

GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

ON SIXTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

This meeting of the General Council held at Howrah on August 21-24, 1981 draws the pointed attention of the working class and the people of the country to the utter fiasco of planning as revealed in the Sixth Five Year Plan which shamelessly advocates attack on the people heaping misery on them while giving concessions to the rich. The dilapidated condition of the economy and the extent of crisis is patently manifest in the Plan Document itself.

The Plan Document admits that no less than 215 million people i.e. 30 per cent of our total population will be living below the poverty line at the end of the plan period even after spending thousands of crores of rupees. This is gross understatement, as 48 per cent of the people are admittedly living below poverty line now and there is no concrete measure to change the situation.

For example, the Plan admits that there is backlog of 22.1 million in regard to employment at the beginning of this Plan. It also admits that there will be 32 million new entrants into the labour market during the next five years. The Planners make a fantastic claim to find employment for 30-million, when in reality the increase in employment in organised sector has been around 0.8 million per year. Hence the planners talk of self-employment which is nothing but a fraud to those waiting for jobs, whose number according to the live registers in employment exchanges had crossed 15 million mark in December 1980. Every Five Year Plan has increased the number of unemployed and this plan also would not be able to change the trend.

The planners observe that nearly a fifth of the urban population is estimated to be living in slums. They estimate that in 1985 about 37 million of such population would be needing housing accommodation. The planners intend to provide housing for 21 lakh only, the rest 35 million being left to rot in the slums or pavements constantly being at the mercies of Antulay and his cohorts. In respect of rural housing the planners estimate that 14.5 million families would be needing housing assistance of whom 7.7 million have been given house-sites but only 0.56 million have been provided with construction houses.

The Planners, instead of suggesting strict implementation of the land reforms in favour of the peasantry, have given further concessions to the big landlords by suggesting take-over of only 15% of the land held in excess of 5 acres thus hitting the middle

peasants. They do not suggest measures for ensuring full employment and adequate wages to the agricultural labour and remunerative prices to the peasantry for its produce, though both these sections are being continually denuded of their purchasing power due to continuous rise in prices and raging inflation.

The planners, in the name of helping these weaker sections of the society, have drawn a plan which is already reduced in size due to inflation which has reached a double digit figure. The scheme of resource mobilisation for the fulfilment of the plan shows that main burden would fall on the people, while the affluent section is left out in the name of granting incentive for investment. They have advised the Public Sector Undertakings to cut down their losses by increasing prices. But they do not suggest steps against corruption, mismanagement and under-utilisation of capacity, which contribute to this loss. They do not call for nationalisation of foreign and Indian monopoly houses who have been increasing their assets at a more faster rate than before. The planners attack the common people for resource mobilisation to the tune of Rs. 21,302 crores through escalation of prices in all public sector undertakings, withdrawal of subsidy on food, fertilisers and indirect taxation on the people. The planners also provide for deficit financing to the tune of Rs. 15,000 crores which would undoubtedly be more than double the figure at the end of plan causing more inflation and sky-rocketing of prices.

The planners depend on foreign aid, which they estimate at Rs. 10,000 crores net or nearly Rs. 20,000 crores gross. To get this aid they have granted various concessions to the multinationals as could be seen from the total number of collaboration approvals having made a new record of 596, the foreign collaboration being double than those in 1979. The multinationals have penetrated capital into all branches of our economy including vital sectors like oil, fertiliser, electronics etc. These concessions to the multinationals are virtually mortgaging our country and with the growing deficit in balance of payment position which has forced the Government to negotiate a loan of Rs. 4500 crores from I.M.F. pose a very serious danger to our economy as well as the trade union movement. The ruthless suppression of the strike struggles in the country and banning of strikes under the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance are propitiatory measures to secure the favour of I.M.F.

The planners have singled out the workers and employees of the organised sector for its attack. The wages and income policy in the Plan is in

reality a measure to freeze and reduce their wages. The planners attack the concept of bonus as deferred wage by proposing productivity-linked-bonus scheme. Secondly, they suggest that future wage rise should be linked with productivity. Even when the workers increase production in any particular factory or industry, they cannot expect a fair return for their labour. They have to wait till the economy recovers as a whole. In the name of reducing disparities in incomes, the planners magnify the disparity between the wages of one worker and another and propose wage-cut as a measure of lessening disparity. But in their hypocrisy they take no measures to remove the increased disparity between classes and curb the income of big capitalists, monopolists and landlords.

This meeting therefore records its strong protest against the bankrupt policies of capitalist planning and demands an immediate moratorium on foreign debt payments, nationalisation of monopoly houses both Indian and foreign for mobilisation of resources and through increased direct taxation on high incomes of capitalists, big landlords and traders, a proper wage and income policy aiming at reducing the disparity of income between the exploiting classes and the toiling people, distribution of surplus land to the poor, remunerative prices to the peasantry for their produce, adequate wages to the agricultural workers, relief to the unemployed and other steps to ameliorate the conditions of the weaker sections.

ON THE TASKS OF BOMBAY CONVENTION AND TRADE UNION UNITY

This General Council meeting whole-heartedly welcomes the decisions of the "National Trade Union Convention Against Price-rise and Anti-people Policies of the Government" held at Bombay on 4th June, 1981 last, in which 40 industrial federations had participated besides the eight Central Trade Union Organisations who had sponsored this. Over 3,000 representatives from all parts of the country assembled to chalk out a programme oriented protest action which includes :

- (a) Holding of State-wise/Region-wise Conventions;
- (b) Observance of Protest & Demand Day all over the country on 3rd November, 1981;
- (c) Workers' March to Parliament in the third week of November, 1981 &
- (d) One day strike action in all industries.

The Charter of Demands formulated in the Convention includes the demands of the peasantry, the agricultural labour, the working class and the entire people of the country who are suffering from

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To All Affiliated Unions

Dear Comrades,

The General Council meeting held at Belur-Howrah on August 21 24, 1981 reviewed the international situation and adopted some very important resolutions. It noted that the U.S. imperialists are taking more and more arbitrary steps which have increased the dangers of another world war. The decision of Reagan Administration to mass produce neutron bombs—an inhuman weapon of mass destruction of human beings keeping the properties intact, has been denounced by the meeting. The decision of the U.S.A. of arming Pakistan with sophisticated weapons, has brought the dangers of war to our doorsteps. In the background of the worsening world situation, this measure constitutes a positive threat to freedom of our country. The resolutions on "Threatening War Dangers and struggle for Peace" and "U.S. Arming of Pakistan" contain our views on the subject. It was noted that the CITU Unions are lagging behind in conducting a campaign and rousing the masses about the international situation and prepare the working class for discharging its duty in the struggle for peace and in defence of our country. We must overcome this as quickly as possible.

On the national situation, the meeting adopted a resolution on Sixth Five Year Plan which gives an idea as to how an allround offensive on the workers' wages, bonus and trade union rights are being mounted while giving concessions to the multinationals, monopoly houses and land lords and thus exposes the bankruptcy of capitalist planning in the country and the hypocritic claims of the Congress(I) Govt. The resolution on the "Tasks on Bombay Convention and Trade Union Unity" stresses the need for carrying forward the tasks in order to unleash a movement against the drive towards establishing one party authoritarian rule and reiterates the call for formation of a Confederation of all Central Trade Unions and National Federations.

Our affiliated unions must, therefore, study these resolutions and build up a campaign on the same. The serious threat of war should

On Page 16

the ill-effects of rampant inflation and sky rocketing of prices.

This meeting warmly congratulates the working class throughout the country who are enthusiastically carrying forward these tasks and calls upon all CITU unions to do everything that is possible to promote unity from below and ensure that the programme adopted in the National Convention is observed successfully.

The events since the convention particularly the promulgation of Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance amply demonstrate the need for prompt intervention and united action of the working class. The General Secretary of CITU has been making efforts for bringing about such a united forum which can meet and on the basis of agreed decisions intervene promptly on issues affecting the working class and the toiling masses.

This meeting of the General Council once again reiterates the call for formation of a confederation of all Trade Union Centres and National Federations and directs that renewed efforts may be made to bring about such a united forum which is the need of the hour.

ON U.S. ARMING OF PAKISTAN

This General Council meeting notes with serious concern the massive arming of the Military Junta of Pakistan by the United States of America with F-16 Aircrafts and other sophisticated missiles. It is also reported that a delegation of the Pakistan military rulers has completed a deal to acquire USA's latest Spruance class destroyers which like the F-16 aircrafts is equipped with missiles and are able to strike at any part of India. The people of India who had to face three wars unleashed by the rulers of Pakistan are naturally very much concerned.

This meeting warns the working class that after establishing a fully developed military base at Diego Garcia, the U.S. imperialists are trying to establish more military bases in South and South West Asia with Pakistan as the centre piece of its regional strategy. Under the plea of meeting 'Soviet threat' to Pakistan, the U.S. imperialists are arming the military dictator to secure a base in the sub-continent. While encouraging Pakistan to gear up its nuclear potentials, the U.S.A. is going back on its earlier agreement for supply of enriched uranium for the Tarapur plant with the obvious intention of forcing the Government of India to toe the U.S. line against Soviet Union. It is unfortunate that the Peoples Republic of China lends support to the U.S. Arming of Pakistan military dictator.

The U.S. help to Pakistan rulers helps the

dictatorial regime against the people. It is calculated at the same time to promote the U.S. conspiracy to make "Asians fight Asians". This meeting conveys its warm fraternal greetings to the working class and people of Pakistan for their heroic struggle for re-establishing democracy. Both the people of Pakistan and India must repudiate tension and war between the two countries.

This meeting warns that the ruling party with its dependence on imperialist aid and its authoritarian anti-people policies will not be able to mobilise the people for trouncing the U.S. conspiracies and defend our independence. The responsibility squarely rests with the working class and proletarian forces of our country to mobilise the democratic masses to prevent war between the two countries—a task which it can ignore only at its own peril.

ON THREATENING WAR DANGER AND STRUGGLE FOR PEACE

This General Council meeting views with serious concern the deliberate drive against detente and mounting international tension created by the United States of America, which threatens the world peace and creates the danger of military confrontations involving nuclear weapons and Neutron bombs. The massive piling up of arms and modernisation of its various bases are clear proofs of hectic war preparations by the U.S.A. The defence bill of 136 billion dollar for 1982 of the Reagan Administration is the costliest military measure in the U.S. history and 26.4 billion higher than last year. This meeting denounces the decision of the Reagan administration to mass produce neutron bomb—a monstrous device of annihilation of people while keeping the properties intact, as a crime against humanity.

Demanding unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops and Soviet support to the people of Afghanistan as pre-condition for any talks, the Reagan administration has been putting off the negotiations on disarmament indefinitely. Having received a rebuff from Iran, USA is now rapidly expanding its bases in South and South West Asia. A 300 million dollar contract has been given to expand the air and sea facilities at Diego Garcia. When completed, the base will be manned by a force of 2,150 men and the navy and air-force will be able to handle the giant C-5 transport planes, while the harbour will be able to shelter aircraft carriers. The Reagan Administration has proposed an additional 237.7 million dollars which will permit USA to station and fly B-52 bombers from Diego Garcia. It has obtained further base access

in Oman, Somalia, and Kenya and plans to spend hundreds of millions to develop American forces in those countries.

In the West Asian region, the Zionist Israel is being heavily armed and developed as a powerful striking force by the U.S. imperialists. The disunity of the Arab countries and the direct encouragement by USA has emboldened the Zionist rulers to blast the nuclear reactor of Iraq and repeatedly attack and plunder Lebanon. The decision of the Reagan Administration to give further military aid has not only created a positive danger to the West Asian Countries, but also the European Countries are exposed to attacks, who have already expressed their resentment.

This meeting is of firm opinion that these moves of the U.S. rulers confirm that an attempt is being made to throw a strategic arc around Europe and Asia with the sole aim to contain the growing socialist influence in this area.

This meeting notes that the struggle for peace is gaining momentum and lends full support to the forces of peace—the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union, being in its forefront,

This meeting warns the Working Class to realise the growing war danger created by the U.S. imperialist which is threatening world peace today and calls upon them to rouse all sections of the people of our country against the evil design of foisting another World War, so that they could, in close co-operation with the world working class movement, be able to defeat the game of warmongers and ensure world peace.

ON THE TENTH WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS

The meeting of the General Council of the CITU welcomes the decisions of the World Federation of Trade Unions to hold the Tenth World Trade Union Congress at Havana from 10th to 15th February 1982.

The Congress is being held at a time when the crisis of world capitalism is further deepening and an attempt is being made to pass on its burden on the working class. This has resulted in wage freeze offensive, growing unemployment, curtailment of Social Security benefits and attack on TU and democratic rights of the workers in all capitalist countries. The Working Class in these countries is unitedly organising active resistance to these attacks.

The Working Class of developing countries while fighting for improvement in their standard of living is also fighting for building a self reliant economy and against imperialist machinations detrimental to developing countries.

The struggle against multinationals is acquiring new momentum in both advanced capitalist and developing countries.

In contrast the workers in socialist countries are having crisis free society and their standard of living is continuously rising while unemployment is totally nonexistant in these countries.

Due to the rapid armament industry and nuclear arms build-up in imperialist countries the threat of another war is hovering around the world. It is against this war danger and for disarmament that the working class all over the world is waging a grim battle.

Under the circumstances, the Tenth World Trade Union Congress will be a remarkable event that would lead to greater mobilisation of the working class of all affiliations in the struggle against imperialism and for world peace.

The CITU calls upon all its affiliated unions to popularise the issues before the world T.U. Conference so that the Indian working class can play its honourable part in the world wide movement against imperialist machinations and danger of war, as well as for disarmament and world peace.

MEETING OF THE CITU SECRETARIAT

The meeting of the Secretariat of the CITU held in New Delhi on September 14 expressed its heartfelt condolences at the passing away of Com. A. Balasubramanyam member Working Committee of CITU. Com. B. T. Ranadive President CITU presided over the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the decisions of various industrywise meetings held alongwith General Council meeting at Belur and considered steps to implement them. It also discussed the progress of joint movements in different states and deliberations of the meetings of the National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions.

The meeting congratulated the working class of Kerala and West Bengal for their successful Bundhs on September 3 and 11, in protest against price-rise and ESMO. It supported the decision of Tripura trade unions to organise strike on September 14 and similar decision in Karnataka and Maharashtra to observe strikes on September 21.

The meeting decided to nominate Com. P. Ramamurti General Secretary CITU to participate in the Tenth World Trade Union Conference to be held at Havana (Cuba) on 10-15 February 1982.

On Unemployment

This meeting of the General Council expresses its deep concern at the growing unemployment in the country. The number of job seekers in the Live Registers in Employment Exchanges stood at 162 lakhs in December 1980 of whom 76.6 lakhs are educated unemployed. This shows utter fiasco in capitalist planning. Every successful implementation of Five Year Plans left increased backlog in employment which rose from 5.3 million after First Plan to 22.1 million after Fifth Plan. Now the Sixth Plan admits that there will be 32 million new entrants in the labour market and a fantastic claim is made that jobs for 30 million would be found which even if fulfilled would still leave a backlog of 24.2 million.

The Planning Commission observes that the major employment generation activities are to be found in agriculture, rural development, village and small scale industries, construction etc. which are industries with low pay or sweated labour. For the educated unemployed, the Plan talks about self-employment which, in the present economic crisis, is nothing but a fraud to hoodwink the people.

The figures of the Planning Commission do not convey the real extent of unemployment. According to a news report, the rural work force will increase to 240 million by the end of 1985 of whom 46 million would have no employment. With the ever growing number of job seekers in urban areas, the figure of unemployed is likely to cross 6 crore mark by 1985. If the number of displacement of labour through mechanisation, modernisation and computerisation some of which are being promoted by the Government, is taken into account which has rendered tens of thousands of workers in Bidi, Tobacco, Tobacco leaf threshing, coir and other industries already jobless, the problem is bound to be very severe indeed.

This meeting congratulates the left led Govt. of West Bengal and Kerala who have implemented a Scheme of relief to the unemployed within the limited resources available to them, while the Central Govt. has refused to extend the same through out the country. The employment guarantee scheme in Maharashtra has come to grief. In such a situation, efforts are being made to divert the anger of the unemployed to pit one section against the other while resisting the demand for including "Right to Work" in the Fundamental Rights of our Constitution as a justiciable right and grant of unemployment relief.

This meeting warns the working class to realise that there would be no employment to their children

in the near future unless they champion the cause of the unemployed and build up united struggle for a change in the policies of the Govt. This meeting directs all affiliated unions to undertake a serious campaign and voice the demand of the unemployed. This meeting also appeals to all central trade unions to take up the issue for building up united struggle.

On Collapse of Labour and Safety Legislations

This meeting of the General Council held at Howrah on August 21, 24-1981 views with grave concern the increasing collapse of all labour and safety legislations many of them much short of requirement and had to be wrested after protracted struggles in the country due to deliberate violations by the authorities and the bureaucrats in Govt./Public Sector Undertakings and the Govt.'s incapacity, rather refusal, to enforce them.

The multinationals, particularly those in the Drugs and Pharmaceutical industry are the worst offenders as they respect no law. Innumerable instances could be cited to show how they violate the labour laws in the country and the Govt. stands helpless before them,

Coming to the Govt.'s own undertaking, the Railways stand out as number one in respect of violation of laws. For example, they accept that the Industrial Disputes Act apply to railways but they do not appear before the Labour Commissioners for conciliation thus cutting at the roots of the principles of collective bargaining. They do not observe the provisions of Payment of Wages Act, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act and various other laws until they are forced to do so by a Court's Order and when they find no plea to circumvent the same.

In many States the Industrial Disputes Act is either not respected or justice is so delayed that it tantamounts to denial of the same. A Tribunal in Punjab has taken twenty years to give an Award. Failure reports are not promptly given for adjudication and the owning class utilise the Courts to delay settlement. This Act which was evolved through a consensus just after attaining Independence is no longer able to protect or give relief to the workers as the owning class violate the same with impunity and the Labour Ministry stands transfixed before them.

The Plantation Labour Act was found to contain some grave lacunae for which an Amendment Bill was brought in the Rajya Sabha in 1973 which has not been passed even to day. As a result, the Plantation Owners merrily continue to violate the provisions of the Act.

Violations of Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, are on the increase. The Inter-State Migrant Labour Act has relationship with Abolition of Bonded Labour Act on the one hand and the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act on the other. A statutory Committee called for an in-depth review more than a year back, which has not been done yet and the workers do not get any relief.

The employers including public sector, do not deposit the Provident Fund and ESIC money and other amounts deducted from the wages of the workers, do not implement the Awards/Agreements, do not pay the legal dues including Gratuity/Pension and the Government does not take appropriate steps against, including prosecutions of the defaulters.

Equal Remuneration Act and all other protective legislation as far as the women workers are concerned are either being violated or circumvented or used as a plea to deny them jobs. The Government does not take any effective measures to stop these violations.

The violations of safety regulations are also on the increase. There were several coal mine disasters for violations of Coal Mine Safety Act in pursuit of profits which have been established in several enquiries. But no step has been taken by the Govt. against the offenders. The Director General of Mine Safety is not only understaffed but also is incapable of taking action because of his being lower in status than the offenders.

Reports of violations of safety rules in the railways are on the increase thus jeopardising the lives of tens of millions of passengers who travel daily. Simultaneously there are increased number of accidents in railway establishments, yards and workshop. There have been cases of more than 804 electrocution victims after railway electrification was introduced, which according to the Traction Workers Association are due to deliberate violation of Electricity Rules. The Port and Docks also are accident prone due to violation of safety rules.

While the above are the few instances of the types of violations, some of which like violation of safety rules in the Surat mill disaster or Chasnala disaster are very serious indeed in which hundreds of workers lost their lives in one single instance, there are many more which do not come to light at all because the workers do not know as to what the rules and the laws provide for and are not organised enough to get the rules and the laws implemented.

The implementation of the Labour legislations, however, is the responsibility of the Govt. and here

lies the crux of the situation. The Govt. themselves are offenders on two counts, viz. (i) for not ratifying several International Conventions laid down by the International Labour Organisation for protection of the labour and their social security, (ii) for not implementing the laws or the rules themselves in the departmentally run or Public Sector Sector Undertakings. The multinationals, monopoly houses and management of Public, Private Sector concerns and the bureaucrats advance this as an argument while refusing to implement the labour laws or safety rules.

The collapse of the labour and safety legislations also signify the deepening crisis of the social system in our country and the pronounced class bias of the rulers as they do not want to touch all these offenders who not only deny the workers what is due to them but also callously commit acts against humanity.

This meeting calls upon the affiliated unions to take up the matter of these violations of the labour legislations and safety rules more seriously without getting bogged down in the procrastinating process of constitutional remedies alone but to rouse the masses of workers for demanding a change in the attitude of the Govt. and ensure effective implementation. This meeting also appeals to all trade union centres to take up this issue as well so that united might of the working class forces the Govt, to respect the laws, give the labour their due and amend these laws in favour of workers for better living standards and safe working environment.

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