



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

New Textile Policy

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THE new textile policy hailed by textile vested interests and welcomed by other employers constitutes a repudiation of the interests of the people who require enough cloth with prices within their reach, repudiation of the interests of the smaller section of the industry, handlooms and powerlooms and an open declaration of war against the jobs of textile mill workers. Its only purpose is to ensure high profits for the big employers at the expense of all other sections of society.

Official spokesmen and owners of industries use lot of verbiage to conceal this conspiracy. They talk of a new approach, a new discovery of measures to rescue the industry which they identify with the profit interests of the big textile owners. They talk of protecting the interests of handloom and powerloom sections, the interests of factory workers, of everybody connected with the industry while in reality they suggest measures which will lead to the ruination of these sections.

The policy will adversely affect the interests of lakhs of workers and employees connected with textile industry. The mill industry employes nearly 8 lakhs of workers. The powerloom and handloom employ many more lakhs. The livelihood of these lakhs is being threatened by the new measures. At the same time there is not even a suggestion to widen the market for cloth and increase the per capita consumption to meet increased production. Cloth production in India has increased from 4,780 million of metres in 1951 to 11,534 million metres in 1983. But the industry found itself in crisis because with every passing year per capita consumption fell as a result of the economic policies of the Government and increased impoverishment of the people. It is known that in recent years the number of those living below the poverty line has increased notwithstanding the tall claims made by the planners and the Government. Half of India goes naked and at the same time there is a glut in the cloth market. The direction for a new textile policy was therefore quite clear. It should have taken measures to increase the purchasing capacities of the common man. But the Government's new policy has no such

direction. On the other hand it is intended to move in a contrary direction, towards cutting down production, cutting down employment not only in factories but also in powerlooms, towards production of high priced cloths beyond the reach of the ordinary man. It is geared to securing high profits through exports and earn foreign exchange.

What is the declared objective of the new policy? The policy statement says, "Hereafter, the approach to the textile industry would be guided by this main objective (increase in the production of cloth of acceptable quality at reasonable prices to meet the clothing requirements of a growing population.). In the pursuit of this main objective, the employment and export potential of the industry shall be kept in view. The availability of cloth at affordable prices for the poorer sections of the population shall be augmented".

* Now see the steps that are suggested. The first step is free permission to close sick mills and the Government declaration that it will neither take over nor nationalise any sick mill. The policy declaration says, "However where a unit has no expectation of becoming viable in a reasonable period of time, there may be no alternative but to allow the unit to close provided the interests of the workers are protected. Take over by the Government or nationalisation of such sick units does not provide solution to the problem of sickness and the Government would not, as a rule, intervene in such cases."

Who will decide whether a sick mill is viable or not? The Government, banks and the employers. So the excuse that a sick mill is not viable is bound to be advanced in every case where the employers feel that high profits are not available. In fact, the distinction between viable and non-viable mills made in the statement is only made to cover the truth that the Government intends to close down a large number of sick mills in the near future, especially those now run by the National Textile Corporation. The National Textile Commissioner has already declared that 22 mills run by the Corporation are making heavy losses. We will soon see that those

declared nonviable mills will be closed with others to follow.

That the Government does not wish to make any serious distinction between viable and non-viable mills is seen from the fact that the textile declaration allows even healthy mills to cut down production or close sections of the mill according to the wish of the employer. To quote the declaration, "Capacity for expansion by existing units and capacity creation by new units will be permitted ... As a corollary, units will also be allowed to contract capacities, including closure of a unit or part thereof, whenever necessary or justified, provided the interests of the workers are fully protected. This approach would increase the degree of competition among units in the industry and create an environment conducive to reduction in cost and in improvement in quality."

So full freedom to run or close the mills is given to the employers and it is an important part of the new policy. The employers have been chafing at earlier restraints and now they have got the freedom, the incentive to produce.

To say that this is subject to the protection of workers' rights is to indulge in open cheating. The workers' basic interest is his job, he has a right to work. It is hypocritical to talk of protecting his rights when you empower the employer to deprive him of his livelihood. Palliatives of compensation and offers of rehabilitation are just devices to make the public feel that the burdens of the economy are not thrown on the workers.

These measures are in true consonance with the retrograde economic policies announced in this year's budget. The new policy has openly declared its preference for the private sector and promised it increased freedom from Government control. The textile owners are now reaping the full benefit of this new turn. Control and Governmental restrictions on their exploitative practices are being removed. The Government now finally disowns all responsibilities for ensuring that the textile industry is not one-sidedly run in the interests of the capitalists. The private capitalists are now given freedom to dispose of the industry's productive capacities without regard to the people's interests. The Government is shedding its image of a welfare Government intervening in industries on behalf of the workers and the people.

This freedom to dispose of the labour power according to the profit needs of the employers is not the only attack on the workers' job. A much bigger attack is contemplated through introduction of modernisation measures. No one is prepared to tell the workers how many jobs will be massacred through this new offensive. The new textile policy undertakes to finance this massacre of jobs by providing soft loans to the employers. The policy makers regret that the employers have not undertaken modernisation offensive earlier. They say, "Despite encouragement and incentives by the Government the industry has modernised to only to

a limited extent. Government policies would aim to accelerate the pace of modernisation in the industry."

How will they do it? "For the purpose of modernisation, adequate funds will continue to be provided under the soft loan scheme of the IDBI. In order to enable the industry to generate internal resources for modernisation the textile modernisation fund will be created."

The Government also promises to help import of foreign modernised machinery at concessional prices, at prices at or near the international prices. "Liberal imports of such textile machinery which is not manufactured indigenously shall be permitted at or near international prices." This is bound to affect the indigenous producers. When there is prospect of buying at international prices better machinery from abroad who will care for Indian product? There is every possibility of the workers in the machinery manufacturing industry losing their jobs and the industry facing a serious crisis.

Will this modernisation achieve the declared objective of production of cloth of acceptable quality at reasonable prices to meet the clothing requirement of a growing population? Far from it. It will produce cloth at prohibitive prices beyond the reach of the people. To quote from a well-informed article from "Commerce", "How do mills produce low priced cloth with operation costs escalating so rapidly?"

"As opposed to industry's expectations no radical improvement in technology can substantially help the industry as a whole since such expensive equipments pay for themselves only if they are used to produce fabrics which are highly expensive and confine to minor elitist market — the narrow segment once again. Research findings have exposed the fallacies in the conventional argument that modernisation will enable production of cheaper cloth; instead they point to one singular conclusion — modernisation will not be cost effective at the entire industry level. For instance detailed techno-economic viability analyses for different types of high technology machines which have a stress on high machine productivity and low labour complement through automation have shown that they do not become viable economically under Indian conditions until the fabric price is Rs. 12 per metre (ex-mill). Secondly, modernisation will be highly labour displacing; were the textile industry, the largest employer among Indian manufacturing sectors, to displace labour, there are bound to be damaging repercussions in the consumer market itself. The industry will only pull the carpet from under its feet."

Rs. 12 per metre of cloth; this is what modernisation offers to the Indian peasant, to the Indian people. This is how cloth within the reach of the people will be produced by sacrificing the jobs of thousands of workers. The ruling cloth prices in India are already beyond the reach of the people and they are reducing cloth consumption. A study of

the Textile Committee of the Ministry of Commerce showed that in 1978 when the average value per metre of cotton textiles was Rs. 5.56, the per capita off take of cotton textiles was 11.60 metres; while in 1981 when the average value per metre went upto Rs. 8.22, the per capita off take fell to 9.40 metres.

Modernisation will not be profitable without high priced cloth and the latter cannot be produced without man-made fibres. So cotton must growingly be replaced by artificial fibres. Though the policy statement pays lip homage to the protection of the cotton-grower's interests he will be on the losing side like the jute grower. The cotton grower who has learnt to protect himself in recent years by organising his strength has become an obstacle to the profiteering by mills at his expense. Now the mill owners will be in a position to beat him down by using the clout of artificial fibre.

The Government is championing the cause of man made fibres with great zeal. The textile policy statement says, "Full fibre flexibility as between cotton and man made fibre and yarn would be provided to the textile industry. Greater fibre flexibility in the use of wool shall be provided in a phased manner to units licensed for cotton and man made textiles. Woolen units shall be given full fibre flexibility".

The policy promises increased domestic production of fibres, creation of new capacity for production of synthetic yarn and fibre and reduction of fiscal levies on fibres and yarns. These are measures to help rapid replacement of cotton by fibre while talking about the interest of cotton growers.

The initiators of the new textile policy are not satisfied with the massive attack on the employment of mill workers or with attacking the cotton grower's interests. They are bent on running power loom industry and depriving tens of thousands of powerloom workers of their jobs. All this is to remove a competitor of big industry, of the big mill bosses from the market.

The Government of India all these years used to declare that it stood for defending the interests of small and medium industries while promoting the development of large industries. In the textile industry it attempted to do this by reserving certain types of production for handlooms and protecting them from the competition of big industry, it gave special fiscal concession to the powerloom sector. And the power loom sector made a remarkable advance in the last few years. In 1983 out a total cloth production of 1,534 million metres the powerloom sector produced 8,006 million while the mill sector produced 3,528 million metres. Mill production has remained stagnant since 1951 while the powerloom production increased eight times. It is obvious that big industry considers powerlooms to be a competitor and seeks to strike at it. The Government instead of being pleased that its policy has promoted the advance of small-scale industry seems to regret it and is prepared to do what the textile magnates

wants it to do. It has therefore decided to remove the fiscal concessions hitherto given to the powerloom industry to reduce its competitive capacity. It clothes its attacks in the following words: "For the purpose of policy powerlooms in the organised mill sector, and in the unorganised powerloom sector shall as far as possible, be treated at par and allowed to compete on the basis of their inherent strength and capabilities." It means fiscal concessions will be withdrawn and the small powerloom owners will be asked to compete on equal terms with big industry. What chance will be there of its survival? And soon the powerloom owners will be competing with the modernised looms of the mills on 'equal' terms. If the policymakers really felt that there was some imbalance they could have remedied it by raising the wage of the powerloom workers which is much below the mill level. But this of course they could never think of.

* The textile policy in relation to powerloom is dictated by the need of big mill magnates.

* The policy statement talks repeatedly about protecting the interests of the handloom weavers. This is another empty talk. Large stocks of handloom cloth have accumulated. They cannot be disposed of unless per capita consumption increases. The policy statement suggests no remedy to overcome the present crisis in the handloom industry. And now the handlooms are charged with the responsibility of producing controlled cloth. It is known that controlled cloth cannot give and is not supposed to give much profit to the producer. Besides it is not so popular in the market as it does not cater to the taste of our people. Till now the responsibility for producing this type of cloth was shared between NTC mills and the handlooms. Now the handlooms alone are asked to shoulder it. And this is presented as a great boon to the handloom industry.

The Congress Government had already released big industries of the responsibility of producing cheap cloth. It was transferred to NTC mills so that the losses should be borne by the public exchequer. Now again big mills are asked to produce highly profitable cloth while the handlooms are asked to bear the burden of non-popular, less profitable variety.

After every few lines of the statement the policy makers aver that they are keen on protecting the interests of the workers. What is their idea of protection? It is seen from the following: "It is of utmost importance that the interests of the workers who might be displaced by permanent closure of units are safeguarded. For this purpose schemes shall be formulated to provide relief for an interim period in addition to the statutory benefits. A rehabilitation fund for workers of the textile industry would be created to provide relief to such workers for a limited period." Even the promise of alternative employment is not offered. Every time the worker is told that the relief favour is only for a limited

period or interim period. This is supposed to be an additional favour over and above the statutory benefits. Can any worker unless he is insane believe in these promises of relief after loss of job. There are tens of thousands of workers in Bombay who are wandering in the streets after the failure of the last strike. They knock at the mill door but the employers refuse to release their provident fund, gratuity and other benefits and the Cong(I) Government colludes with the latter in the most shameless manner. In India when you lose your job you not only do not get any additional benefit you lose whatever you have legitimately earned like provident fund arrears and wages etc. These promises of interim relief, rehabilitation are made to fool public opinion.

It has been pointed out that the main aim of the new textile policy is to gear the industry to exports and earn foreign exchange.

* The necessity of earning foreign exchange for a country like ours is obvious. But the price that it demanded namely loss of tens of thousands of jobs, danger to cotton-growers' interests and small textile industry is totally disproportionate to the benefit that is supposed to accrue or the need that will be met. This high price for earning foreign exchange exposes the failure of the economic policies hitherto pursued, policies which have failed to end our weakness and one-sided reliance on the economy of the West. To be able to pay our debt obligations to these countries we have to earn the required foreign exchange. We are thus compelled to seek their market.

* Export to Western countries have become difficult because in recent years they have been purchasing less and less cloth from us. Our export would have collapsed completely but for the increased demand from the USSR and the Socialist countries. But these latter exports do not give us the foreign exchange needed for our dealings with the West.

* Exports to the West countries are besides being handicapped by protectionist measures taken under the stress of the economic crisis. These countries expect us to buy their advanced machinery as quid pro quo for our cloth exports. Hence the great stress on modernisation and import of foreign textile machinery. The textile workers and people are victims of a bankrupt economic policy which failed to free us from the embrace of Western economy.

* It is extremely doubtful whether the desired objective of export promotion and foreign exchange earning can be achieved by us. India's rivals are South Korea, Taiwan and others whose Governments are at the beck and call of US imperialism. Besides it has been calculated that given Indian conditions our cost of production may be twice as high as that of international cost. It seems we may lose both ways — both the interests of our people and earning of foreign exchange.

It is clear that the new textile policy with its

emphasis on modernisation has nothing to do with the interests of the people. It is not necessary for producing cheap and plentiful cloth within reach of our people. Indian people are not suffering from insufficient production of cloth but insufficient purchasing power. Modernisation will be accompanied by scrapping of lot of existing production capacity so that big industry owners earn enough profits at least at home.

The textile crisis, the growing number of sick mills, the closures all have shown the utter bankruptcy of private ownership and management. The only way out is the total nationalisation of the industry and its restructuring and reorganisation in the interests of the people. If people's interests demand of scrapping of certain concerns, if they necessitate modernisation of some to protect their interests, that can well be done under public management without much displacement of labour or dislocation of lives of tens of thousands. The nationalised textile industry can certainly plan to earn foreign exchange while protecting people's interests. But the Government refuses to accept this remedy and choses to hand over this vital industry to a corrupt, profiteering ownership.

// The textile workers and their unions must meet this big offensive against the jobs of their workers and livelihood of thousands. They must be prepared to meet the new offensive of closures and lockouts and later on the offensive of modernisation. Thousands have already undergone sufferings due to prolonged lockouts. But the strength of the entire working class was not brought into action to check and defeat this attack. Now at least all unions irrespective of their central affiliation must join hands, take common counsel and prepare a programme of action to defeat this new textile policy which is not only against the interests of the workers but also against the interests of the people. In this common fight they must draw in the handloom and the powerloom workers who are also being penalised under the new policy. Let the CITU unions take a lead in organising and mobilising working class resistance to save the jobs of tens of thousands and ensure production of proper quality cloths for our people.

June 21, 1985.

Editorial Board

P. Ramamurti (*Chairman*)

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

M.K. Pandhe

Calls to Resist the New Attacks

THE CITU Working Committee which met at Trivandrum from May 31 to June 2nd, 1985 gave a clarion call to the working class of the country to resist unitedly the retrograde changes in the government's fiscal and labour policies.

The meeting started on schedule with the hoisting of flag near VJT Hall, Trivandrum at 9.30 hours by Com. B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU. 68 members of the Working Committee and a few invitees attended the meeting. A number of comrades had sent letters and telegram seeking leave of absence owing to their sickness or other pressing work. Com. K.N. Ravindra Nath, Chairman Reception Committee, welcomed the members to Trivandrum. In a short speech he highlighted the impact of the governments' policies on the traditional industries in Kerala and the struggle that is being conducted. He hoped that the Working Committee would give guidance to all the struggles of that are being conducted throughout the country.

Before delivering the Presidential address Com. BTR called upon the members to pay homage to the memory of Com. P. Sundarayya by standing one minute in silence. He then delivered the Presidential address and declared the meeting open (*Presidential address was published in the June issue*).

Com. P. Ramamurti moved the resolutions on Martyrs, Condolence resolutions on Com. P. Sundarayya, Konstantin Chernenko, Parimal Mitra, N.V. Bhaskara Rao, Saradish Roy and others. Members passed the resolution paying homage to their memory by standing 2 minutes in silence.

General Secretary's Report

After the minutes of the previous meeting was confirmed, Com. Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary, CITU placed his report which highlighted the following points:—

He stressed that friendly relations of CITU with International Trade Union Movement have further increased in this period. He laid special emphasis on the Joint Communiqué issued by the representatives of the AUCCTU and the President, CITU at New Delhi on 12th April, 1985.

He briefly reviewed that a serious situation had arisen after the dastardly assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi and the difficulties with which our Comrades in Punjab are functioning. He stated that the divisive forces have raised their ugly heads and the CITU must continue its fight against these dark forces.

Referring to the Bhopal gas tragedy he said "It

must be understood that safety, lives of people and lives of workers are generally treated as expendable by the bureaucrats, the industrialists and the bourgeois leaders in the Government. The necessity of quick resource mobilisation leads them to find out means for quick and super profits. In their drive for the same they trade on the lives of the people. Hence we find that proper safety rules have not been framed, the existing laws are not implemented and violated and the implementing machinery completely subservient to the needs of the industrialists specially the monopolies and multinationals". Giving data or accident in the mines as well as in industries, he called upon the CITU units to educate the Working Class about the gravity of the situation.

He then dealt with the struggles against closures and lock-outs in detail. He drew attention of the members to the following statement of the Union Labour Minister in the conference of the Labour Ministers on May 11th, "Industrial Sickness is a concomitant phenomenon of the very process of industrialisation in which vigorous and well managed units grow while poorly conceived, inefficient and marginal ones languish and gradually disappear from the industrial scene. Corporate sickness is scourge of industrialisation as much in industrialised countries as in industrialising countries".

The CITU had taken a clear position as far back as in 1982 when it had stated that "The growing incidence of industrial sickness calls for radical change in the policies of the Government. The "Industrial Policy Resolution" adopted in 1956 has been changed and now the policy of openly wooing the multinationals has been introduced. The MRTP Houses have been allowed to start industries in sectors which were exclusively reserved for small scale and medium industries. A reversal of these policies is necessary if the incidence of industrial sickness is sought to be controlled.

Effective steps are also necessary so that the Government could intervene in case of diversion of funds and corrupt practices resorted to by the management of private sector undertakings who allow the industry to become sick and block public funds. Appropriate laws to punish the guilty owners and confiscate their properties should be enacted and strictly enforced.

The Government should also come out with the policy of exemption of excise duty and other taxes for limited period to help rehabilitation of the sick industries.

He drew attention of the members to the serious

situation arising from closures, retrenchments and lay-offs as revealed from the following data:

Year	Closures		Lay-Offs		Retrenchment	
	No. of Units	Affected workers	No. of Units	Affected workers	No. of Units	Affected workers
1980	338	18,052	1603	300,300	724	15,341
1981	349	37,377	1323	311,308	726	17,320
1982	286	26,602	1521	306,400	758	15,922
1983	226	43,234	1300	244,057	688	20,376
1984	188	71,937	809	135,481	485	9,985

He also drew a contrast of the growing unemployment and inability of the Government machineries to find employment for those whose names are registered in the employment exchanges. He stated that during the last three years the employment in the organised sector was being reduced as will be seen from the following figures:

Employment in the Organised Sector (In Lakhs)

At the end of	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total	Percentage Public Sector	Private Sector	Change from Previous
March '82	159.5	75.5	234.9	3.0	2.0	2.7
March '83	164.3	75.2	239.5	3.0	-0.3	2.0
March '84	168.6	74.3	242.9	2.6	-1.2	1.4

Quoting from the CITU's memorandum to the Committee on Controls, he stated that in case of sickness and closures, the workers' dues should be made the first charge. The monopoly houses who refuse the diversify production and revive the units should be blacklisted and no further licenses for new industrial undertakings and further loans from Public Financial Institutions should be given to them. The laws should be changed to enable the banks to realise the money from the personal assets of the directors and others in case mismanagement of finance is suspected.

He then elaborated as to how the Govt's mind is working and stated that we should intensify campaign and struggle in respect of right to work being accepted as the justiciable fundamental rights and unemployment relief. He also stated that struggle for reduction of duty hours also should be thought, wherever feasible.

He then elaborated the position of the united struggle and that it has weakened to some extent. He also self critically stated that such slackening was

seen in the CITU organisation also. One of the main reason for this that the CITU is functioning under repressive conditions. It was stated in his report that:

In quite a large part of the country the CITU unions, its members are under severe repression. Trade Union rights are being denied to them. For protesting against this and championing the cause the workers our leaders are being murdered, maimed, victimised, arrested and beaten up. The rank and file workers are heroically fighting against these attacks."

Then he gave details of the holding of the conference, State Committee meetings, Secretariat meetings in order to show how democratic functioning in the CITU organisation is maintained.

In his report he drew special attention to one of the weaknesses in the organisation i.e. about the working women. Com. Vimala Ranadive, Secretary, All India Co-ordination Committee of Working Women also submitted an additional report to explain the position of the functioning of the co-ordination committee. Most state committees were not taking any interest, who were once again warned for their neglect.

He then drew the attention of the members to the fact that the membership did not reflect the influence of the CITU. One of the reasons was that attention to the unorganised labour was not being properly given. Concluding his report, Samar Mukherjee stressed on the following tasks:

1. Successful holding of State level convention on lock-out, closure, retrenchment etc. within three months.
2. Constant ideological campaign and exposure of the Congress(I) Socialism and popularisation of scientific socialism — campaign about education, culture & ideology.
3. Development of cadres.
4. Improvement in the functioning particularly democratic functioning of the State and District committees, so that unions also are enthused about the same.
5. Review of struggles and review of membership drive.

Resolution Sub-Committee: A resolution sub-committee was formed with P.K. Ganguly as Convenor and R. Umanath, Biren Roy Sunil Basu Roy, P.P. Sanzgiri, K.N. Ravindranath and M.M. Lawrence as members.

Credential Committee: A Credential Committee was formed with Parsa Sathyanarayana as Convenor, and Chittabrota Majumdar, O. Bharathan and A.K. Padmanabhan, as members.

Other Reports

The President then asked P.K. Ganguly to place a report about his visit to Soviet Union, the international trade union conference and the celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of the Victory over Fascism. (*The report has been published in the June issue*).

M.K. Pandhe placed a report about the meeting of the public sector employees held at Bangalore on 27th May, 1985 in which 284 delegates from 85 unions had participated. A detail report about the position of the Public Sector units was placed which was adopted by the delegates after a debate for 2 days. A declaration was also placed, discussed and adopted. (*A detailed report on this meeting alongwith the declaration adopted in the meeting is being published in this issue*).

P.K. Ganguly then placed a report on the Seminar on Bhopal Gas Tragedy held at New Delhi on May 24, 1985 which was inaugurated by Shri P.N. Haksar. The Seminar adopted a resolution and decided to observe December 3 every year as Bhopal Day. (*A report on the Seminar has already been published in the June issue*).

Discussion on the General Secretary's report and the Presidential address started. Jeeban Roy, Biren Roy, N. Padmalochanan, Mohammed Amin, Mangat Ram Pasla, Sunil Basu Roy, S.N. Solanki, V. Cherian, B.P. Mukherjee, P.P. Sanzgiri, Prem Kishan Sharma, Chittabrata Majumdar Suryanarayana Rao, Sushil Bhattacharya, Vimala Ranadive, Ananda Pathak, Harshay Singh, G.S. Balajidas, Shivaji Patnaik, A.K. Padmanabhan, Chandni Prasad, and E. Padmanabhan, spoke on the general secretary's report. Samar Mukherjee replied to the points raised. The report was adopted unanimously.

Resolutions

Nrisingha Chakraborty moved the resolution on closure, lockouts, retrenchment and denotification. Jamini Saha, seconded the resolution, Com. Balaji Das also supported the resolution. Two amendments to the resolution were proposed which were accepted and the amended resolution was passed unanimously. D. Janakiraman moved the resolution on 'Labour Policy of the Government which was seconded by Suryanarayana Rao. M.K. Pandhe, A.K. Padmanabhan, R. Umanath and Nrisingha Chakraborty participated in the discussion. On the basis of the points made in the discussion it was suggested that the resolution would be redrafted. With the stipulation the resolution was passed. The President also directed that a separate resolution would have to be passed in regard to Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act.

P.K. Ganguly moved the resolution on the 40th anniversary of victory over fascism which was seconded by M.M. Lawrence. The resolution was

adopted unanimously. M.K. Pandhe moved the resolution on Joint Communique between AUCCTU and CITU which was seconded by Prem Kishan Sharma and was passed unanimously. Nrisingha Chakraborty moved the resolution on 'Economic Policy of the Government' which was seconded by P.P. Sanzgiri. P. Ramamurti spoke at length on the retrograde changes that are being brought about. The resolution was passed with the suggestion that it should be redrafted on the basis of the points made by P. Ramamurti and others. M.K. Pandhe moved the resolution on Bangladesh Cyclone Tragedy and P.K. Ganguly supported the same. The Kerala state committee of CITU suggested that the meeting should give a call for relief to the cyclone affected workers and they offered a sum of Rs. 5000. This offer was followed by Tamilnadu Rs. 2000, West Bengal Rs. 10,000 with promise for more, UP Rs. 1000, Maharashtra Rs. 1000, Steel Workers Federation of India Rs. 2000, Hind Motor Workers Union Rs. 1000, Coliery Mazdoor Sabha of India Rs. 1000, Bihar Rs. 1000, All India Coal Workers Federation Rs. 1000, Plantation Workers Federation Rs. 1000, All India Jute Workers Federation Rs. 1000, Water Transport Workers Federation, and Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi, Haryana, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab State Committees of CITU Rs. 500 each. The meeting also adopted other resolutions.

Accounts of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, the working class and the CITU Mazdoor for the year 1984 were passed.

M.K. Pandhe gave a report about the National Campaign Committee decisions on the issue of closure, retrenchment, etc and stated that there is every likelihood that the National Campaign Committee may give a call for an all India Convention sometimes in August 1985. He also reported the developments in regard to the proposed convention of textile workers. There is every possibility of meeting for discussion on problems of the National Textile Corporation workers in consultation with other central trade unions. Com. A.K. Padmanabhan and R. Umanath spoke about the problems of textile workers as a proposal for holding a Convention at Tamil Nadu is pending. Both stated if the AITUC agree, a joint convention can be arranged in Coimbatore in August 1985.

Then the Credential Committee placed its report which showed that 76 unions with a membership of 25,702 had applied for affiliation to CITU for which 51 applications with 20,516 members had fulfilled all the constitutional obligations and were straightaway granted affiliation. The remaining were granted provisional affiliation subject to their fulfilling the constitutional obligation.

The question of verification of membership of the unions was discussed. M.K. Pandhe placed a report about the present position in regard to discussion with other Central Trade Unions in order to find out an agreed revised procedure for verification. He said

that after the International Labour Conference was over in June, the issue was going to be finalised. He drew the attention of the members to the necessity for fully preparing all affiliated unions for participating in the verification process. Nrisingha Chakraborty highlighted certain aspects without which the membership could not be credited to CITU account.

P.K. Ganguly placed a report on workers' participation in management and appealed to the unions and State Committees to send reports on implementation of the scheme to the central office. Other resolutions were read out from the chair and passed unanimously.

Summing up by BTR

Then Com. BTR summed up the deliberations. At the outset he drew the attention of the members to the fact that a unique situation had arisen out of a new retrograde change in the policies of the Govt. The CITU unions were in the thick of struggles throughout the country. It was through these struggles that the CITU was progressing and advancing. All must understand that in the new situation unless we are able to reorientate ourselves we would not be able to meet the situation by pursuing old methods. He called upon the members to build a solid working class base cutting across caste, religion and other considerations which alone would help us to fight against the divisive forces. As far as reservation is concerned we should take a flexible approach and oppose all methods which may divide the working class.

He scathingly attacked the concept of introduction of computers as an appropriate technology, which is actually a device suggested by the capitalist world to deprive the under developed countries and keep them under enslavement. It must be understood that due to the stiff resistance of the trade union movement, the management and the Government sometime are forced to discuss computerisation with the trade unions and assure no retrenchments. Unless the stiff resistance continues, this present limited protection also may not be available. To day bureaucrats in India feel that without such a higher technology it could not survive the international competition and hence the middle class workers would be facing a serious attack on their employment. The CITU must therefore take up a correct position so that the workers come to rally behind us and we are able to fight back the consequences of computerisation.

Now the Government is forced to speak about workers' participation in management. The Govt. is utilising this slogan to blame the workers for all the ills of the industry. To meet the challenge, we must agree to participate in the management but only on a equal footing.

It should also be understood that the public sector in India is different than the public sector in advanced capitalist countries. In our country this is utilised to fight back the imperialists attempt of enslavement. Hence we should oppose denigration of the public sector and help its proper functioning so that self reliance is not sacrificed.

On the question of the economic policy the members were warned to take the new orientation seriously. This Govt. is intent to destroy all the fundamental postulates since independence and the wholesale reversal of the ideas is in the offing. It must be understood that the Govt. is opening the gates of the economy of our country for the multinationals to invade and enslave us. Not only the working class but even some economists have since understood the game and are opposing. In order to do away with the losses of the public sector, it is now being proposed that these may be transferred to the joint sector, which means that ultimately it would go the hands of the private sector and the workers would have to face a serious attack. It must also be understood that the earlier position of simple condemnation of the public sector had to some extent affected our vision about the need to protect it from the attacks of the monopolies and the multinationals. For the first time we are having a Prime Minister who had no contribution in the struggle against the foreign imperialist domination, and therefore may be amenable to the diktats of the multinationals. This would bring in a new chapter of attacks on our existing trade union rights. The working class have further to be organised in the struggle to resist these attacks. It is the working class alone who with the support of the democratic masses can reverse this anti-people thurst. He said that after the tour of USA of the Prime Minister is over we must be prepared to face the worst. Before concluding he said that changing the level of consciousness of the workers is a long drawn struggle. Unless we continuously work for hightening the level of consciousness of the working class it would not be possible for it to play the role the history has placed upon it. To do so we must change the pattern of our functioning also. He thanked the Kerala CITU for the excellent arrangements which were made. Com. Anirudhan expressed the feelings of the state committee and thanked the members for their co-operation.

A huge rally and mass meeting on June 2 marked the end of the Working Committee meeting. Despite torrential rains, processions started converging at the Gandhi Park Maidan from the afternoon. By 9.30 P.M. when the meeting was over, processions were still coming.

The mass meeting was presided over by Com. Sushila Gopalan and was addressed by Com. B.T. Ranadive, Com. E.M.S. Namboodiripad, Com. E. Balanandan, Com. P. Ramamurti and Com. K.N. Ravindranath.

Resolutions

On Martyrs

THIS Meeting of the Working Committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions held at Trivandrum from May 31 to June 2, 1985 dips its red banner in the memory of those comrades who in the course of their struggle for emancipation of working class and the people of the country have died in the hands of goonda hirelings of the Management or Police firing and attained martyrdom. This meeting pledges to carry forward their unfinished task.

On Com. Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko

This Meeting of the Working Committee of Centre of Indian Trade Unions, held at Trivandrum from May 31 to June 2, 1985 joins the working class and the people of Soviet Union to express deep sorrow at the passing away of Com. Kostantin Ustinovich Chernenko, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Soviet Union and the President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of USSR on March 10 at the age of 73. His short period of one year in office was marked by his determination to further the struggle for the defence and consolidation of the socialist system and world peace against the war pursuits by the US imperialists.

Born on September 24, 1911 in a peasant's family, Com. Chernenko started party work from early years. In 1930 he volunteered his services in the Red Army and served in the Frontier Troops till 1933. After completing his service in the Army he started working in the various party bodies. In 1956 he was promoted to the staff of the CPSU Central Committee. In 1960 he became the Head of the Secretariat of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. He was an Alternate Member of the Central Committee of CPSU from 1966 to 1971. In the March 1976 Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, he was elected as a Secretary of the Central Committee. In 1977 he became an Alternate Member of the Polit Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU. On Feb. 13, 1984, he was elected as the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee in its Extra-Ordinary Plenary Meeting and was elected as the President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in April, 1984.

Com. Chernenko made great contributions to the collective work of the Central Committee and in implementing the resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress. He devoted much attention to perfecting organisational work of the party in the masses, in improving the activities of the Soviets and the trade unions, as well as for raising the pace of economic, scientific, technical and agrarian progress. Heading

the Defence Council of the USSR he made great contributions to enhance the defence capability and the combat readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces for the defence of the Socialist system against the war manoeuvres of US imperialism. At the same time, he ceaselessly worked to translate the Leninist peaceful foreign policy for strengthening peace and international security, for curbing the nuclear, chemical and space arms race and averting the threat of a nuclear holocaust. In this respect he gave special attention towards strengthening co-operation and cohesion of the socialist countries, for unity of the world communist and workers' movement, furtherance of the Non-Aligned Movement and for support to people's national liberation struggles. The Indian people will always hail Com. Chernenko's contribution in strengthening the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Co-operation and Friendship which helps the struggle against imperialism. This meeting dips its red flag in memory of Com. Chernenko".

On Com. P. Sundarayya

This meeting of the Working Committee of Centre of Indian Trade Unions, held at Trivandrum from May 31 to June 2, 1985 mourns with profound grief the sad demise of Com. P. Sundarayya the founder member of the Communist Party of India, and a veteran leader of the movement of the toiling people of our country, on May 19 in a Nursing Home at Madras at the age of 72.

Com. Sundarayya joined the freedom movement at his age of 17, even before he could complete his college education and jumped in the non-cooperation movement that was raging the whole country in 1930. During his participation in the national freedom movement he joined the Communist Party of India and was later on appointed as Organiser for the whole of Southern Region. From 1936 Com. P. Sundarayya had been a member of the Central Committee of the Party. He was one of the founder members of the All India Kisan Sabha of which he was joint secretary for some time. Com. P.S. was in the thick of armed partisan struggle of the Telengana peasantry.

Com. PS was elected to the Polit Bureau in 1951 and to Rajya Sabha in 1952 after the 1st General Elections. He was also the leader of the CPI Group in Parliament. Com. PS was elected to the Andhra State Assembly in 1956 and was reelected in all elections till 1972. He was the leader of CPI and CPI(M) group in the Assembly. After 1972 he dedicated himself to the party work and did not contest any election. Com. Sundarayya was elected to the Central Committee, Polit Bureau and was the Central Secretary of the Party in October 1964 when

the CPI(M) made a break with the CPI and he continued in the post till 1976. He continued as a member of the Central Committee and later on became the Secretary of Andhra Pradesh Committee of CPI(M).

Com. P. Sundarayya was a member of the CITU Working Committee for the period from 1979 to 1983. Being a Communist Revolutionary, he earned the respect and love from all who came into his contact, because of his dedication to the cause of the party and his simple way of living.

The Working Committee dips its red banner in homage to this great son of our country and offers its heartfelt condolences to the General Secretary CPI(M) and Com. Leela Sundarayya.

On Com. Parimal Mitra

This Working Committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, held at Trivandrum from May 31 to June 2, 1985, deeply mourns the sad demise of Com. Parimal Mitra, member of West Bengal State Committee of CPI(M), Minister of Tourism and Forestry, Govt. of West Bengal, Working Committee member of CITU and President of All India Plantation Workers Federation, on March 1, at the age of 66 at Salboni, Midnapur District, while on official work.

Born on 17th April 1919, Com. Parimal Mitra was attracted towards the Communist movement at an early age. He joined the banned Communist Party of India during the freedom struggle in 1939 and had to go underground in 1941. Since then he became a whole-timer of the party. As a young student he participated in students movements and was the founder President of the Jalpaiguri District Unit of the Students Federation. Later he participated in the peasant movements particularly in North Bengal and took a leading role in the historic Tebhaga movement. Due to his leading role in the railway workers movement also, he became the Vice-President of Bengal Dooars Railroad Workers Union and the Bengal-Assam Railroute Workers Union. From 1952 he devoted his work in organising the tea plantation workers in North Bengal and became the General Secretary of Tea Garden Workers Union. Later on he became the President of the All India Plantation Workers Federation. He was a member of the Working Committee of CITU since its foundation in 1970 and remained in the post till his death. He was elected to the West Bengal State Assembly from Kranti in Jalpaiguri district both in 1977 and 1982 and was the Minister for Tourism and Forestry in both the terms.

In his death the Communist movement has lost a revolutionary leader and the working class lost a dedicated worker, organiser and leader. The Meeting of the Working Committee of CITU dips its red flag in memory of Com. Parimal Mitra and sends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved members of his family.

On Com. N.V. Bhaskar Rao

This Working Committee meeting of CITU held at Trivandrum from 31st May to 2nd June 1985, deeply mourns the sad demise of Com. N.V. Bhaskar Rao, a member of this Working Committee and Secretary of Andhra Pradesh State Committee of CITU, on October 24, 1984 following a massive heart attack.

Com. Bhaskar Rao was only 55 at the time of his death. He was also a dedicated party worker, a member of Andhra Pradesh Committee of CPI(M) and Secretary of its Hyderabad city unit. This Working Committee recalls his great contribution and sacrifice in building up united struggles of the working class and the advance of CITU in Andhra Pradesh. This meeting sends its heartfelt condolences to the Andhra Pradesh State Committee of CITU and the bereaved members of his family.

On Condolences

This Meeting of the Working Committee held at Trivandrum on May 31 to June 2, 1985 pays homage to the hallowed memory of Com. Saradish Roy, Leader of the CPI(M) in the Lok Sabha and many others who during the course of their struggle for changing the social order of our country with a view to usher in Socialism have breathed their last during the period from our last General Council Meeting in September 1984. The Meeting sends its heartfelt condolences to the members of their bereaved families.

On 40th Anniversary of Victory over Fascism

This meeting of the working committee of the CITU held at Trivandrum from May 31--June 2, 1985 congratulates the workers for responding to the call of the CITU to observe in a befitting manner the 40th Anniversary of Victory over Fascism, from May 1 to May 9.

This meeting draws the pointed attention of the workers to the fact that the victory over fascism by the Red Army and the working people of USSR led to a complete change in the world situation. It led a one third of the world going over Socialism, it saw number of East European countries establish socialist regimes. It ensured the victory of the Chinese revolution and saw the emergence of Socialist China, Korea and Vietnam. It facilitated the victory of Indian freedom struggle and led to the collapse of the British empire and the old colonial system. Very truthfully it has been described as the second great turning point in the history of the world after the October Socialist revolution.

The people of the world have noticed that while the USSR had been giving proposals for maintenance of peace, the Reagan Administration of USA with its intention of global domination and acting as the gendarmms of the imperialist countries has not only intensified its mad arms race through MX-missiles,

chemical warfare, star war, etc. but also had established Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles in Europe which are essentially first-strike weapons intended to attack and destroy the Soviet Union.

This meeting notes that the struggle for peace throughout the world has since been strengthened and in our country a large section of workers have been mobilised in the peace struggle while there are still quite a number of workers under the influence of several other organisations who do not consider imperialism as the gravest danger before the mankind.

This meeting calls upon the entire working class to realise that in the present context unleashing of a Nuclear War would lead to the liquidation of entire mankind and appeals to them to unitedly struggle against the danger of a nuclear holocaust by raising a resolute 'NO' to 'Nuclear War'.

This meeting calls upon to the CITU State Committees and the affiliated unions to make preparations for unitedly observing 1st September as the 'Day of Peace' this year. This year being the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, this meeting as per the call given by WFTU also calls for holding solidarity actions on August 2 and 9 as international days of united action for total elimination of nuclear weapons.

WFTU Resolution

The WFTU in its resolution on 40th anniversary of victory over fascism has called upon to observe August 2 and 9. We are publishing as follows the relevant portion — Ed.

Recalling that this year is the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the WFTU calls on trade unions of the world to take solidarity action on August 2 and 9 as international days of united action for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

On Closures Lockouts and Retrenchment

This Meeting of the Working Committee of CITU held at Trivandrum notes with deep concern that notwithstanding the tall claim by the Government of India to the effect that the sixth plan period is closing with high satisfactory performance of the economy, the number of sick industrial undertakings had increased from 28,000 to 80,110 by December 31, 1983. The number of workmen who have been thrown out of employment is 37,000 in 1981, 26,000 in 1982, 43,000 in 1983 and 71,000 in 1984, accord-

ing to Government data which is a gross under-estimation.

The Government of India appears to have not taken any note of the programmes that were organised after the convention on 20th January 1984 and the Workers' March to Parliament on 18th April last year. They have abandoned whatever steps that were taken earlier to keep the industry moving and started denotifying several units. It openly pleads that sickness and closure are concomittant to the healthy growth of industry. The Government refuses to accept the right to work as justiciable fundamental right. It also refuse to accept unemployment relief being given to those workmen who have been affected due to closure and sickness in industry.

In Jute and Textile industry the workers are seriously affected in a great way due to sickness and closure. The Government proposes, instead of giving unemployment relief, issuing of power-loom permits to small group of retrenched workers against their PF and retrenchment benefits, who could be organised in their areas of Urban powerloom Co-operatives. This meeting therefore condemns any such proposal by the Government which would deprive the workers of their PF and other dues in exchange of company's overaged looms. The Government also has refused to nationalise all the Units that have been taken over. They insist on take over of pre-take over liabilities of these units in case the State Governments want to nationalise any of them, thus blocking the nationalisation. They do not conduct enquiries and recover the pre-takeover liabilities from the personal assets of the owners who had defalcated and mismanaged company funds. They refuse to take workers' representatives in management with equal status and to democratise the functioning after taking over of the industry. This has led to a serious situation throughout the country. The situation is further aggravated due to indiscriminate computerisation while unemployment is growing apace and there are 2.35 crores unemployed according to the Live Registers of Employment Exchanges.

This Meeting congratulates the workers who have observed May 15 as a Protest Day against Lockouts, Closures and Retrenchment on the call of NCC. It welcomes the decision of the National Campaign Committee to hold conventions — State, Regional and District Level — by the 15th of August and take up further programmes of struggle. The meeting also supports the proposed one days industrial strike in West Bengal in support of re-opening of the closed and locked out mills and for taking over the management of those mills if the employers do not agree to reopen those mills, pending nationalisation. This meeting calls upon the entire working class, particularly those who are not affected by closure to take up the question of the closed and sick industries as a matter of policy and launch united struggle

to force the Government to take over all sick and closed industries.

Resolution on Joint Communiqué

This meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU held at Trivandrum from May 31-June 2, 1985 thanks the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions, Moscow, USSR for accepting our invitation and sending their representative here to discuss the international situation. The presence of Com. V.V. Kulik, Secretary, Ukrainian State Council and Com. K.I. Tuzikov in India and signing of a Joint Communiqué on behalf of AUCCTU and the CITU had helped the Centre of Indian Trade Unions to understand the depth of the dangers and the way in which the Soviet trade unions and workers are meeting it.

This meeting is confident that the bonds of friendship between AUCCTU and CITU will be further strengthened through the issue of the Joint Communiqué and the struggle for peace would be strengthened.

On Nationalisation of Textile, Jute and Sugar Industries

This meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU held at Trivandrum from May 31 to June 2, 1985 congratulates the 2.5 lakhs Jute workers for a complete united strike on May 17, 1985 on the demand of Nationalisation of Jute Industry.

This meeting specially congratulates the West Bengal State Committee of CITU and Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union for their sustained efforts for establishing complete unity by bringing in the INTUC fraction which hitherto remained out of united movement in West Bengal.

This meeting notes that the incidence of industrial sickness is very high in Cotton Textile, Jute and Sugar Industry. Out of 491 large sick units at the end of December 1983, 119 were cotton textile, 37 Jute mills and 44 in sugar industry employing lakhs of workers. By May this year, 18 jute mills were locked out throwing out of employment 70,000 workers. The number of jobless due to closure of mills in Jute industry would come to 72,000.

This meeting denounces the Congress(I) Government at the centre for rejecting the unanimous resolution of West Bengal Legislative Assembly for Nationalisation of Jute Industry which was personally presented to the Late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi by an all party delegation of the Assembly last year, as also the united demand by all the central trade unions. Even this year when the call for one day's token strike on 17th May 1985 was given, the present government was once again requested to respect the united demand of the jute workers. However, the Govt. has not come forward with any positive response as yet.

In cotton textile also all the central trade unions have demanded nationalisation of the entire industry. But the govt. instead of acceding to this demand formed an Expert Committee excluding the labour from it, which recommended for further modernisation and import of foreign technology which will further aggravate the situation.

Similarly the sugar industry also is facing a crisis with growing sickness and closures.

This meeting therefore reiterates the demand to nationalise the jute, cotton textile and sugar industries and calls upon the state committees and the affiliated unions to step up the movements drawing in other trade unions with the demand.

On New Economic Policy of the Government

This working Committee meeting of CITU held at Trivandrum from May 31 to June 2, 1985 denounces the new economic policy adopted by the government of India as anti-national, anti-people and anti-workig class. Apart from imposing Rs. 1400 crores in the budget as additional indirect taxes on the common people and resorting to a huge deficit financing of Rs. 3500 crores on one hand, and giving a relief worth Rs. 1000 crores to the capitalists on the other hand, the policy is an open denigration of the public sector, strengthening the private sector and invitation to the multi-nationals. Controls and licensing have been removed in a number of industries to encourage the private sector. The monopolists have been given further concessions by allowing them to raise their assets from Rs 20 crores to Rs. 100 crores for being declared as MRTP houses. Import liberalisation in the name of importing advanced technology is another instrument to appease foreign capital which is going to ruin Indian industries.

It should be noted that undermining the public sector, strengthening the private sector and removal
(Contd. on page 20)

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Meeting of AICCWW

A meeting of the All India Coordination Committee of Working Women was held at Trivandrum on June 2. The following members participated in the meeting: Mythily Shivaraman, D. Swarasthi, Rudrani (Tamil Nadu); Rajamma (Karnataka); Ram Pukari (Bihar); Indumati Nandi (Orissa); M. Sharda, Nazimunnissa, Sushila Gopalan (Kerala) and Vimal Ranadive from the Centre. B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU attended the meeting and guided the deliberations.

Vimal Ranadive, Secretary, AICCWW placed the report. She pointed out that despite the tall promises made by the Social Welfare Minister nothing concrete had been done for the working women. On the contrary retrenchments continued unabated. Rajamma, Ram Pukari, Indumati Nandi, Mythily Shivaraman, Girija, Nazimunnissa and Sushila Gopalan participated in the discussions and reported about the various problems faced by the working women in their respective states. The problems related to retrenchments, transfers, night shift duties, of gram sevikas, discrimination with male workers, problem of creche, maternity benefits, etc. They also reported about the struggles waged by the working women in pursuance of the demands. All the reports urged for more coordinated guidance by the CITU State Committees to pursue the specific problems of the working women. Summing up the deliberations, BTR warned that serious attacks are being launched against the rights of women. The AICCWW, the State Committees of CITU and the unions must take up the problems seriously.

The meeting decided to observe August 6 as the All India Working Women's Day. Memoranda with the specific demands of the working women will be submitted on the day by holding demonstrations, rallies, etc to the State Chief Ministers and to the Union Welfare Minister. The meeting also decided to hold conventions of working women in the unorganised sector wherever possible.

Seminar on Dalit Women

A seminar on Dalit Women, organised by the Bharatiya Jagrity Parishad was held at Delhi on June 8. Several delegates from Delhi, Punjab and other places submitted papers and participated in the seminar. Presiding over the seminar Vimal Ranadive stressed that the dalit women represented one of the most exploited and neglected sections of the people. She quoted figures and datas to show that despite the so-called efforts and tall claims made by the government the lot of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe grew worse.

Regarding the large section of women engaged in agriculture, she said that besides denial of minimum wages and equal remuneration, their social oppression at the hands of the landlords and the anti-social elements went on increasing. The question of scheduled caste was related to land reforms, she said, since a number of atrocities were committed due to land disputes.

Kaushalya Baisantry, General Secretary of Bharatiya Jagrity Parishad pointed to the atrocities on the women working in agriculture, burning of their huts, only because of their demand for increased wages. She denounced the influence of religion and caste which acted as barriers to united struggles. Others who spoke were Bhagwans Das, Sujata Singh, Than Singh Josh, Mrs. Uke, Mrs. Deshbrathan and Rajani Swaraj. Summing up the deliberations, Vimal Ranadive said that united struggles have to be waged by all organisations and the working people for change of the bourgeois-landlord system wherein lies the root of all exploitations. She appealed to all sections of women, specially the dalit women to join the mainstream of the democratic movement in the country.

JMS Campaign on Women's Decade

ON the occasion of the International Women's Decade which is coming to an end this year, the Delhi Janwadi Mahila Samity carried out an intensive campaign from June 10-14 to educate the people about the real status of women in India. The campaign was carried forward through a poster workshop, padayatra, leaflet distribution, street corner meetings and a dharna in front of the Women's Ministry. Padayatra and street corner meetings were carried on in and around Delhi and Faridabad in the resettlement colonies and working class bustees, which were accompanied by revolutionary songs by women's squads. In the largely attended meetings and through the leaflets and posters the JMS exposed the false claims made by the government of having improved the status of women. The leaflets pointed out the failure of the government to evolve a uniform civil code which resulted in discrimination in rights to property, divorce, maintenance, etc, based on religion. They gave figures of the increasing number of crimes on women in Delhi and other places where even the government servants and police men were involved. The JMS campaign exposed the role of the bourgeois-landlord government which made the International Women's Decade a decade of decline even after 38 years of independence.

The Left-Front Government is pledged to uphold the rights of the neglected and poor

LAND REFORMS MEASURES IN THE INTEREST OF FARMERS DURING THE TENURE OF THE LEFT-FRONT GOVERNMENT

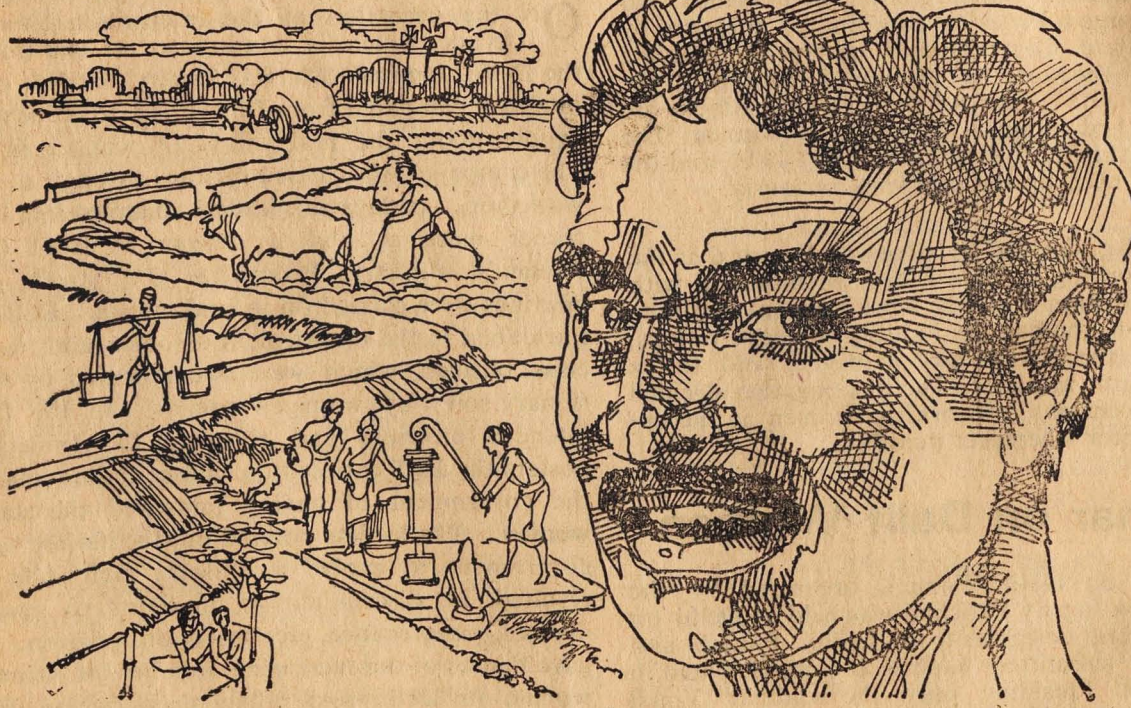
- Uprooting of sharecroppers from agricultural land has been stopped.
- Sharecroppers' rights have been legalised through Operation Barga. Upto March, 31st, 1985 13.17 lakh sharecroppers have been registered.
- 12.50 lakh acres of surplus land have been acquired by the Government.
- Out of this 8.03 lakh acres have been distributed among landless peasants.
- 1.95 lakh sharecroppers and agricultural labourers have received land for residential purposes.
- Agricultural inputs and bank loans have been organised for sharecroppers and 'pattadars'.

DECENTRALISATION OF DEMOCRACY THROUGH THE PANCHAYAT SYSTEM

- Spread consciousness of their democratic rights and right to participate in local administration, among rural folk.

- Bulk of finance for rural development is today channelised through Panchayats.
- 56,000 elected representatives of the Panchayat are active in rural areas.
- Irrigation facilities have been provided for 1 lakh hectares of land.
- Panchayats have created 15 lakh Man Days through the 'Food for work' programme.
- 57 Rural Distribution Centres have been opened under the Panchayat.
- 1.13 lakh houses have been built for landless peasants.
- 8700 adult education centres have been set up.
- Rs. 1.36 crores have been disbursed as bank loan for house-building.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL



WPP ICA 927.85

Tools to Divide the Working Class

(Presidential speech of B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU, in the meeting of public sector employees convened by CITU at Bangalore on May 27-28).

THIS representative gathering of public sector workers is called to discuss many problems that affect the workers' interest and also concern their responsibility regarding the functioning of the public sector undertakings which are financed from the hard earned earnings of the common man. This latter aspect has become much more important since the accepted policies regarding the role of public sector are being repudiated from the highest quarter.

It may be said without contradiction that the trade union movement of our country by and large, has been busy with the first aspect, viz, defending the workers' interests, leaving the other national aspect to the management and the bureaucracy: Such an outlook leads to self-centredness and divorces the trade union movement from the problems facing the economy.

Attitude of Management

It was, however, inevitable that the workers should concentrate more attention on the defence of their immediate interests. The public sector management did everything to alienate the workers from the efficient functioning of the enterprise and treated them no better than the private owners. Standing Orders of these concerns are borrowed from the prison-rules of the country framed by the British. They are orders meant for bonded labourers. For every facility, for every improvement in conditions, the workers and their unions had to fight. The most glaring example of procrastination prevarication on the part of the authorities, relates to the settlement of the D.A. rate.

The authorities, besides, behave exactly like the private owners in their dealings with unions which have mass following, but do not agree to do their biddings. The favours shown to the INTUC really go against the rights of the workers to have the union of their choice. It is an attempt by the Government to impose its leadership on the workers. It is necessary to have smooth industrial relations in the public sector. The CITU stands for this. The objective can be attained by deciding on the recognition of the union through secret ballot. It can be further ensured by referring every agreement which the union wishes to sign to a referendum of the workers. But you cannot expect this much democracy under the Congress (I) rule. The Constitution gives the right of vote to people to decide who should govern the country, but those who are elected on popular votes, refuse to give the same right to workers to choose their union.

Thanks to this attitude of the management, the complete bureaucratisation in management, the workers were repeatedly forced to spend all their energies in defending their rights and interests. The atmosphere in the public sector was no better than in the private sector. In the public sector it also appeared as if two hostile classes faced each other. This led to several strikes and battles and our public sector workers had to face repression and injustices that are as a rule inflicted on the workers of the private sector. I congratulate you on your many successes in these struggles. I congratulate the steel, coal and several other sections of public sector workers on their successes and victories in negotiations and conflicts.

The Fight for Unity

Comrades, in recent years we have consistently planned to set at nought the authorities' game of divide and rule. We have endeavoured to forge unity of the workers following different organisations. We have often succeeded in getting together all organisations for common action.

We have more often succeeded in uniting our ranks and including the INTUC in the common stand at the negotiating table. This consistent fight for unity is necessary, because in the public sector also the workers are divided among several centres and the cohesiveness of the movement is often lacking. We must therefore continue our struggle for extending and expanding our unity, and in every organisation where we are working we must endeavour to see that the maximum force of workers is united under the organisation. To be able to do this we have to see that the union and its leadership function the union democratically, observe all democratic norms and enable the mass of workers to put their imprint on the policies and decisions of the union. The union cannot be reduced to a coterie of leaders managing things over the heads of the mass of the workers. This is generally the practice of reformist leaders who are afraid of the judgement of the masses and who would draw their inspiration from the management. I think we have had enough of such leaders and organisations in the public sector undertakings, perhaps more so in Bangalore itself.

Divisive Tactics

While we are on the question of defending unity we must realise that greater and greater attempts are being made to divide the workers on regional, caste and communal lines. The more the unity of workers gets forged through united actions, the more the attempts made to divide them on caste and communal lines. You know what is happening in Gujarat,

where two massive sections of toilers and workers are arraigned into hostile camps over the question of reservation. Reservation is being deliberately used by the ruling party to divide the workers and make them fight each other. It is, of course, our position that in the feudal conditions of caste obtaining in India, reservation for scheduled caste and scheduled tribes and certain other sections cannot be avoided for the time being. But it may be a fatal mistake on the part of the trade union movement if it does not campaign that reservation alone will not solve the basic problem of any backward community, and that common struggle and action of all toilers is absolutely essential to meet the problems of poverty and unemployment.

You all know how regional chauvinism is being roused by the Shiv Sena in Bombay, which wants to send out people from their State out of the city. This is the cheap way of getting access to backward sections and splitting the working class movement. Perhaps a similar kind of chauvinistic appeal was made in Bangalore during the days of the Gundu Rao Ministry.

While the question of reservation is the question of inner settlement and common understanding between the discriminated sections and others, the question of regional chauvinism and communal appeal are counter-revolutionary agencies to divide, split and enslave the country.

You will know what has been happening in Punjab, where people are often misled in the name of Sikhism and Khalistan. The cry of Khalistan is an open secessionist demand to dismember India, the slogan which two years back was to be found in some secret U.S. circulars. Communalism and regionalism play into the hands of imperialism to enslave the country. It is therefore, the duty of our common movement to fight these divisive forces, to maintain the unity of the working class and on that basis to contribute to the strengthening of the unity of India. If Indian unity gets disrupted, the entire working class and the people of India will be reduced to abject slavery.

Normally it is the task of the working class of a country to fight the reactionary forces and show a model of leadership to the rest of the people for defence of national unity. This is what happened in Vietnam. This is what happened in China. Against the disruptive forces and disintegrating influences, the working class marshalled all its organisational forces, uniting itself, and inspiring the people to unite. But in India, it must be admitted, the common trade union movement including the CITU, has not been very successful in leading this fight against divisive forces and defending the interest of national unity. How many of our unions for instance, have held meetings and campaigned explaining the sinister significance of the Khalistan movement, and at the same time endeavoured to create a spirit of Hindu-Sikh unity? Had we done so, we would not have witnessed the shameful anti-Sikh riots in Delhi following the assassination of

Smt. Indira Gandhi. A conscious working class would have intervened in the riots and channelled the protest against the U.S. imperialists.

Our trade union movement which repeatedly talks about Socialism and which works for Socialism, cannot ignore these challenges and content itself with only defending the immediate economic demands of the workers. That will be nothing but buttering the Indian people and the Indian peasants. It is necessary that the workers in the public sector undertakings and their unions, who share this weakness with the rest of the movement, do everything possible to overcome it.

The public sector workers, like the rest of the working class, have fought against the policies of the Congress (I) Government and have suffered from them. And yet we find an overwhelming section of private sector and public sector workers voting for the Congress(I) party during the parliamentary elections. What is the secret? This is the direct result of the pure economism practised by the trade union movement, to the neglect of political developments and the matured political events. The trade union movement has failed to raise the consciousness of the workers so that when any serious political issue comes before the people, they vote for the ruling party. One may say that the balance sheet of our trade union activities reveals a deficit account.

Functioning of the Public Sector

Now, comrades, let me come to the second aspect of our responsibility, viz, our attitude towards the public sector. As I have already said, because of the attitude of the management the workers in the public sector concentrate mainly on their own demands. The way in which the public sector was managed, the corruption, the use of substandard materials, the favouritism, all of which marred the efficiency of the public sector, have been no concern of ours. The only instance where perhaps we have intervened was in Durgapur some years back, when we exposed the corruption of the management, exposed the way in which the British had built the plant and suggested positive measures to improve the efficiency of the plant. For the rest we have acted as if the way in which the public sector functions was no concern of ours. But this is a wrong attitude for the working class of a newly liberated country. The public sector in India cannot be compared with the public sector in Britain, for instance. There, both the public and private sectors are instruments of imperialism, of State monopoly capitalism. But in newly liberated countries, the well managed public sector based on strategic industries, is an instrument of defending the economy against imperialist deprivations and growing dependence on imperialism. This is why in India, when the public sector started its activities in strategic industries, it was supported by the trade union movement and all progressive forces. In spite of a great deal of mismanagement, the public sector has been an instrument of defend-

ing the independence of your economy to a great extent.

It has been so because, in a large number of cases, it was directly helped by the Socialist countries. In fact, we would not have been able to build a few strategic industries if the help from the Socialist countries had not been available. This aspect of the public sector has not been properly put before the workers by the trade unions. Today it is all the more necessary, because under the pressure of the imperialists, the World Bank and IMF, official policy is denigrating the public sector and giving more encouragement to the private sector. But the matter does not end there.

The denigration of the public sector is further intended to invite foreign multinational companies to help India in its technological advancement. The World Bank and foreign multi-nationals have always adopted a hostile attitude to India's public sector. They know that so long as it stands and expands, their efforts to penetrate into our economy will meet with obstruction. That is why they were always opposed to it and now with the recent economic policy of the Government, it seems that they are likely to achieve their ends.

It is necessary, therefore, for our trade unions to understand this danger and as a matter of policy come out in defence of the public sector, in strengthening it and its expansion. Simultaneously, it is necessary for our unions to openly declare that provided they are given equal treatment, they are prepared to intervene and help in solving the problems of efficiency and proper management of the public sector. It is a matter of shame that a large number of concerns are not able to utilise even 90 per cent of their productive capacity; that hundreds of crores of rupees gathered from the common man's earning are being wasted by useless bureaucrats and corrupt officials, and that in spite of our productive capacity we have to import from abroad hundreds of cross worth of goods which we can produce here. The working class must take note of this and demand the right of participation in management on equal terms, so that the country can be saved. It should also assure the people that so far as it is concerned, it knows its responsibility in carrying out the agreed norms of production and it will not fail in its duty to the people, nor will it allow the productive capacity that has been created from the toil of the common people, to be wasted. This is the matter which should be properly discussed in this forum and suitable decisions taken.

Our International Task

Comrades, let me now deal with the weakness of our movement which is now being sharply underlined because of international development. You all are aware that today large sections of world working class especially in Europe, are waging a continuous battle against the US imperialist plans of imposing a nuclear war on the world. The US imperialists are organising this war against the Soviet Union, the

aim being to destroy socialism and clear the ground for US world domination. The battle is not only against USSR but is against the gains of the working class and the freedom loving people of the world secured over a period of 100 years. The war, besides, is going to be the most destructive war in the world, which may even endanger the existence of the human race. In such a situation concern for humanity as well as international solidarity demands that the working class of India should organise itself as an anti-war force in this world and joins its voice with the working class of Europe and America and the world peace movement to protect the peace and oppose nuclear war. But unfortunately we find that there is hardly any peace movement organised by our trade unions in this country. The National Campaign Committee which unites several organisations for common issues has not yet been able to give a call for defence of peace and opposition to nuclear war, because large sections of trade unions do not agree on the source of this war and the real culprits organising it. But the CITU and the advanced working class must recognise that the war is being organised by the imperialists against the socialist world and the freedom loving peoples, that the aim of re-enslaving newly liberated countries like India. It is therefore our immediate duty to oppose the forces of war and rouse the working class to the sense of its international duty. We must admit that we have failed to discharge our responsibility till now, but now at least we must firmly determine to move forward and join the peace brigades of the world. You all know perhaps that only a few weeks back the working class of the world and the freedom loving forces celebrated the 40th anniversary of anti-fascist victory. It was an event which gave a new turn to world history. Because of it one third of the world went over to socialism, that colonial order collapsed, British empire ceased to exist and countries like India were enabled to secure their freedom. The anti-fascist victory, which is the victory of Socialist Soviet Union over the most aggressive force of imperialism, viz. fascism, changed the balance of powers in favour of the common people. Now once again another war is being organised to remove the gains of anti-fascist victory. We must all be aware what is at stake and fight the war mongers with firm determination. I hope our trade union will devote serious attention to this problem and do everything in power to carry the message of peace and opposition to war to every factory and every working class home. That will be giving lead to the entire people to joint their voice in the fight against war and fight for maintaining world peace.

Report of the Meeting

The meeting was attended by 284 representatives from 86 unions. The Reception Committee collected more than Rs. 40,000 to cover the expenses of the meeting. Workers from all the public sector undertakings in Bangalore participated in the meeting. The local press and TV gave good coverage to its deliberations.

Suryanarayana Rao, Chairman Reception Committee, while welcoming the representatives from all over the country, briefly reviewed the struggles conducted by the public sector workers in Bangalore. B.T. Ranadive thereafter delivered his Presidential speech.

P. Ramamurti, Vice-President, CITU, moved a condolence resolution on the sudden passing away of Com. P. Sundarayya a veteran CPI(M) leader. All members stood for one minute in silence to pay homage of the departed leader. By another resolution the meeting expressed its heartfelt condolences at the death of several thousands of people at Sandwip island in Bangladesh on May 26.

M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU, submitted the General Report which surveyed the growth and working of the public sector undertakings in the country. The Report referred at length to the industrial relations in public undertakings and how the working class was faced with attacks on their working and living conditions. The Report reviewed the achievements of the CITU in bipartite wage negotiation and pointed out how it approached the mass of workers explaining the details of negotiations and bringing pressure through the movement of the workers. The approach of the CITU became popular among the workers raising its prestige among them. Referring to the threat to the public sector from the policies of the Rajiv Gannhi Government the Report stated: "Step by step the Government of India is undermining the public sector and encouraging the growth of the private sector. The commanding heights which the public sector was supposed to achieve, are being unceremoniously handed over to the private sector. The public sector which was characterised as a model employer once upon a time, is being asked to follow the business practices of the private sector. In this regard one cannot ignore the relentless pressure brought on the Government of India by the IMF and the World Bank. It is now clear that the Government of India has accepted in toto all the conditionalities spelt out by the IMF". The Report called for better co-ordination of activities of the CITU unions in the public sector so that the Government's policies could be effectively fought. It also stressed the need for preparing from right now for the next phase of wage negotiations which would be a difficult task in view of the Government's adamant attitude.

Exchange of Experiences

Forty representatives participated during the discussion on the Report narrating their experiences in public sector undertakings and explaining how the bureaucratic management was misusing public funds. They stressed the need for better co-ordination so that people could know the developments in other undertakings and benefit from each other's experience. Among those who spoke were R. Umanath, Sunil Basu Roy, Jibon Roy, Chandi Prasad, B.P. Kashyap, Vibhuti Math, Ramanika Gupta, Murli-

dharan, T.K. Rangarajan, S. Savaridos and Sukumar Chowdhury.

P. Ramamurthi, explained how the public sector has given up the task of building a self reliant economy under the leadership of Rajiv Gandhi and emphasised the need for public sector workers to come to the forefront to ensure that the Government's policies are reversed and the public sector plays an important role in co-operation with the Socialist countries, against the conspiracies of the multi-national companies. Nrisingha Chakraborty, Secretary CITU, suggested that the differences in wage structure in different undertakings should be studied and attempts should be made to ensure uniformity in wage structure in all the public undertakings. After M.K. Pandhe replied to the points raised by the speakers the Report was adopted by the meeting,

Resolutions

The meeting adopted resolutions greeting the workers of the Cochin Shipyard for their strike struggle, on the problems of workers in the Food Corporation of India, the Bharat Gold Mines Ltd., Hindustan Photo Films and Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. By another resolution the meeting demanded withdrawal of the closure notice by the management of Buon Refractories Ltd. The meeting opposed the proposal to hand over the Bhadravati Steel plant to Tatas and demanded that it should be taken by the Steel Authority of India. A resolution was also passed condemning the atrocities in Sri Lanka on citizens of Tamil origin.

Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary, CITU, while summing up the deliberations of the meeting, explained the standpoint of the CITU on some of the issues raised by the speakers in the meeting.

The meeting adopted a Declaration explaining the task of the trade union movement in the public sector undertakings.

Coordinating the Struggles

B.T. Ranadive in his concluding remarks stated that the CITU would take steps to form a Coordination Committee of leading activists in the public sector so that it could meet from time to time and give guidance to the unions on the tasks to be implemented in these undertakings. He appealed to the unions to take the initiative so that united movements are built up in all the public undertakings to meet the growing threat to the existence of the public sector itself.

A well-attended mass meeting was held in the evening to acquaint the workers with the decisions of the conference. Presided over by S. Suryanarayana Rao, President Karnataka State Committee of CITU, the meeting was addressed by B.T. Ranadive, P. Ramamurti, Samar Mukherjee, and M.K. Pandhe.

BANGALORE DECLARATION

This meeting of unions in public sector undertakings in India held at Bangalore on May 27-28, 1985, expresses its strong disapproval at the recent pronouncements of the Rajiv Gandhi Government which denigrates the public sector and gives an opening to the multi-national companies to penetrate into India, and concessions to big business houses in India to exploit the working class and toiling people of India in the most unashamed manner. The indications of this policy are reflected in the Planning Commission drastically curtailing public sector outlay in the Seventh Plan, the refusal of the Government to take over the sick units and run them in the public sector, the decision to liquidate the public sector undertakings which have been stamped as "Non viable", the freedom given to foreign monopolies in the name of import liberalisation, to dump those products in India which can be produced indigenously by the public sector, the open facilities given to private sector tycoons to compete with the public sector, and similar other measures by the Govt. of India. Over and above this, the reckless drive for the modernisation and computerisation of public sector undertakings without objectively finding out whether they are required at all, has not only added to the outflow of foreign exchange resources, but has posed a serious threat to the job security of the existing 21 lakh employees working in the public sector all over India. The declared objective of the public sector to build a self-reliant economy is being given the go-by by the Government of India which is increasingly yielding before the conditionalities of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. There is no wonder that several spokesmen of the Reagan Administration and Thatcher Government have welcomed with open arms the recent economic measures taken by Rajiv Gandhi's Government.

This meeting is of the opinion that the public sector is being run in the most unpublic-sector like manner in India due to bureaucratic handling by the unconcerned top heavy administration, non-accountable management had planning, wasteful expenditure, pilferage of huge funds and prevalence of corrupt practices, the reliance on contractors who mint money at the cost of public sector funds, and exploit lakhs of workers by denying adequate wages and social security benefits. The Bureau of Public Enterprises, under the Ministry of Finance instead of taking measures against these malpractices, has issued idiotic fiats which have only added to the bungling in the public sector undertakings.

All this has resulted in emboldening the big business houses in India to launch a ferocious offensive against the very concept of the public sector and to claim economic superiority over public sector units. The meeting wants to make it clear that the private sector which is indulging in several malpractices such as tax evasion, misuse of govern-

ment machinery by unabashed bribing of officials, resorting to unscrupulous business practices and ruthlessly exploiting the workers, the growth of black money to the tune of Rs. 37,000 crore as per official estimation, excluding the amount generated in smuggling operations, speaks volumes for the anti-social nature of the private sector in the country. The Government's economic policies only add grist to the mill of the private sector. The admission of the government spokesman that over 80,000 units are either sick or closed down at the end of 1983 also underlines the incapacity of the private sector to meet social needs.

The working class of India, despite, its strong criticism of the functioning of the public sector, wants it to grow and work more efficiently. Despite the co-operation offered by the trade union movement in the public sector the Government did not take it and relied more on the bureaucracy which always passed on the blame for the bad performance of the public sector to the trade union movement and the workers in the public sector.

The new scheme of workers' participation in the management is an eyewash and does not give any powers to the workers. Moreover, since the representatives of the workers are not elected through secret ballot, it becomes only participant of "yes-men" keeping the management's prerogative intact. Without any participation on the basis of equality and ensuring full democratic rights to the workers, no scheme of participative management can be successful.

The use of the CISF against workers, the promulgation of ESMA and NSA during strikes, draconian amendments in the industrial relations legislation, have only evoked strong resentment among the workers of public sector undertakings.

The valuable help given by the Socialist countries to India through the public sector undertakings is being misused by the capitalist landlord government to suit their class interests. The working class of India therefore, wants proper use of this aid so that the country will go in the direction of building a self-reliant economy.

The working and living conditions of the workers in the public sector are far from satisfactory. There is a vast difference between wage levels in different undertakings, and working conditions vary from unit to unit depending on the organised strength of the trade union movement. Absence of proper recruitment and promotion policies is causing demoralisation among the workers, while the reservation policy is implemented by the Government in a manner that pits one section of the workers against the other. The ceiling of Rs. 1600 in the payment of Bonus Act is depriving a large section of workers from the purview of bonus. The incentive schemes in the public sector have become a misnomer and there is strong resistance from the management to revise them upwards. With the next round of wage

negotiations round the corner the workers are expecting a further wage rise to protect their real standard of living.

This meeting warns the working class in the public sector of the recent steps being considered by the Government of India to scuttle the bipartite wage negotiations machinery and impose a discarded wage board mechanism on the workers in the public sector undertakings, as per the recommendations of the Arjun Sen Gupta Committee. This meeting appeals to the trade union movement to defeat this conspiracy in the same manner as it had defeated the BPE guidelines during the recent phase of wage negotia-

tions and to maintain the hard won right of collective bargaining for the public sector workers.

This meeting, therefore, calls upon the working class and the trade union movement in India to close its ranks in the struggle against the Government of India's policies which, if allowed to continue further, will virtually liquidate the public sector in India. It therefore earnestly appeals to the entire working class to join the countrywide movement to achieve the following demands:

- (1) Withdraw all the concessions given to multinational companies and big houses by the Government of India;
- (2) Stop imports of all products and equipment which can be produced indigenously and develop indigenous production to achieve self-reliance;
- (3) End all bureaucratism and malpractices in the public sector and introduce a genuine scheme of workers' participation in the management through elected representatives with full powers;
- (4) No closure of existing public sector units. Develop more public sector units by taking over all the sick and closed units and save lakhs of workers from starvation;
- (5) Nationalise the cotton textile, jute, sugar and other major industries and run them efficiently in the public sector;
- (6) Accord unhindered trade union rights to the public sector workers and withdraw ESMA, NSA and all anti-working class measures taken by the Government of India;
- (7) Develop employment oriented projects in the public sector and withdraw the ban on recruitment;
- (8) Abolish the contract system in the public sector undertakings and regularise those workers in the public sector;
- (9) Accept the legitimate demands of the workers relating to further improvement in their working and living conditions such as removal of ceiling on bonus, payment of interim relief to those undertakings whose wages and DA are governed by the Pay Commission Report, etc;
- (10) Give full protection of job security to women workers in the public sector;
- (11) Scrap the Bureau of Public Enterprises;
- (12) Ban computerisation and introduction of other job killing devices.

CITU Greets SOHYO Conference

In reply to SOHYO's letter, B.T. Ranadive, President CITU sent the following message on June 22 to their Conference:

Mr. Takeshi Kurokawa
President, The General Council of
Trade Unions of Japan
Sohyo Kaikan, 2-11
Kanda Surugadai 3-Chome
Chiyoda-Ku, TOKYO

Dear Comrade,

I thank you for your letter dated the 14th of June informing us about the 73rd Annual Conference of SOHYO.

On behalf of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, I convey warm greetings to the Conference and wish success to its deliberations. I am confident that the Conference will succeed in giving a new lead for the unification of the labour movement in Japan. The CITU and the working class of India appreciate the success of SOHYO and the labour movement in defending workers' living conditions, democratic rights of the people and world peace. The CITU wishes them further success in this direction. The year 1985 marks the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Very few acts in recent history compare with this planned inhuman infamy. The perpetrators of this massacre are again busy organising a nuclear war. Let our common efforts prevent this plot against peace. Let the memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki impel us to fight till we are finally triumphant.

With Greetings,

Fraternally yours
B.T. Ranadive

(Contd. from page 12)

of government control have been the demands of the World Bank and the IMF for creating a favourable climate for the multinationals to enter the economic life of the country. The meeting warns the working class that the policy of undermining the public sector and allowing the multinationals to enter the economic life of the country means their entry into its political life also and spells danger to our freedom and independence, which is the avowed objective of the imperialists headed by USA.

This meeting therefore calls upon the State Committees and the affiliated unions to launch immediate campaign to educate the workers on this new economic policy and mobilise them in movements demanding its reversal. The meeting also appeals to all other trade union centres to come together in the task so that a countrywide united movement can be waged on this issue.

Unite, Meet the Challenge

INDUSTRIAL relations on the railways, specially in the Eastern region, have been deteriorating. According to Railway workers and their unions, the authorities have adopted a "Concede Nothing" policy, refusing to fulfil even the most reasonable demands involving no financial commitment. Treatment of the officials to the staff is being marked with increasing highhandedness. Not only the trade unions are being ignored, even the mildest protest evokes harsh reaction, victimisation including removal from service under Rule 14(2) etc is resorted to on most flimsy grounds.

Even the recognised AIRF Unions are not being spared.

In the face of this aggressiveness of the railway administration an urge for resisting unitedly seems to be growing among the railwaymen reflecting itself in the effort of the unions to come together for this purpose.

EMRU-SERMU Joint meet

A joint meeting of the working committees was held recently in Calcutta to meet the challenge jointly.

The meeting which was attended by a large number of active workers of both the unions, besides the members of the two working committees was addressed by JP Chaubey, General Secretary, AIRF. The General Secretaries of the two unions and a number of delegates spoke in support of a resolution which was later adopted unanimously. Bimal De, Working President of AIRF presided.

The resolution criticised all the anti-people and anti-labour aspects of government and administrative policies. The programme adopted by the meeting includes a joint convention of railwaymen against victimisation and in support of just demands, observance of anti repression day, rally etc. to be completed by September 1985.

A joint committee has been formed to implement the programme.

E.R. for all in Unity

On Eastern Railway serious effort is on to bring together all unions industrial and categorical whether recognised or not to meet the growing aggressiveness of the administration unitedly.

In course of a series of discussions the three organisations, the Eastern Railwaymen's Union, the Eastern Railway Unit of All India Railway Employees Confederation and Eastern Railway Workers Union have reached an agreement on a joint programme and it is learnt that the organisations are coming out with a declaration on united struggle soon.

These organisations had jointly observed the anni-

versary of 1974 strike on 8th May this year all over Eastern Railway.

Railway Commercial Clerks

The 15th Annual meeting of the All India Railway Commercial Clerks Association was held recently at Hardiwar. 650 delegates and visitors coming from nine zonal railways attended the meeting, 49 of whom took part in discussion on General Secretary's report which was adopted unanimously. Leaders of AIREC addressed the session.

LRSA: Dharma at Zonal Headquarters

Dharma was staged by the Loco Running Staff at all the Zonal H Qs on 31st May as a phase of the programme to press their long pending demands.

Even the dark shadow of terrorist threat and restrictions due to promulgation of Section 144 could not prevent the Loco Running Staff of Northern Railway from implementing their programme which of course was bound to be of token nature. About 50 workers participated. A memorandum was submitted to the Zonal authorities.

Railwaymen Abroad

Safety Comes First

After prolonged negotiations which started as far back as in 1969 one-person operation (OP) of Trains was introduced on a section of London underground Railways in October 1984. Extension to other sections was due to take place in the early spring of this year. But it could not take place.

The authorities are complaining that the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) is ranging on the agreement.

The NUR emphatically denies the charge and accuses the authorities that they are reluctant to reach an agreement on a reasonable time limit for continuous driving, and the period of break following it.

Assistant General Secretary of the Union Bro. Hince says "It will be most irresponsible for us to expose drivers to greater stress and strain and jeopardise safety by agreeing to managements dictates...."

"Our member's concern over stress and strain" says Bro. Hince "should not be dismissed out of hand. These cause havoc in peoples lives".

Emphasising that in such matters, the financial consideration should not rule supreme Bro. Hince said "whilst financial support could fluctuate with what ever government policy happens to be in vogue, there is no price which can compensate for the suffering arising from broken health and all that entails". True, there is no bottomless purse, but he said, "there must be no short cut where safety is concerned" (source NUR Transport Review)

Secretariat Decisions

THE Secretariat of the CITU which met on June 18, 1985 under the Presidentship of Com. B.T. Ranadive, discussed and finalised the resolutions which were referred to it by the Working Committee from its meeting held at Trivandrum last.

The Secretariat approved the decision taken by the All India Co-Ordination Committee of Working Women to observe All India Working Women's Day on 6th August 1985 and called upon the State Committees to ensure that the it is observed in a befitting manner and reports sent to the Central Office.

The Secretariat noted that the Seminar on Bhopal Gas Tragedy has created an impact and how several state committees have decided to hold such seminars. All State Committees are advised to observe 3rd December '85 as was decided in the Seminar and approved by the Working Committee.

The meeting discussed the "New Textile Policy" in detail. It rejected the policy and decided that a detailed analysis should be made to expose how the Govt. has unabashedly advocated market economy by allowing free modernisation, withdrawing the concessions given to power-loom sector, open permission to close down the mills at will by the

Industrialists, forcing cheap cloth to the Handloom sector and allowing unrestricted product mix of cotton with man-made fibre. This policy would help only the big mill owners, throw thousands of textile workers to the streets due to closure of mills and ruin all others including powerloom owners. It was therefore felt necessary that renewed efforts be made to have the joint convention as early as possible. The Secretariat noted that similar desire has been expressed by the AITUC as well.

The Secretariat reacted sharply to the Ministry of Labour's letter dated June 10, about representation of Central Trade Unions on the basis of verified membership of 1980. It pointed out that the CITU did not accept the procedure of verification when the verification of 1980 membership was conducted. The fact that wide-ranging consultations on the procedure is still continuing should prove material basis of our opposition. The Secretariat therefore warned that the Govt. should not be guided by the arbitrary results of the 1980 verification arrived at on the basis of frivolous objections. The exclusion of CITU from various industrial committees and statutory and non-statutory bodies would neither help the industry nor the Govt. The position of CITU should therefore be restored.

Consumer Price Index Numbers

(Base 1960)

State/Centre	Jan. 1985	Feb. 1985	Mar. 1985								
				Bangalore	648	653	648	Coonoor	670	664	654
				Chikamagalur	595	599	588	Madurai	631	630	610
				Kolar G.F.	593	589	570	U.P.			
Andhra Pradesh				Kerala				Kanpur	563	558	562
Gudur	531	533	524	Alleppey	672	664	641	Saharanpur	585	558	590
Guntur	638	630	626	Alwaye	643	638	638	Varanasi	657	653	666
Hyderabad	595	589	585	Mundakayam	606	584	582	West Bengal			
Assam				Madhya Pradesh				Asansol	581	579	585
Digboi	578	579	589	Balaghat	592	588	599	Calcutta	574	566	569
Doom Dooma	468	457	462	Bhopal	623	619	626	Darjeeling	482	481	481
Labac	478	480	476	Gwalior	582	573	578	Howrah	529	524	532
Mariani	513	512	506	Indore	608	600	604	Jalpaiguri	481	483	489
Rangapara	497	494	497	Maharashtra				Raniganj	504	598	503
Bihar				Bombay	613	614	626	Delhi Territory	600	600	606
Jamshedpur	525	525	534	Nagpur	610	608	613	Other Centres			
Jharia	515	513	514	Sholapur	623	615	609	Berhampur ('49)	847	812	809
Kodarma	581	581	581	Orissa				Cuttack ('49)	786	790	787
Monghyr	587	593	584	Barbil	522	545	548	Jabalpur ('49)	774	743	775
Noamundi	518	517	527	Sambalpur	593	513	624	Howrah ('51-52)	689	679	676
Gujarat				Punjab				Tripura ('61)	541	540	542
Ahmedabad	572	567	572	Amritsar	586	591	596	H.P. ('65)	427	425	429
Bhavanagar	588	588	592	Rajasthan				Goa ('66)	441	444	447
Haryana				Ajmer	580	583	583	Bhilai ('66)	397	397	396
Yamunanagar	581	572	584	Jaipur	609	603	603	Bhilwara ('66)	346	346	345
J. & K.				Tamil Nadu				Chhindwara ('66)	309	308	311
Srinagar	613	617	645	Madras	595	594	582	Kothagudem ('66)	394	387	380
Karnataka				Coimbatore	641	643	638	Rourkela ('66)	386	385	387
Ammathi	607	604	593					All India ('60)	588	585	586

(Figures in bracket indicate base year)

International Struggles

May Day Abroad

One May 1, millions of workers throughout the world demonstrated for peace, social justice and cooperation among all peoples. Following are the reports:

FRG

"Jobs and not Bombs" was the main slogan in the demonstration organised by the trade unions and attended by hundreds of thousands at Bonn, Hamburg, Frankfurt, and other places. The speakers assailed the U.S. plans for militarisation of the outer space and the policy of the Kohl government of dragging the FRG in carrying out these plans. Pointing out that unemployment had risen by 7,50,000 since Kohl government had come to power, the demonstrators demanded a change in policy and called for an end to the wastage of public money on arms.

Great Britain

May Day was celebrated in London, Liverpool and other big cities. The rallies focused on three major issues: unemployment now affecting about four million people including one and half million young people, attack by the Thatcher government on workers' movement and the growing danger posed by the imperiatists' war preparations. The workers also demanded immediate release of the miners jailed during the miners' strike and reinstatement of all workers who were sacked for participating in the strike.

Italy

Organised by CGIL, thousands of workers participated in May Day rallies in the big and small cities of Italy under the slogan. "Peace, Jobs and Democracy". The aggravation of the socio-economic situation in Italy has been manifest in the raging unemployment affecting 3,100,000 people and threatening more. The biggest rally took place at Rome where 50,000 workers participated shouting the slogan, "Jobs for all".

France

At the call CGT about 50,000 people marched from the Bastille to Richelieu-Drouot in Paris demanding jobs to all, end to racism and freedom. The procession carried a huge banner reading, "Cut-backs and Austerity — We have had enough! We demand jobs, purchasing power and freedom." Similar rallies were held in all other parts of France.

USA

Rallies and demonstrations were held in several cities of USA. Thousands of workers converged at Union Square in New York and held a rally. The speakers representing trade unions, peace movement and the movement of solidarity with the peoples of Asia and Africa stressed the need to step up struggles for peace, against unemployment and for social

justice. The demonstration was also an opportunity to celebrate the 40th anniversary of victory over fascism. The speakers denounced the role of the US President Ronald Reagan to lay wreath at the Bit-burg cemetery in FRG where the Nazi soldiers were buried.

Japan

Thousands of workers took part in demonstrations and rallies in various cities of Japan. The participants demonstrated against nuclear threat, arms race and attacks on workers' rights. They demanded jobs and peace for all.

Mexico

Over two million people demonstrating at the Mexican capital denounced the policy of pressure being brought by USA over Mexico and extended full support to the independent domestic policy of the Mexican government.

Uruguay

Thousands of workers celebrated May Day and expressed their determination to consolidate democracy and struggle to improve their living conditions.

Argentina

The workers taking part in the rallies denounced the dictates of the International Monetary Fund and called for right to work for all.

Honduras

Massive demonstrations took place at Tegucigalpa. The workers pasted over 20,000 posters in the city demanding an end to the US military pressure in the country.

South Africa

The police of the racist regime attacked the May Day demonstrators with tear gas grenades and police dogs. The black trade unionists defied the ban on assemblies and demanded a stop to the apartheid policy. More than 30 workers were arrested and a large number injured.

Sudan

Having toppled Nemeiry's reactionary and pro-imperialist regime, which murdered hundreds of workers and patriots, the Sudanese working people observed May Day for the first time this year. The demonstrators expressed their determination to uphold the rights of the workers and ensure democracy and freedom to the people.

Lebanon

The May Day this year was once again celebrated in a tense atmosphere. This was created by the Israeily occupiers who although forced to withdraw their troops from various parts of the south, kept

their agents to whip up tension in the areas. For the first time in three years the workers in West Bekka and in other areas recently occupied by Israel celebrated the May Day.

People's Republic of Congo

The workers participating in the mass demonstrations at Brazaville pledged for strengthening solidarity with the workers in Africa and for international solidarity of the working class.

Socialist Republic of Ethiopia

Demonstrations were held with the call to attain fresh success in the Socialist construction of the country and to carry forward the struggle for peace.

Philippines

Thousands of workers carrying red banners demonstrated in the streets of Manila for democracy, freedom and trade union rights.

Afghanistan

Thousands of workers and people assembled at Kabul and demonstrated their determination to fight back the conspiracies of the USA and increasingly consolidate the foundations for a society for social justice and democracy.

Cuba

The workers celebrated the May Day at the Jose Marti Revolution Square in Havana. Fidel Castro along with 50 foreign delegates were present in the demonstration.

Vietnam

The people of Hanoi took to the streets to celebrate the April 30th, the tenth anniversary of the final victory over US aggression and the liberation of the southern part of the country. In an official rally in observance of the anniversary and the May Day, Le Duan, General Secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party sent fraternal greetings on behalf of the Vietnamese people to the workers of the world.

GDR

Over five lakh people held a mass rally at Berlin which was directed to the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism and the country's liberation. Harry Tisch, President of the FDGB recalled that it was due to the heroic deeds of the Soviet soldiers who made a decisive contribution to the defeat of

Nazism, that the workers of GDR can now celebrate the May Day in peace. "Live in Peace and Build in Peace" was the main slogan of the rally with which the workers renewed their confidence in the Communist Party under the leadership of which they have made incredible progress in the building of socialist society in GDR.

Bulgaria

Ninety heroes of socialist labour and winners of the socialist emulation movement led the May Day procession in Sofia. At the rally in September 9th Square the workers reiterated the friendship between the Bulgarian and Soviet people and the unity of the socialist community against the war threats posed by imperialism.

Hungary

The 40th anniversary of the Victory over fascism and the liberation of the country marked the May Day celebrations in the country. About 2.5 lakh people took part in the demonstration in Budapest. The workers demonstrated their pledge to safeguard world peace against the imperialist manoeuvres.

Czechoslovakia

The Chechoslovak workers marched in procession for three hours at Prague. On the eve of the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia, the people hailed the liberating role of the Soviet people and army and reiterated their firm alliance with all democratic and progressive forces throughout the world in the struggle against the threat of nuclear war and for peace and for social progress. Trade Union delegations from twenty countries were among the foreign delegates who participated in the May Day celebrations.

Poland

About seven million people took part in the May Day rally at Poland. The main demonstration took place at Warshaw under the slogan, "Strengthen socialism in Poland! Struggle for peace and security in Europe and all over the world". Addressing the participants, W. Jaruzelski, First Secretary of the United Workers party of Poland welcomed the 40th anniversary of the defeat of Hitler's fascism and the liberating role of USSR and its heroic army. In some Polish towns the anti-social elements tried to abuse the May Day celebrations and cause disruption. The security forces intervened against the provocators who included two US diplomats, who have since been expelled from the country.

(The celebrations in the USSR have been reported in the June issue).