimum 8.33 per cent bonus since the minimum wage itself is above Rs. 750 per month, while about 20 per cent of the workers are deprived of the right for bonus. Instead of amending the Bonus Act and remove the ceilings the government has resorted to imposing the ban on strike to hit the legitimate right of coal miners to go on strike.

The All India Coal Workers Federation urges upon the Andhra Pradesh Government led by Shri N.T. Rama Rao not to give effect to this obnoxious ESMA against 85000 workers of Singareni collieries.

The AICWF is confident that the Singareni coal miners will go ahead with their united and just struggle despite these draconian measures. It appeals to trade unions in general and coal unions in particular to raise their powerful voice of protest against the government step and express their firm solidarity with the Singareni coal miners. AICWF demands immediate withdrawal of the order prohibiting strike in coal mines all over the country.

Secretariat Meeting

A meeting of the Secretariat was held in the Central Office on October 10, presided over by B.T. Ranadive. The following other members attended the meeting. Samar Mukherjee, E. Balanandan, Md. Ismail, Nrisingha Chakraborty, M.M. Lawrence and P.K. Ganguly.

As per the decision of the General Council, the resolutions which were finalised by the Resolution Committee were approved by the meeting after incorporation of the amendments and having been gone through by B.T. Ranadive, Nrisingha Chakraborty and P.K. Ganguly. It was decided that in future some of the important resolutions should be formally moved in the General Council, discussed and approved by the meeting.

The report of the Credential Committee was placed in the meeting after corrections and approved. On query from Samar Mukherjee about the actual membership of CITU, Nrisingha Chakraborty reported that with the 15 lakh membership in 1981-82 and taking into account the new affiliations granted in the Jamshedpur Working Committee meeting, the Jaipur General Council meeting and the increase in the membership of the old unions, the total membership would be over 17 lakhs in 1983. As suggested by BTR, it was decided to issue a circular asking the unions to submit their Annual Returns for 1983 immediately.

On request from the USSR Embassy, the meeting decided to send one young CITU comrade with the DYFI comrades to attend a seminar at Moscow. The meeting also renominated Nrisingha Chakraborty in the Central Apprenticeship Council which has been reconstituted by the Govt.

Md. Ismail who visited Himachal Pradesh, reported that the activities of CITU are developing there despite a difficult situation and repression faced by our comrades. It was decided that the Centre should continue to extend financial assistance to the State Committee for some time more.

As intimated by M.K. Pandhe, P.K. Ganguly reported about the stalemate in the DA Review Committee as no meeting could be arranged with the Finance Minister, nor the date for the next meeting of the committee was fixed. Similarly, on the question of verification the CLC (C) has not given any further date for the meeting with the Central Trade Unions which was postponed earlier. On the proposed convention on textile, he said that one round of talks has been held with other trade unions including INTUC by M.K. Pandhe. While AITUC, HMS and BMS have already agreed to the proposal, the INTUC is expected to give its opinion at the end of the month. As suggested by Ganguly, the list of the foreign complementary copies of the Working Class was reviewed. While some of those who were not responding were dropped, the journal would be sent to the rest by air mail. On his suggestion, the meeting also approved purchase of some new foreign journals. P.K. Ganguly also raised the question of formation of an All India Federation of

the Unions in Food Corporation of India. The meeting decided to pursue the matter. M.M. Lawrence raised the question of formation of trade unions of agricultural workers. The meeting decided to pursue the matter so that decisions could be taken at the State level.

Samar Mukherjee raised the question of the growing closures and lockouts and pointed out that the urge among the workers for developing united struggles has compelled the INTUC also to join the struggles in some cases. The State Committees and the affiliated unions should properly utilise the situation for further development of the joint struggles.

Canara Bank Staff Union Conference

THE Seventh Conference of Canara Bank Staff Union was held at Madras from September 25-27. The Conference was attended by 1208 delegates and 315 observers. The Canara Bank Employees and delegates came in a big procession numbering about 3000 to the venue of the Conference. It was inaugurated by Ashis Sen, General Secretary, BEFI. He pointed out that computerisation in the Banking Industry would not only bring about abolition of jobs but also cause insecurity in the existing jobs. He therefore, stressed the need to fight against this menace. Speaking on the Bipartite settlement in the Banking Industry level, he emphasised that with unity and struggle, the Bank employees could have achieved better monetary benefits.

Speaking on the occasion, R. Umanath, General Secretary, Tamilnadu State CITU, who was the Chief Guest, stressed the need to build up united struggles against the policy of the Government and join the mainstream of struggles waged under the banner of the National Campaign Committee.

On 26th September 1984 the delegates session was converted into an open session in the afternoon, which was addressed by B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU. Drawing attention to the vast army of educated unemployed, BTR said that mechanisation and automation would further augment the number of the unemployed in the country. The employees must fight this policy unitedly. He also drew attention to the rise of the divisive forces and pointed to the imperialist conspiracies behind them. He condemned the Government for its failure to maintain the unity of the country. It was on the contrary not above utilising the divisive forces for its narrow electoral gains sacrificing national integration. He called upon the workers to accept the challenge and fight the divisive forces and protect the unity of the working people and the country. He further drew attention to the danger of war created by the imperialists and urged upon the workers to build up struggles for peace and safeguard working class interests.

On 27th, the Conference elected H.D. Shenoy and G.M.V. Nayak as the President and General Secretary respectively.

Government's Attempt to Sabotage International Standards

A national tripartite seminar on international labour standards was held at New Delhi from October 15 to 19. The seminar was organised by the National Labour Institute in collaboration with ILO. The seminar was attended by representatives of Central and State Govts., of employers' organisations in the public and private sectors and representatives of Central Trade Unions. CITU was represented by M.K. Pandhe, Secretary. The other trade unions represented were AITUC, INTUC, HMS, UTUC, BMS and TUCC.

The seminar discussed the following ILO Conventions:

Ratified Conventions: (i) Convention No. I concerning Hours of Work (Industry), 1919; (2) Convention No. 26 concerning Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery, 1928; and (3) Convention No. 88 Concerning Employment Services, 1948.

Unratified Conventions: (1) Convention No. 102 concerning Social Security (Minimum Standard), 1952; (2) Convention No. 103 concerning Maternity Protection (Revised), 1952; (3) Convention No. 136 concerning Benzene, 1976; and (4) Convention No. 150 concerning Labour Administration, 1978.

Government's Attempt to Sabotage International Standards

The recalcitrant attitude of the Government of India towards maintaining even the minimum international standards can be seen from the fact that out of the 159 conventions adopted by the ILO so far, India has ratified only 34, and during the last 20 years it has ratified only four conventions. The Government's rabid anti-labour attitude can be visualised from the fact that it has refused to ratify the two most vital conventions concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise (No. 87) and Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining (98). Above all, the Government of India circulated a booklet among the participants in the seminar, entitled "International Labour Standards — a Critical Review". The booklet openly advocated dilution of the international standards on the plea that they were unrealistic and unpracticable in the developing countries. The booklet was circulated in the 1984 session of the ILO also trying to mobilise opinions of the developing countries. It clearly laid bare the fact that the Government of India was playing the leading role in sabotaging the ILO Conventions. The pro-monopolist and anti-labour character of the Government was further exposed by the speeches of the Union Labour Minister of and the Minister State for Labour in the

seminar, who openly advocated for dilution of the international labour standards.

One of the highlights of the Convention was that in the general discussion itself the question concerning Hours of Work came up. It was evidently because CITU had submitted a memorandum to the Director General, ILO; the Chairman, Governing Body of ILO and to the Government of India regarding violation and non-implementation of the ILO Convention No. I concerning Hours of Work (Industry). (*The memorandum has been published in booklet form — Ed.*) Apart from mentioning other industries, the memorandum specifically pointed out the utter discrimination meted out to the Loco Running Staff in the Railways who were ruthlessly exploited and compelled to work even for 14 hours a day at a stretch instead of 8 hours. Speaking on the subject, M.K. Pandhe pointed out that the Govt. of India had not only violated the agreements with the AILRSA of 1973 and 1979, but also violated the Articles 14 and 23 of the Constitution. It is to be noted that precisely when this subject was being discussed in the seminar and the Loco Running workers were staging a 48-hours hunger strike and dharna at the Boat Club, that the Government of India was campaigning for a dilution of the international labour standards. (*Report of the dharna has been published in this issue*). Continuing his criticism of the Government, Pandhe went on to point out the violations of the convention with regard to the Indian Seamen, regarding loading and unloading operation in all industries, in road transport, in inland water transport system, fishermen in high seas, etc. In agriculture also which has been taken in the schedule of industries, there is no regulation regarding hours of work. He also pointed to ESMA and said that it was direct attack on Trade Union rights and the right to strike and that the ILO Expert Committee had commented that the ESMA extends the scope of essential service beyond limit. But the Government of India refused to take action on the comments. The facts laid bare in the seminar made the position of the anti-labour Government of India very small. All the attending Central Trade Unions including the INTUC issued a joint statement to the press on October 19 protesting against the attempt of the Government to dilute the international labour standards.

Conclusions

The seminar was then divided into two groups and considered all the conventions. The conclusions of the seminar are given below:

Hours of Work (Industry) Convention, 1919: The

group agreed that the question of reducing existing standard of working hours per week should be considered. In this connection it referred to another convention No. 47 in 1935 on Forty Hours week. The group considered the comments made by the Committee of Experts on the Application of the Conventions and Recommendations. "It was noted that a proposal for amending the hours of Employment Regulations is ... being finalised. The committee would be grateful if the Government would keep it informed of any development relating thereto The committee has also noted that following the amendment of the hours of employment regulations, the Government will undertake to incorporate in the subsidiary instruction the necessary legislative provisions concerning the maximum daily hours of work in the light of the recommendations made by the Railway Labour Tribunal in 1969, according to which a single stretch of duty by the running staff should not exceed 10 hours.

The reports further stated, "The committee has noted that overtime is not normally resorted to in the railways and that section 71c (4) of the Indian Railways act 1890, permits overtime only under certain temporary exceptions. It draws attention to of the Government to the fact that, according to article 6, para 2, of the convention, regulations made by public authorities shall fix the maximum permitted hours of overtime in cases of permanent and temporary exceptions. The Committee hopes that measures will be taken to give effect to this requirement of the convention".

The group expressed the opinion that in regard to railway staff the working hours should be brought down at par with other industrial workers and demanded early action on the comment of the ILO Expert Committee. At present the railway rules do not provide any limit on the overtime work. The Group suggested that the railways should fix the maximum additional hours of work for railwaymen.

The Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery Convention, 1928: It is to be noted here again that the Government of India, despite series of agitations and memorandum submitted by CITU, has not yet fixed any criteria for fixing the minimum wages, nor it has amended the Minimum Wages Act therefor, nor it has any machinery to implement minimum wages. The Government has even violated the decisions of tripartite Indian Labour Conference on need based wage. The result is that the minimum wages in the country are in a chaotic state, varying from state to state and industry to industry in a most irrational manner. Employers do not even implement the minimum wages notified by the Government. There have been cases where under the pressure of the employers, the Government has even withdrawn its own notification on minimum wages and exposed the workers to the ruthless exploitation by the employers.

The group disapproved the frequent appeals made by the employers against the Minimum Wage notifications which according to the group were not in the spirit of the convention. It advocated regular revision of minimum wages once in two years or

when there is 50 point rise in Consumer Price Index (1960=100) whichever is earlier. It demanded full implementation of minimum wages for contract workers. The group noted that a large number of workers are yet to be covered by minimum wage fixing machinery and observed, "while para 2 states that Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery can be applied in sectors where collective agreement are not possible, the group noted that in several well organised sectors, the non regular employees are not covered by collective agreements and are governed by the notified minimum wages. The group feels that these sectors also should be covered by the collective agreements". In this connection the group noted the recent Supreme Court judgement asking the judiciary to view the violation of the labour laws seriously and impose stringent punishment.

Organisation of Employment Service Convention: India has ratified this convention in 1959. The group noted some inadequacies in the present employment service and suggested improvements. It observed that large areas of employment in Government, both at the centre and states and in public sector had been kept out of the national system. This was in deviation with the convention. It recommended that employment service scheme should be extended to rural sector also, and strengthening of the system of the vocational training and guidance. The group recommended need to ensure effective, recruitment and placement and suggested effective measure to strengthen the system.

Labour Administration Convention 1978: The group felt that though tripartite consultative meetings are being held the coordination is not that adequate. The periodicity of consultation through various bodies/committees/boards should be made more regular. Indian Labour Conference, Standing Labour Committee etc should be revived. The group recommended that immediate review of the difficulties in ratifying the conventions in consultation with the ILO should be done and remedies should be found so that the convention is ratified as early as possible.

Minimum Standard of Social Security Convention: The group noted some of the deficiencies in the existing system and suggested that they should be removed. It observed that there were certain instructions in Government and in the public sector imposing restrictions regarding intervals between pregnancies and numbers of birth in the matter of payment of maternity benefit and opined that these instructions would violate the provisions of the conventions. The group recommended that the Government of India should ratify the convention within one year.

Maternity Protection Convention (Revised) 1952: The present legislative coverage is far from adequate to meet the minimum requirement of the convention. The present scheme also does not give freedom of choice of a doctor to a woman worker. The group recommended that the ESI Act may be reviewed with a view to identify the necessary changes which would help to achieve early ratification.

Protection Against Hazards of Poisoning Arising from Benzene Convention: The group noted the delay in ratifying the convention and demanded completion of formalities of ratification within 4 months.

Workers' Participation in Management

ACCORDING to the scheme of Employees' Participation in Management drawn up by the Government in December 1983, a Tripartite Committee has been formed by the Labour Ministry to monitor implementation of the scheme and review its working from time to time. The various Central Ministries, representatives of State Governments, managements of Public Sector Undertakings and the Central Trade Unions are represented in this Tripartite Committee. CITU nominated P.K. Ganguly, Secretary in the Committee. The other Central Trade Unions represented were AITUC, INTUC and BMS.

The first meeting of the Committee was held on October 23. Only some of the Public Sector Undertakings and the Department of Heavy Industries sent progress reports about implementation of the scheme. Since consolidated reports were not received, only preliminary discussions were held in the meeting taking the general view of the participants.

The following main points emerged out of the reports: The new participative forums had hardly been constituted in the undertakings. The existing bipartite forums (JCM like bodies) were being continued as per the instruction of the Labour Ministry. The Managements were unable to implement the scheme because of lack of consensus regarding the mode of representation of the workers, "inter-union rivalry" and "multiplicity of unions". The existing state laws like MPIR and BIR Acts also came on the way as they authorised representation by only the recognised unions excluding the vast masses of workers under the unrecognised unions.

Speaking at the outset, P.K. Ganguly reiterated the CITU's stand which was made clear in the Tripartite Meeting of May 25 (June issue). He said that the disagreement recorded by CITU on some of the clauses in the scheme had now come true as per reports. The existing forums cannot be regarded as forums for workers' participation in the management as these were, practically wage negotiating bodies. Also, by rejecting secret ballot as the mode of representation the Government was perpetuating the main hitch in implementation of the scheme. Similar has been the experience for trying to perpetuate the notorious Acts like MPIR and BIR. Quoting from the reports, he further said that the subject matters that were being discussed related only to higher productions, productivity, absenteeism and discipline of the workers, which only mean imposition of higher workloads on the workers. He urged involvement of workers on equal footing in all matters concerning decision and policy making.

The INTUC and managements of several undertakings opposed Ganguly's views contending that it was an attempt to revive discussion on the scheme itself instead of its implementation. The management representatives themselves however, in their verbal reports also pinpointed to the same difficulties in implementation of the scheme and thus laid bare

the lacunae of the scheme.

The meeting however could not arrive at any solution to the problems. P.D. Shenoy, the Chief Labour Commissioner suggested that a team of BPE should visit the plants to analyse the main problem, i.e. mode of representation and give its suggestions before the next meeting of the committee. P.K. Ganguly said that if at all any team is to go, it should be of the present tripartite committee with representatives of the Central Trade Unions, which has been constituted to monitor the implementation of the scheme. B.G. Deshmukh, the Labour Secretary, who was presiding over the meeting, said that this was only the first meeting. Let the ministries and the undertakings send their detailed reports about the difficulties so that these can be discussed in the subsequent meetings. P.K. Ganguly suggested that the Central Trade Unions should also suggest agenda notes, so notice for the same should be served sufficiently ahead to enable them to prepare the same.

It was decided that the meeting of the Committee will be held quarterly. The next meeting would be held in January, 1985.

(N.B: All Unions are requested to regularly inform the Central Office regarding implementation of the scheme in the respective undertakings)

Central Government Evading Wage Parity

THE Central Government instead of asking the Pay Commission to submit an interim report suggesting revised pay scales to the employees at par with those in Public Sectors by October as was promised by it, has now asked it to examine the demand for another interim relief. Denouncing this unfair labour practice of the Government, leaders of National Federation of Printing and Stationery Employees, A.I. RMS and MMS Employees Union, A.I. Postal Employees Union-IV and EDA, GSI Employees Association, A.I. Audit and Accounts Association, I.T. Employees Federation, A.I. Civil Accounts Employees Association and A.I. Postal Accounts Employees Association said in statement on October 22 that this was a device to evade the grant of wage parity to the employees. The Government had adopted the same device in 1983 by appointing the 4th Pay Commission itself. The Govt. had further went back on its commitment of paying the DA arrears in cash. The statement further condemned the Government for arriving at the decision based on understanding with only a section of JCM leadership. It demanded immediate grant of Rs. 265 as interim relief and called upon the members organise protest demonstrations all over the country.

AROUND THE STATES

MAHARASHTRA

Grim Struggle of Powerloom Workers

Five lakh powerloom workers of Maharashtra are on a grim struggle demanding implementation of minimum wage as notified by the State Government and ordered by the High Court. The struggle which has been spearheaded by CITU and being conducted by a Joint Action Committee, is particularly intense in Kolhapur, Sangli (Ichalkaranji) and Solapur. The Government which notified the minimum wage, had withdrawn it under pressure from the owners and now to subserve their interests is defying the High Court orders to prevail upon the owners to pay the notified minimum wage.

The powerloom workers who are ruthlessly exploited by the owners have to work for 12 hours a day running on 3-4 looms at a time on a mere pittance of Rs. 298 p.m. There is no labour law applicable on them, like the Factory Act, P.F. Act, ESIS Act, Bonus Act, etc., and the wages they receive are merely starvation wages. Appropriating their fruits of labour, the owners have expanded the industry five fold during the last 13 years. In 1981, it surpassed the textile mills in output of cloth — 4,547 million meters in powerloom as against 3,808 million meter in textiles. Cheap labour and high profits have lured the textile mill owners to close down the textile mills or to cut down productions there and switch over to powerlooms, increasing the number of powerlooms from about 90 thousands to 2 lakh 50 thousands during the last 13 years. By such racketeering by the mill magnets, while thousands of textile workers have been thrown out of employment, thousands of their counter-parts in the looms have been exposed to ruthless exploitation. The extent of exploitation and the amount of profit can be gauged from the fact that a superfine Dhoti produced in a powerloom and selling at Rs. 100 to Rs. 120 bears a labour cost of only Rs. 3. Similarly, the labour cost of a Shirting selling at Rs. 50 amounts to Re. 1 only.

Under such circumstances, the Government was forced to appoint a Minimum Wage Revision Committee in 1981. The Committee submitted its report in early 1984 recommending a basic wage of Rs. 250, plus a Special Allowance of Rs. 402 (on the present index with a provision of Re. 1 per point rise), thus totalling to Rs. 652 p.m. for an 8 hour day on 2 looms. The Government was reluctant to implement the recommendations. The workers launched united struggles jointly under CITU, AITUC and HMS with K.L. Malabade (CITU) as the Convenor of the JAC. A statewide conference was organised which was addressed by Samar Mukherjee, M.P., General Secretary of CITU. Then

followed a mass dharna at Bombay followed by a day's token strike on May 9. Thereafter the JAC served notices for indefinite strike. It was then only that the Government was compelled to accept the recommendations of the Committee and notify the minimum wages on August 1.

But then the powerloom owners struck back and closed down a number of mills. Subversing their interests the Government immediately suspended its own notification. The CITU filed an appeal in the High Court, which declared the suspension as null and void and ordered for payment of the minimum wages which were notified. The employers then approached the High Court questioning the validity of the 1st August notification. The High Court then gave another order asking to make payment of 75 per cent of the revised minimum wages. But this also the employers refused to pay and deployed goondas to beat up the workers. The Government come up to reinforce their attack by imposing Section 144, banning meetings and demonstrations — the police making brutal lathicharges on even pregnant women and children. But the undeterred workers are carrying on the struggle by holding huge mass meetings, processions, dharnas, jail bhara programmes in all the centres like Solapur, Ichalkaranji, Sangli, Madhavanagar, Vita, Jaisinghpur. Kurindwad, Vadgaon, Rendal and so on.

KERALA

Demands Day by Motor Transport Workers

About one lakh motor transport workers engaged as drivers and cleaners of lorries, tempo vans, taxis, auto-rickshaws, etc. observed a statewide Demands Day on October 25. These workers do not have any fixed hours of work, their service conditions are deplorable and the nominal wages they receive are totally insufficient to make the both ends meet. Neither the benefits of Motor Transport Workers' Act are extended to them, nor any other labour laws are applicable to them. As a result of their statewide agitations, the Government formed a tripartite committee which visited the important lorry-transport centres of the State and submitted its recommendations to the Government. The representatives of the employers gave their note of dissent to the recommendations. The workers have started the present agitation demanding implementation of the recommendations and for establishing a Welfare Fund Scheme for the workers. The struggle is being conducted by the CITU-led federation of the transport workers. The day was observed by holding mass demonstrations, rallies and submission of memorandum to the District authorities in each District. In a meeting of the federation held at Ernakulam it decided to step up the movements till the demands are acceded.

ASSAM

Relief Team of Trade Unions

On 13th and 14th October last a relief team comprising of CITU, UBIEU, some employees of RBI

and DYFI & SFI, Gauhati distributed substantial quantity of rice and clothes (a truckful) in the flood affected villages around Mandia, Kayakuchi and Sikar Bhitha to about 3000 people. Virtually deprived of Govt. relief—half kg Atta per head was the only Govt. relief they got from Govt in Sikar Bhitha—the villagers, when the relief team met them from house to house enquiring about their plight, joyfully received whatever the small relief could be distributed by the team. They complained to the team members that instead of Govt.-declared three months relief, they got some meagre relief only for 3-4 days after which they had been asked to return home from relief camps. With paddy fields devastated and receiving no seedings from the Govt, a famine condition stalks the villages for the coming months accompanied by epidemic diseases. The team urged upon the Government to undertake relief in food, clothes and medicines in right earnest and distribute seeds to enable the villagers to stem the impending famine.

TAMILNADU

Strike Struggles on Bonus

Textile mill workers in Tamilnadu observed a day's protest strike on 12th October against the anti worker-Bonus settlement. Textile workers in Tamilnadu have a tradition of getting bonus over and above the Bonus Act. Through united struggles, textile workers had forced the South Indian Mills Association (SIMA) to agree to a separate formula known as SIMA Formula for calculating bonus. But during the last few years, SIMA was trying its best to force the workers to accept bonus as per Bonus Act. In 1982, the State Govt. referred the issue under Sec. 10 (b) of the ID Act to the Industrial Tribunal. CITU and some other unions had protested against this act of the State Govt. and organised protest actions. The issue is still pending before the Tribunal. In 1983 all unions except CITU and AITUC, signed an ad-hoc payment, on the basis of attendance. A final decision on this ad-hoc payment was to be reached after the tribunal gave its award in the pending dispute. This year, the campaign among the textile workers started well in advance because the wage settlement had expired in July 1984. All unions had submitted new charter of demands. At the same time SIMA had been demanding a deposit of Rs. 200 per month from its workers.

In the meantime, Labour Department initiated conciliations. On 11th October a settlement was reached with some of the unions towing the management's line. Protesting against this betrayal, CITU, AITUC and LPF called for a protest strike on 12th October and it was successful. In many centres, workers belonging to those unions, who had signed the settlement also participated in the strike.

In the meanwhile workers of Madura Coats have gone on strike demanding more bonus. In 1982,

while textile workers were on struggle for Bonus, INTUC and some other unions in Madura Coats had signed a productivity linked Bonus agreement. But this year, even as per the productivity linked scheme, workers were eligible for 8.33 per cent only. After this was announced there was great resentment among the workers. Sensing the mood of workers, INTUC and the management announced Rs. 300 per worker as a special gift in connection with the 'Tenth Year' under this management. Even this was rejected by the workers and they went on strike from 8.10.84. CITU, AITUC, HMS, LPF and some other unions are leading the struggle. Demonstrations, meetings, hunger strikes are going on. A massive demonstration of family members of the workers was conducted before the collectorate.

Another struggle for bonus is going on in Tata plantations in Valparai, Coimbatore District. Here, all the 7 unions including CITU, AITUC and INTUC are jointly conducting struggles. On 8th October a successful 'Valparai Bandh' was organised.

In many units, workers have reached settlements for more bonus than that eligible as per Bonus Act. Even in State Govt. owned Transport Corporations and Electricity Board, ex-gratia amounts were paid, in addition to the statutory minimum Bonus.

Victimisations in BHEL

After the incidents in BHEL, Trichy factory on 12th and 13th September, management has started victimising the leading cadres of Trade Unions. On September 12, the day of Statewide general strike, police let loose terror on the workers of BHEL. On the next day again there were incidents in the factory premises and many workers were assaulted. Cases were filed against leaders of workers. Many including T.K. Rengarajan, Secretary of the State CITU and General Secretary of the CITU union were arrested on false charges. Five workers have been dismissed by the management without even conducting an enquiry. These workers are in jail and the orders were served to them in jail. Unions are jointly agitating against these victimisations. CITU, AITUC and LPF jointly issued a statement condemning these victimisations and demanding withdrawal of these orders. Leaders of CPI(M), CPI and DMK have also issued a statement condemning these victimisations and assured full support to the unions in their struggle.

DELHI

Municipal Workers' Struggle

Led by Municipal Workers' Lal Jhanda Union (CITU), more than two thousand water-works employees staged two days' dharna in front of the offices of the Deputy Commissioner and the Chief Engineer (Water-Works) on October 18 and 19. The workers have been on struggle since 1983 in pursuance of their 6 point demands which included

revised minimum wages, bonus, confirmation of muster-roll employees and payment of arrears, etc. The Union also served a notice for strike on July 28. At this stage in a conciliation called by the Labour Commissioner, the authorities agreed to accede to the demands. But later they violated the agreement and did not implement the terms. After the massive dharna, the authorities agreed to accede to the demands for bonus and revised minimum wages. The dharna was addressed by leaders of many fraternal trade unions.

MADHYA PRADESH

Dharna by Loco Running Staff

Over 100 activists of the A.I. Loco Running Staff, Bilaspur Branch staged a day long dharna before the 'Divisional Railway Head Qrs on October 17. The dharna was staged as a part of the countrywide programme conducted by the AILRSA demanding implementation of 10 hour work agreement, vacation of all victimisations and other long pending demands. At the same time a massive 2 day dharna and hunger strike was conducted at Boat Club, Delhi. After the dharna a huge mass meeting was held which was presided over by V.K. Sharma. Akbar Ali explained the demands of the Loco Running staff.

CITU Work for Communal Harmony

Grasim Mazdoor Sabha (CITU), Nagda Nagar, in a report stated how CITU, DYFI and CPI (M) cadres struggled to maintain communal harmony at Nagda during the last Dusserah and Muharram festivals. The RSS along with some criminals who were released from jail were instrumental in creating communal clash. It has been alleged that one of the criminals had the blessings of the Congress (I). The CPI (M) and the CITU cadres of Grasim Mazdoor Sabha had apprehended the trouble one month back from the preparations made by the RSS. They informed the local administration also, but the authorities paid no heed to the entreaties. On the contrary, the police gave permission to the Dusserah processionists to deviate from their usual path and proceed through an area inhabited by the other community. The processionists set fire to some timber godowns belonging to the other community. The workers of CITU, CPI (M) and DYFI were gheraoed by the RSS hoodlums while trying to stop the fracas. However, at their initiative a citizen's peace committee was formed and they visited all the areas and launched massive poster campaign. Prakash Chandra, Rawal, Prahlad Roy, Paspamandan and other cadres of CPI (M), CITU and DYFI worked day and night under threat of their lives to restore communal harmony in the area.

Hunger Strike by PWD Workers

At the call of Madhya Pradesh State CITU, the workers of PWD, PHE and irrigation department staged a continuous hunger strike from October 9 to 17 before the office of the Labour Commissioner, Indore. The action programme was drawn by the

PWD Mazdoor Work Charge Karmachari Union (CITU) demanding confirmation of the temporary workers, old age pension, gratuity, etc. A memorandum was submitted to the Labour Commissioner with the demands. A largely attended mass meeting was held on 17th at the end of the hunger strike. The union has demanded settlement of the demands by October 31, failing which a Demands Day would be observed throughout the State on November 6, and thereafter a March to Bhopal programme would be launched on November 18 to stage a massive demonstration before the Chief Minister's residence.

Bonus Struggle by Steel Employees

Let by Hindustan Steel Employee's Union (CITU), 20 workers of Bhilai Steel Plant staged a 24 hour hunger strike from 7 AM, October 2 to 7 AM, October 3. The hunger strike was organised demanding immediate disbursement of bonus and abolition of the ceiling. Hundreds of workers continuously sat in dharna along with the hunger strikers. Addressing the dharna, P.K. Mukherjee, Joint Secretary of Hindusthan Steel Employees Union and Vice-President of the Steel Workers Federation of India explained the justification of the demands. Because of the ceiling, he said that about 12,000 workers of Bhilai Steel and about 50,000 workers all over India in the steel industry will be deprived of bonus. Prior to this, the union observed the 'Bonus Day' on September 28 at the call of the Steel Worker's Federation of India by holding a massive four-hour rally at the Equipment chowk at Bhilai.

W. BENGAL

AICAPEF Branch Formed

The W. Bengal Branch of All India Chemical and Pharmaceutical Employees Federation was formed in a state conference of pharmaceutical workers held at Calcutta on September 24. The conference was presided over by a Presidium consisting of Sachin Sen, Niranjana Mukherjee and Gopal Bhattacharya and inaugurated by Samar Mukherjee, M.P., General Secretary of CITU. While congratulating the workers for formation of the State Branch of AICAPEF, Samar Mukherjee called upon them to strengthen the organisation in order to build up united movements of the workers against the anti-people drug policy of the Govt. and to fight the dangers from the multinationals. Among others who spoke were Md Ismail, President and Manoranjan Roy, General Secretary of the W. Bengal State CITU, Bhabatosh Roy, Jt. Convenor of 12th July Committee, Lakshmi Sen and J.S. Majumdar, General Secretary, FMRAI.

Bidyut Ganguly, Jt. General Secretary of AICAPEF placed a report on behalf of the preparatory committee. The conference adopted several resolutions including on common charter of demands. The conference elected Gopal Bhattacharya and Gobindo Guha as President and General Secretary respectively.

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International Struggles

OBSERVANCE OF SEPTEMBER 1

SEPTEMBER 1, the day of trade union action for peace and disarmament which coincided with the 45th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War started by Nazi Hitler, was observed by millions of workers and people around the world. They demonstrated their wrath against the Reagan administration for bringing the world on the brink of a nuclear holocaust and their determination to safeguard peace. Following are the reports of the observance:

U.S.S.R.

Seventy million people participated in the demonstrations, marches and rallies, in Moscow, Leningrad and other capitals of the republics, industrial centres and work places. Special peace lesson classes were held on schools. A special rally devoted to 1st September was held on August 30, in the Palace of Culture of a Moscow ball bearing plant which was addressed by leaders of Soviet trade unions and several foreign delegates. Speaking on the success of the movement against the zingoist policy of the US imperialists and their NATO allies, V.I. Prokhorov, Vice-President of AUCCTU expressed solidarity of the soviet trade unions to all peoples fighting for peace and detente.

Bulgaria

Innumerable assemblies for peace were held in the big and small cities and enterprises. Thousands of workers converged at Sofia and demonstrated their determination to carry forward the struggle for the right to live in peace and protect the world from the imperialist brigands.

Poland

Poland, the first target of fascist Hitler forty five years ago sounded sirens throughout the country at mid-day to remind the people of the victims of the Second World War and as a warning against the Third World War planned by the US Imperialists. The people and transport stopped on the streets. From the major cities down to the smallest villages people demonstrated, denouncing the militarist policy of the United States and their allies. The World Union of Peace Towns holding a meeting at Warsaw from August 31 to September 2 issued an appeal addressed to all people of all countries urging upon them to build up the struggle for peace to save mankind from the threat of a nuclear holocaust.

Czechoslovakia

A massive rally was held in Antonin Zapotosky mine in Orlova which was attended by several trade union leaders from abroad representing FDGB

of GDR, OGB of Austria, Polish Miners' Union, etc. apart from the leaders of the Central Council of Czechoslovak Trade Unions. The rally was addressed by Ibrahim Zakaria, General Secretary of WFTU. Another huge rally was held at Bratislava which was addressed by the WFTU Secretary, Ernesto Araneda.

Vietnam

Mass rallies were held at Hanoi, Haiphong, Hochi-Minh City and various other places and industrial centres. The Federation of Vietnamese Trade Unions mobilised large sections of workers in the rallies. In various offices and enterprises broad based meetings were held which called for continuous vigilance against and exposure of the war designs of US imperialism to exterminate the achievements of socialism and dominate the world. The Vietnamese Radio and TV gave wide coverage of the observations of the day.

DPRK

Organised by the General Federation of Trade Unions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a mass rally of workers was held in Pyongyang. Thousands of workers joined the huge assembly. Addressing the rally, Kim Yong Nam, Vice-President of the Federation said that all anti-imperialist forces and the workers should firmly unite in the movement against war, against nuclear weapons and for peace and safeguard of socialism.

People's Republic of Congo

Organised by the Congolese Trade Union Confederation a mass rally was held at Brazzaville, participated by over 2000 workers. The rally adopted a resolution reiterating its solidarity for the peace initiatives by the Socialist countries and the categorical opposition to the aggressive policy of the Reagan administration and the NATO countries. It further expressed solidarity with all peoples of the world fighting for their sovereignty and national independence. Peace rallies were also held in various other places of the country. From September 1, the Confederation started a month long programme of peace and progress in the country.

Angola

The Angolan National Workers' Union (UNTA) organised peace rallies throughout the country. A huge trade union assembly was held at Luanda. Addressing the assembly, G. Joao Pascoal Tavares, Deputy General Secretary of UNTA stressed the importance of the international solidarity of workers for peace and detente for the safeguard of socialism against the offensive of imperialism.

Japan

Workers of various industries, met at Tokyo and condemned the war manoeuvres of USA and Japan. The meeting adopted two resolutions addressed to President Reagan of USA and Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan protesting against the heightening of tension around the world caused by the deployment of the US Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles in Europe and the Tomahawk nuclear missiles in the Pacific and demanded withdrawal of the same.

Finland

Observation of September 1 started from August 29 in various places in the country. A workers' rally was held at the Soviet Finnish Friendship Construction site in which the Soviet and Finnish workers took part. Short work stoppages were also launched in several building sites around the country. The rallies demanded withdrawal of the US Cruise and

workers demanded a stop to the nuclear arms race and increase in the social security measures. In Duisberg and Stuckenbrock thousands of workers paid homage to the victims of Hitler's fascism. In Kassel and other cities the trade unions raised the demand for a reversal of the militarist policy of the present Federal Govt. to a policy of peace and detente. They demanded the withdrawal of the Euromissiles. Willy Brandt, Chairman of the Social Democratic Party said that the USA had torpedoed the possibility of any agreement in Geneva by deploying the new missiles in Western Europe. Contrary to the claim of the Government, the security of FRG had further deteriorated thereby, he said.

Greece

Large scale preparations were made by the trade unions to observe the day throughout Greece. Rallies were held in the enterprises, offices and other work

Rising Jobless in Advanced Capitalist Countries

(As Percentage to Working Population)

	1970		1982	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Austria	1.1	1.9	2.8	4.6
Canada	5.5	5.8	11.0	10.8
France	1.4	4.2	5.6	11.8
FRG	0.5	0.6	6.0	7.7
Italy	3.7	9.4	6.0	14.7
Japan	1.2	1.0	2.4	2.3
Spain	2.9	1.4	15.1	20.3
Great Britain	2.9	0.9	12.7	7.1
Norway	0.8	0.6	2.3	3.0
Sweden	1.4	1.7	3.0	3.4
Switzerland	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.5
United States	4.2	5.9	9.7	9.4

(Source: EEC. Reproduced from Flashes, Oct. 5, 1984)

Pershing-2 missiles to make ground for resumption of the Geneva talks.

USA

Big demonstrations were held near the gate of the Seneca-Romulus military base in New York State. The demonstrators put a lock on the gate of the base as a symbol of their firm disagreement with Reagan's rearmament policy. A large posse of police swooped on the demonstrators, brutally assaulted them and arrested a large number.

FRG

Large demonstrations and rallies marked the day in all the big and small cities of West Germany. The common slogan was "No more wars, Jobs and not Bombs". The demonstrators demanded of the administration to declare Europe as a nuclear free zone. In Frankfurt, Bonn and Dusseldorf the

places. Anti-war films were exhibited. The preparations culminated in a huge demonstration at Athens jointly conducted by the Greek Trade Unions and the Athens Workers' Centre. The demonstrators raised the slogan "No nuclear weapons, for a nuclear free zone in the Balkans".

Denmark

The Copenhagen-Frederiksberg Council of Trade Unions in cooperation with the "Trade Unions for Peace Mass Movement" organised an East-West trade union meeting at Copenhagen. Delegates from the trade unions in Denmark, Soviet Union, United States along with those where nuclear missiles have been installed, like, FRG, Great Britain, the GDR and Czechoslovakia addressed the meeting. A public press conference was held later on the issue of peace and disarmament. A fund was collected for the people of Nicaragua and the striking British miners. A campaign was launched for a "Denmark free from

nuclear weapons". The campaign is to culminate with a general strike on October 24 followed by a mass demonstration on October 27. On September 1 and 2 the "Trade Unions for Peace Movement" conducted a "Peace Protectors' Conference" at Odense. Apart from this, rallies, marches and workers assemblies took place in Aarhus, Roskilde and other cities.

OTHER STRUGGLES

Great Britain

The strike of the two lakh Coal miners in Great Britain entered the eighth month on October 13 with full glory. Since the strike was launched against the policy of the Government of denationalisation and handing over the pits to the private sharks, the Thatcher Government has let loose its machineries to unleash an unprecedented repression on the miners, their families and even on those who have extended support to the struggling workers. In a massive show of class unity to save the industry and the workers' jobs from the racketeering of the capitalist rulers, the coalminers along with other sections of workers are fighting face to face with the British Government — National Coal Board — Para Military Police combine like two enemy camps. Crazy as she is to break the class solidarity of the workers, Thatcher has become oblivious of the colossal loss due to the strike and the expenditure she has embarked upon over the para-military police for unleashing violence. The loss of capacity alone is to the tune of about 4 billion pounds, while the Counties are spending about 1000 pounds a day for the forces to fight the miners. The widespread support extended by the national and international trade unions — it is almost impossible to give the number, have made the Thatcher Government frantic. The Government has converted some areas as "no-go" areas in certain Counties where the people are neither allowed to enter nor leave, particularly in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The police are stopping people some 20, 30 or 40 miles from their destination, being afraid that they are going for picketing. The overall plea of the Government is that the mines have become uneconomic. The National Union of Mine Workers have rejected the plea and asserted that the pits are not uneconomic and can be viable and profitable.

One of the most remarkable developments that have ever taken place in the industrial struggles in Britain is the women's support groups organised by the miners' wives who have come under the vortex of the struggle. Not only in the soup kitchens feeding the miners, but they have been participating in the meetings, propaganda, leafletting and of course, in the picket line also. 15,000 women marched through London recently supporting their husbands in the struggle for jobs.

USA

* Organised under United Auto Workers' Union, 3,50,000 workers in the Ford and General Motors

factories struck down work on September 20 due to the break down of negotiations for collective agreements. The U.S. car manufacturers have proposed a three year contract under which neither jobs nor wages will be guaranteed.

* California's famous Disneyland, the amusement park, turned into a gloomy land, as its 2000 employees from five unions continued a strike for the second week in October over wages and contract. Thousands of merry making visitors had to stay away as the strikers scattered nails on the roadway and the officials failed to remove the picketers.

* Five lakh federal employees were laid off by President Reagan on October 4 "because the US Government had no more money to pay them", according to AFP reports. The employees however returned to work after the Congress approved an emergency spending Bill to end the "financial crisis". According to the report, funds were not available because of disagreement between the Senate and House of Representatives on whether to continue financing anti-Sandinista guerillas in Nicaragua. The House said, such covert financing amounted to violation of law which barred overthrow of foreign Governments.

FRG

25,000 anti-war demonstrators formed a 12-mile human chain around several US bases on September 29 which was the culmination of a week long protest campaign against massive NATO war games in West Germany. The demonstrators targetted about half a dozen bases with US installations around the strategic Fulda Gap area.

Bangladesh

A complete strike on September 27 totally paralysed normal functions in Bangladesh. It was the culmination of series of agitational actions conducted by the opposition alliance of 22 parties demanding an end to the martial law and formation of a caretaker Government to supervise the elections scheduled to be held on December 8. The military dictator Ershad unleashed his repressive machineries led by his scab organisation Janadal. Five people were killed including the Deputy Chairman of Bangladesh Red Cross, Moizudin Ahmed who was also an opposition leader. The continuing massive protest actions forced the military ruler to sack the Secretary General of Janadal, Mahbubur Rahman who was also the Local Government minister.

More Work Load for Indians in USA

An Indian industrial worker has to work more than 12 times as long as his US counterpart to earn enough to buy the same basket of food, according to a survey published in Geneva. A US factory employee can earn enough to buy a kilo of meat, a litre of milk, 500 grammes of bread, plus fish, butter, potatoes, sugar and oranges in one hour 50 minutes, but his Indian equivalent has to work 22 hours 38 minutes to buy the same.