

**CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE
UNIONS**

FOURTH CONFERENCE

**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES
AND ORGANISATION**

BY

**M.K. PANDHE
SECRETARY
CITU**

**TYAGI VENKATACHALAM NAGAR
MADRAS**

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES AND ORGANISATION

Comrades, since the Third Conference of the CITU, our organisation has passed through a difficult period during the national emergency. Trade Union activity was practically banned under emergency regulations, and our unions had to find out ways and means of keeping day-to-day contacts with the workers. We have been able to resist the onslaught of the capitalist class in this period and despite repressive measures, our organisational strength did not go down during the emergency.

According to the Constitution of the CITU, our Conference was due in 1977, however, due to several other difficulties, it was not possible to hold the Conference in time.

In the opening speech of Com. B. T. Ranadive and General Report by Com. P. Ramamurti, the developments during emergency have already been discussed elaborately. It is only proposed to review the activities of the CITU in this period and consider organisational problems that we have been facing so that we can take adequate steps to strengthen our organisation which is extremely important in order to develop a powerful organisation to suit the requirement of the present-day situation.

CITU has always stood at the forefront of the working class struggles since the Bombay Conference and has emerged as the foremost champion of working class unity. With growing struggles of the working class under the banner of CITU, many new sections have been drawing into struggle in this period and the sphere of activities of the CITU has expanded in many directions.

It is in this period, we have also seen through our experience that unless we take immediate steps to strengthen our organisation and improve our method of work, we will not be able to take full advantage of the present situation. The rise in CITU's influence during the last four years has also raised expectations among the working class about us. We, therefore, have added responsibility on our shoulders.

In this report an attempt is being made to review the major aspects of our activities since the Bombay Conference.

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Five meetings of the Working Committee were held since the Bombay Conference, two of which were held on the eve of the General Council Meetings. During the early part of the Emergency in the end of 1975, the task of organising the meetings was extremely difficult due to the possible danger of arrest of members. However, the meeting could be organised on 10-12 November 1975 at Madras under the Presidentship of Com. Jyoti Basu. Only 27 members could attend the meeting. Some of the leading comrades who were forced to go underground were also consulted about issues to be considered by the working Committees. The meeting reviewed the impact of the attack on the working class during emergency and the efforts made by the CITU to resist then attacks. The meeting also considered the issues like Bonus Ordinance, scuttling even the 8.33% of minimum bonus, imposition of seven-day week without corresponding increase in employment, the scheme of workers participation in management without according any right of workers and the anti-working class role of the National Apex Body. There was a very lively discussion on the resolution on workers' participation in management and its impact on the trade union movement.

The second meeting of the Working Committee was held in New Delhi on 10th and 11th of July 1976. 25 members attended the meeting which was presided over the by Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury. The meeting discussed at length the economic recession engulfing the Indian economy and the growing attacks on the working class. The meeting also emphasised the

need to organise the country wide campaign to rouse the working class on the proposed constitutional amendments.

Both the meetings enabled the members to know the position as it existed in various states. The reports submitted by members clearly indicated that despite several restrictions imposed by the Government, the CITU unions were in the position to keep close contact with the workers and bring them into action on various issues facing the working class. Com. B. T. Ranadive could not attend both these meetings since he had to go underground during emergency. However his guidance was available for both the meetings.

The Working Committee Meeting held at Kota on 6-8 June 1978 was attended by 32 members and one invitee Com. B. T. Ranadive who presided over the meeting reviewed at length the economic crisis prevailing in the country and explained how it affected the working class and the people. The meeting also discussed various aspects of anti-labour policy of the Janata Government and the rising struggles of the working class against these policies. The meeting heard reports of Com. P. Ramamurti on the Ninth Congress of the WFTU and the Congress of Vietnam Federation of the Trade Unions. Among the notable decisions of the Working Committee was one to hold a Convention of Working Women on the eve of the Fourth Conference of the CITU. The decisions of the Working Committee was explained in a well attended public meeting by Com. B. T. Ranadive, Com. Jyoti Basu, Com. P. Ramamurti and Com. Mohan Punamia.

The other two meetings of the Working Committee were held on 18-21 August 1977 (Calcutta) and on 20th November, 1978 (New Delhi) prior to the General Council meetings and discussed the issues before them.

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

During 1976 no General Council Meeting could be organised due to emergency conditions. Since the CITU Constitution provides for at least one meeting in a year a consent was obtained from the General Council members not to hold the meeting during 1976.

The General Council met in Calcutta on 18-21 August 1977. This was the first meeting after the Third Conference of the CITU which was attended by 160 members. Com. B. T. Ranadive who presided over the meeting dealt at length the political background that led to the declaration of emergency and assessed the rôle played by the working class during emergency. The discussion veered round the local experience of the CITU Unions in resisting the onslaughts of the capitalist class during emergency. The meeting also considered the united front tactics to be adopted in view of the class collaborationist rôle of the INTUC and AITUC during the emergency and the general resentment among the workers towards them. The meeting considered the decision of the Bombay Conference to co-opt some women comrades on the General Council. Accordingly it decided to co-opt Comrades Ahilya Ranganekar (Maharashtra) Mythili Sivaraman (Tamilnadu) Jethi Maya, Sibani Sengupta (West Bengal) Kudupudi Manikyam (Andhra) and Saleema Begum (Karnataka). A big rally was held at Brigade Parade Ground on 21st August 1977 which was addressed by Comrades B.T. Ranadive, P. Ramamurti, Jyoti Basu and Suhrud Mullick Chowdhury.

Another meeting of the General Council was held in New Delhi on 21st and 22nd November, 1978 immediately after the All India Convention Against Industrial Relations Bill. Com. B.T. Ranadive presided over the meeting which was attended by 145 members. The meeting discussed the achievement of 3 United Conventions organised since the last General Council Meetings. Com. B.T. Ranadive in his speech noted the growing attacks by the Janata Government against the workers and the rising curve of working class struggles all over the country. The meeting further discussed about the preparations to be made for the Fourth Session of the CITU and the All India Women Workers Convention to be held in Madras. The meeting considered the invitation from the National Productivity Council to nominate a representative on the NPC and decided not to nominate anyone for the purpose.

A meeting of the General Council will be held at Madras on the eve of the Fourth Session.

CO-ORDINATION OF INDUSTRY-WISE ACTIVITIES

The CITU Centre had to pay increasing attention to the work of Industry-wise Co-ordination in view of country-wide struggles emerging in certain industries. The experience also shows that through industry-wise co-ordination it has been possible to expand our activities in newer and newer areas. With the capitalists and the Government giving more emphasis on uniform policies in economic matters it has become more necessary for the working class to have better co-ordination to face the challenge of the exploiting classes squarely.

With rising consciousness among the working class the urge to have industry-wise actions to bring more pressure on the employers is growing continuously and demand is being raised by several unions in industries to have an all India Co-ordination in their industry.

Despite limitations the CITU Centre has been able to pay attention to certain industries. A brief review of the work done in certain industries is given below :

STEEL

During emergency adequate steps could not be taken to co-ordinate the activities of the CITU unions. Unions in this industry however were active throughout this period and maintained contacts with the workers. In Durgapur, despite the reign of terror the Hindusthan Steel Employees Union adopted suitable united front tactics and carried forward struggle on most of the issues facing the workers. As a result of this in the co-operative society elections the union won 71 out of 72 seats. In Bhilai and Jamshedpur also the unions carried forward their activities. The ABK Metal and Engineering Workers Union Burnpur was also active during emergency.

Some all India meetings were held to discuss some burning problems of workers like a second bipartite wage settlement, Government sponsored scheme of participative management and performance bonus scheme.

After withdrawal of emergency the Union Steel Minister Shri Biju Patnaik convened a meeting of all Central Organisations and

Trade Unions in Steel industry on 12th April 1977 to consider all aspects of the working of the steel plants. On behalf of the CITU Com. B. T. Ranadive and M. K. Pandhe participated in the meeting. The meeting decided to constitute the following six study groups and CITU nominated its representatives on them. 1. On Modalities of one union in one industry 2. On expansion of Steel Industry 3. On Workers participation in management 4. On production and Productivity 5. On Welfare and Social Objectives. 6. On Pricing Finance and Marketing. The CITU affiliated unions also nominated representatives on these study groups. The total number of nominees was 42 out of over 250 participants in the Study Groups. CITU representatives took a leading part during the discussions of these Study Groups. To co-ordinate and guide the work of various groups regular meetings were held in which Com. B. T. Ranadive elaborated CITU's views on all the issues involved in the discussions. The Study Groups submitted the Reports in October, 1977.

The Study Group Reports were unanimously adopted in a planary session of all the groups on 30th November 1977 in which about 300 representatives of all the unions in Steel Industry participated with Shri Buiju Patnaik himself in the chair. The meeting gave a unanimous verdict that the question of recognition of unions should be decided by secret ballot of all the workers in the plant, which was characterised as "a directive of the workers" by Shri Patnaik.

The Steel Minister, however, began to adopt dilatory tactics. For 4 months he did not convene any meeting to consider implementation of the Report. He brought the plea of proposed Industrial Relations Law but on 16th March Union Labour Minister clarified that holding of secret ballot need not wait till the forthcoming Bill. Seeing the dilatory tactics of the Government all the Central TUs except INTUC and HMS gave a call to observe 12th April 1978 as Secret Ballot Day in all the Steel Plants which was observed in a grand manner. Though a decision was taken in a meeting on 5th May 1978 to hold secret ballot before the end of June, no such date was fixed and ultimately all the Study Group Reports were unceremoniously shelved.

The CITU was discriminated against by the SAIL Management and was excluded from the National Joint Consultative

Committee. After repeated pressure on the Government, a decision was taken to include the CITU in the meeting of the NJCC held on 16th December, 1977. The CITU affiliated union in Alloy Steel Plant also was given a separate seat in the NJCC. So far only Hindusthan Steel Employees Union had one nominee on the NJCC though it had recognised Unions in Durgapur Steel Plant and Alloy Steel Plant. The NJCC also faced a stalemate due to non-agreement among certain trade union representatives and for six months the NJCC was put in cold storage. The CITU unions campaigned against the obstructive tactics adopted by the Government and the SAIL Management.

The NJCC was revived in June 1978 and bipartite wage negotiations for the third agreement commenced. CITU unions discussed at plant level the Charter of Demands and finalised it in an all India meeting. In the meetings of the NJCC the CITU representatives consistently fought for workers demands and campaigned at the plant level by regularly reporting the deliberations of the NJCC. A programme of demonstrations, processions was regularly chalked out and leaflets issued from time to time.

The CITU came to the forefront in Bokaro during the HSCL Workers struggle in August, 1977. Six workers lost their lives. Com. A.K. Roy visited the spot to boost the morale of the workers. Com. P. Ramamurti represented the issues with the authorities and helped the settlement of strike. However function of 2 unions in the plant in the name of CITU is causing concern among the workers. The Progressive front Labour Union though is not affiliated to the CITU is using its name.

The HSEU in Bhilai spread its activities in Rajhara Mines. Our activists played a leading role in the struggle against treacherous agreement signed by the AITUC leadership. 10 workers including women lost their lives in the struggle. As a result of continuous activities of the union we have won two seats each in Works Committee and Canteen elections out of four seats each.

The Kalta Iron Ore Mine (Rourkela) Workers gave a long-drawn battle against the retrenchment of Gorakhpuri and contract workers by the SAIL management. There was severe police repression and disruption by the BMS Union but the

workers remained firm. They organised one month Dharna before the Office of the Steel Minister in Delhi. The CITU played an important role in the struggle of coal washeries under Hindusthan Steel Limited on the question of Bonus.

The employees of the Sales Offices of Steel have formed an All India Co-ordination Committee and are co-operating with the CITU in the struggle for common issues.

An All India Steel Workers Convention was held at Jamshedpur on December 1978 in which about 200 delegates participated in all the plants. The Convention formed a Co-ordination Committee which has been meeting regularly. The co-ordination Committee also took up the question of contractors workers under the steel plants. All India Convention of Steel Plant Contractors Workers was held at Burnpur on 11th March which chalked out programme of action to achieve their demands.

At the initiative of CITU Unions an All India Coordination Committee of HSCL Workers was also formed during 1978 which also included non-CITU Unions. The Co-ordination Committee has taken several programmes of All India Movements and the HSCL Management had to give us defacto recognition.

COAL

The Energy Ministry was the only Ministry during emergency which prepared 12 point programme on its own providing for increase in the work-load, stoppage of overtime, imposition of multiple shift system to the detriment of coal miners, in addition to the 20 point programme of Smt. Indira Gandhi. Every opposition to the management's attack was mercilessly suppressed and CITU Unions had to face large scale victimisation of their activists.

The CITU nominee on the bipartite negotiating machinery was dropped by the management while the INTUC and AITUC leadership were given full patronage during emergency. The leadership of these organisations connived at all anti-working class measures of the management.

Over and above that, betrayal by Robin Chatterjee, and his

joining the INTUC on the ever of emergency posed some problems for Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India. Raniganj, Arrests of most of the Executive Committee Members of Bihar Colliery Kamgar Union virtually stopped the functioning of the Union during emergency.

However, the CITU Centre maintained regular contacts with all the Unions in Coal Industry and helped the unions in taking up the problems of workers with the authorities. Several strikes were organised on local issues by CITU Unions even during emergency.

Despite difficult conditions the CITU Centre in co-operation with Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India became a party to the Chasnala Court of Enquiry. Several CITU leaders visited the site Chasnala disaster which took a toll of about 375 workers on 27th December, 1975. CITU submitted a detailed memorandum to the Court of Enquiry. While the Court of Enquiry was going on another accident occurred in the same mine killing 7 employees. The CITU also became a party to the second Court of Enquiry. The report of the Enquiry found the management responsible for negligence in the safety matters. The CITU also became a party to the Sudamdih Court of Enquiry since 43 workers lost their lives on 4th October, 1976 due to severe explosion.

While CITU was busy in the work of these enquiries an accident in Central Saunda colliery in November, 1976 took the toll of 10 workers. The CITU submitted a memorandum stating the real causes of the accident and held the management and the DGMS authorities responsible for the accident. The management, authorities and certain trade union representative objected to our becoming a party on the plea that there was some technical delay on our part in submitting the statement.

The work of appearing before the Court of Enquiry was time consuming and involved lot of work. However Bihar State Committee was unable to undertake the work due to its limitations and the CITU Centre had to take responsibilities in this regard.

Since Bombay Conference CITU's position in Coal Industry showed considerable improvement. Apart from the sizable

increase in the membership of existing Unions, new unions have been formed in some centres. The National Coal Organisation Employees Association (NCOEA) Ranchi, in its conference on 21 st-23rd April, 1978 formally joined the CITU. In Silewara Mines near Nagpur Lal Jhanda Coal Mine Mazdoor Union joined the CITU and conducted a good strike in August, 1977. The office employees of the Headquarter of Eastern Coal Fields, Nagpur also formed a CITU affiliated Union. During the strike of Singareni Collieries Workers on the question of return of the CDS money and in the wake of betrayal by the recognised AITUC Union the workers came round to CITU and a new union was formed. The membership of the union rose to 5000 within a short time. Khan Mazdoor Parishad, a union in Chirimiri Coal belt in M. P. came in the fold of a CITU. Similarly CITU union was formed in Amalai Coal areas in the adjoining region. The strike of Banki Colliery workers in Feb. 1978 despite betrayal of AITUC and INTUC leaders has increased the prestige of Koyla Shramik Sangh in the entire Chattisgarh region of Madhya Pradesh. The M. P. Government alarmed by the sudden growth of CITU in the region, issued show cause notices to two leading CITU activists for their extrenment from the entire Chattisgarh region of M. P.

The two month old strike of Surveyors in Coal Mines under ECL, CCL and BCCL was settled due to CITU's efforts. The authorities agreed to form a joint committee to go into their grievances and M. K. Pandhe was taken as a member of the Committee. However the CIL management went back from the commitment and unilaterally took decisions without the workers representatives. The CITU took up the matter with the Government and questions were also raised in Parliamentary Committees.

The CITU Centre helped in this period the Calcutta based office employees organisations and took up their grievances with the authorities. The co-ordination committee of these organisations is working in close co-operation with the CITU.

To organise proper All-India Co-ordination of the CITU Unions and organisations friendly to CITU in Coal Industry an All India Meeting was convened at Raniganj on 11 September, 1978 which was attended by representatives in most of the coal

fields. A Co-ordination Committee was formed with Com Robin Sen as the Convener.

The Bipartite Wage Negotiations Committee was constituted in the month of November, 1978. The CITU nominated M. K. Pandhe and Bamapada Mukherjee as members. Every time two advisers attend the meeting by rotation so that all coal fields are represented.

Since the beginning of bipartite talks the CITU Unions have launched a good campaign all over the country on the issues involved in the bipartite talks. The CITU Unions played a notable role in the All India strike on 5 February in which 6 lakh coal miners participated. Our unions reached many new areas where we had no work earlier and our campaign reached new sections of workers who are coming to us in good strength.

All Central Trade Unions have agreed to go in for indefinite strike if the coal managements fails to settle the outstanding issues by 31st March, 1979. If this strike materialises the CITU will have to jump into the fray and play its role to make the strike success.

PORT AND DOCK WORKERS AND SEAMEN

The Extended Working Committee meeting of the Water Transport Workers Federation of India held in Bombay immediately after the last CITU Conference considered the issue of revision of wages of the Port and Dock Workers and long standing demands of Indian Seamen. It decided to build up united struggles and fight for the need-based minimum wage for the Port and Dock Workers and wage-structure for Seamen as suggested by the ILO.

The sudden heart attack of Com. Gerald Pereira President W. T. W. F. I. and his untimely death was a serious blow to the Federation. With the imposition of emergency some prominent leaders of the Federation were put in jail and some others suspended from service.

However the Port and Dock Unions all over the country organised demonstrations and agitational programmes to protect the interests of the workers. Several representations were made to the Government on various issues of the workers. The

Calcutta Unions ensured all efforts to oppose compulsory retirement of 3700 Dock Workers following the recommendations of One Man Committee Report.

The Government constituted a Wage Revision Committee only of officials excluding representatives of workers. Since all other Federations gave up their opposition to the Committee and submitted Memoranda the Federation also decided to submit the Memorandum. A representative team of the Federation appeared before the Committee to explain the view point of the Federation.

As was expected, Wage Committee's recommendations were not favourable to the Workers. There was all India Movement against these recommendations. The newly elected Janata Government called a meeting of all the federations including ours to discuss these proposals. After long drawn negotiations, a settlement was reached with the Government on 14 July 1977 which gave Rs. 70/- Crores to the Port and Dock Workers towards revisions of wages. The Federation received de-facto recognition in this period.

Representatives of the Federation met the Prime Minister of India in July 1977 separately for Port and Dock Workers' and Seamans' problems. They urged for proper mechanism to settle all the outstanding issues of the Water Transport workers.

After the wage agreement several anomalies were pointed out by the CITU Unions and a demand was raised to appoint a Committee to remove the anomalies in the wage structure. Government once again appointed a Committee of officials and asked only the recognised unions to submit their views. Com. Vishwanatha Menon M. P. took up the matter with the Ministry and our Federation unions were permitted to submit our views.

In this period a new union was formed under CITU banner in Madras while the recognised AITUC Union in Kandla Port was affiliated to the CITU. The Visakhapatnam Port and Dock Union also agreed to work in co-operation with the Federation.

The Working Committee Meeting of the Federation was held in Calcutta on 22nd August 1977. Com. B.T. Ranadive guided the deliberations. The meeting elected Com.Md. Ismail as

Working President to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Com. Pereira. It also elected Com.K.K. Roy Ganguly as the Working General Secretary after the resignation of Com. Neelamani Ghosh. The meeting gave a call for collection of Rs. 50,000 to run the Federation properly. After the meeting there was an impressive procession and rally.

Another meeting of the Working Committee of the Federation was held at Kandla on 20th and 21st May, 1978. Com. B.T. Ranadive and M.K. Pandhe attend on behalf of the Centre. The meeting reviewed the activities of the Unions and decided to organise phased programme of movement culminating in one day strike on 27 June 1978 to synchronise with the call given by Delhi Convention of Public Sector Undertakings.

In West Bengal Struggles were conducted to take back the retrenched workers, decasualisation of the watchmen and other issues. In Cochin the CITU Union won a spectacular victory in the Works Committee elections.

During the strike of Port and Dock Workers in 1978 the Federation while supporting the just demands of the workers appealed for united movement by all the Federations. During negotiations our Federation representatives played an important part in arriving at a reasonable settlement. In Kandla our Union had to face gangster attacks by the Anti-Social Elements. Com.P. Ramamurti has taken up the matter with Chief Minister, Gujarat and the Union Transport Minister.

The Forward-Seamen's Union Calcutta has increased its activities considerably during and after emergency. It has conducted several struggles against gangsterism of the National Union of Seafarers of India who were forcibly collecting subscriptions from Seamen inside the Marine House. It has also fought several strikes against arbitrary manning scale, corrupt practices prevailing in ships and burcaucratic handling of grievances of Seamen. The union has opened branches in other Centres as well as steps are being taken to co-ordinata the activities of Seamen of various centres.

The Extended meeting of the Working Committee of the Federation will be held in Madras on 16th April next to chalk out future programme of action.

PLANTIONS

During emergency, Com. K. Padmanabhan, President All India Plantation Workers Federation (AIPWF) and Com. Ananda Pathak had to go underground. Several Comrades in West Bengal, Tamilnadu, Assam and Kerala were either arrested or driven underground. Com. Vimal Ranadive, Secretary AIWF was also not available for work in the Central Office. This greatly affected co-ordination of activity of the Federation. However, plantation unions conducted struggles locally or on State Level.

In West Bengal the movement for bonus and wage rise continued even during emergency. After observation of Bonus Day the Central Trade Unions gave a call for one day strike on 13th September, 1976 which was successful in 193 out of 273 gardens. The workers won advance payment. The workers also forced the planters to increase the wages of women workers at par with men without increasing the task.

In Kerala 50,000 plantations workers unitedly went on strike on 13st August 1976 in support of the Charter of Demands. One lakh 25 thousand workers went on strike from December 10, 1977 under joint leaderships which continued till the reaching of settlement. In Tea, Coffee, Cardamom and Rubber Estates Workers achieved favourable settlement after long drawn struggle.

In Kanyakumari (Tamilnadu) plantation workers went on indefinite strike from December 1976 in protest against bonus stoppage. 3000 workers in adjoining States struck work for a day in support of them.

In Karnataka at the call of the CITU one day strike was observed on 25 July 1977 in the State in support of Charter of Demands. Karnataka Plantation Workers Federation took initiative in forming a Joint Committee of 16 Unions to observe the Demands Week as per call given by the Delhi Convention in September, 1977.

As a result of tripartite Settlement after the formation of the Left Front Government in West Bengal the Plantation Workers got Rs. one per day as wage rise in 1977 and another Re. One per day to be given in 1978. Moreover about 9000 temporary

workers would be made permanent as per agreement.

The Working Committee meeting of the AIWF held in Calcutta on 22nd August 1977 gave a call to observe a day in first week of November to press for the demands of the plantation Workers. The day was observed in all the States. A deputation of the Federation met the Union Labour Minister and requested him to expedite the enactment of the Plantation Labour (Amendment) Bill. Though he promised to bring the Bill during Budget Session he did not do so. He nce telegrams were sent to the Labour Minister demanding implementation of the assurance. Plantation Workers in Kerala, Tamilnadu and Karnataka observed one day protest strike on 29th December, 1977 while demonstrations and meetings were organised in West Bengal, Assam and Tripura in support of the Demands.

In Assam the CITU has made considerable dent in the INTUC stronghold. In the CITU Union Conference delegates from 23 plantations including large number of women participated. In Tripura the membership of plantation union has increased substantially.

A well organised Third Conference of the Federation was held at Kanyakumari (Tamilnadu) on 25th August 1978 Com. B. T. Ranadive, Com. Jyoti Basu and Com. P. Ramamurti attended the Conference. More than 500 delegates and observers participated in the Conference and the Membership of the Federation reached about 1 lakh. Com. Padmanabhan and Com. Ananda Pathak were elected as President and General Secretary. The Conference ended in a big procession and a rally.

At the invitation of the TUI of Agricultural Forestry and Plantation Workers (WFTU) Com. K. Padmanabhan President AIPWF attended a seminar held in Alma Ata (USSR) on 24-28 October 1978 on the "The action for radical economic and social transformation in the countryside for the betterment of living and working stadands of rural workers" He read a paper in its seminar explaining the views of the federation.

The next Conference of the TUIAFPW will be held in Warsaw in May 1979. The AIPWF has decided to nominate Com. Dhani Ram Khosla Vice President AIPWF.

BEEDI

The All India Beedi Workers Co-ordination Committee was formed with Com. C. Kannan as the Convener in a Convention at Madras before the Third Conference of the CITU. It held 3 meetings during emergency. The First meeting was held at Mangalore on 24-25th July, 1976 in which members from all the States participated. It reviewed the implementation of the decision of the Madras Convention and observed that hundreds of letters and telegrams were sent to the Government from Kerala, Karnataka, West Bengal, Tamilnadu and Bihar. The meeting decided to observe an All India Day and submit memoranda to Labour Ministers and District officials.

The Second Meeting of the Committee was held on 15th and 16th November, 1976 in Madras. It protested against the decision of the Government to invite only the INTUC and AITUC Combine to the bipartite meeting on Beedi Industry. The meeting decided to observe 15th December 1976 as "Women Beedi Workers day" to demand enforcement of Equal Remunerations Act for Beedi Workers. It also decided to campaign for a national minimum wage of Rs. 300/- for Beedi Workers.

The Third Meeting held on 30-31 May, 1977 at Bangalore demanded abolition of contract system, removal of excise duty on Labelled Bidis, amendment to Central Excise Act prohibiting issue of pass books and stipulating issue of L 2 Licences only to industrial houses for rolling Bidis. It discussed the Welfare Fund Scheme and non-implementation of Beedi and Cigar Act.

A well attended Karnataka State Beedi Convention was organised in Bangalore on 15th June 1977. Over a third of the delegates were women. The West Bengal and Bihar Beedi Workers got some wage rise after repeated strike struggles during emergency.

A deputation of the Co-ordinating Committee met the Welfare Commissioner in New Delhi on 24 November and placed before him the grievances of Beedi Workers about the Welfare Schemes of the Government.

ROAD TRANSPORT

Com. Sujit Das, General Secretary, All India Road Transport Workers Federation had to go underground during the emergency which seriously affected the work of the Federation. However the Federation issued a circular calling upon the affiliated unions to observe 15th September, 1975 as Demands Day. Another circular was issued asking the unions to protest against the Bonus Ordinance. Com. Viswanatha Menon, President AIRTWF visited Calcutta during emergency and discussed with the comrades the problems of All India Co-ordination. The Federation sent protest letters to Government of India against the arrest of motor transport workers and demanded their release. It also expressed solidarity with the striking Tamilnadu State Transport workers.

The Working Committee meeting of the Federation was held in Calcutta on 22nd August 1977 to review the activities of the Federation. A Charter of Demands of Road Transport Workers was submitted on behalf of the Federation to the Union Government on 30th March 1978 and unions were asked to campaign on the basis of these demands.

Comrade B. T. Ranadive attended the North Bengal Motor Transport Workers Conference at Malda on 13th May, 1978.

Due to severe heart attack of Sujit Das, General Secretary, AIRTWF the Federation again could not do much co-ordination work. There also appears to be lack of regular contact between the local unions and the Central Office.

HEAVY ELECTRICALS

In a secret ballot organised all over the Bharat Heavy Electricals concerns the CITU won the second position. The CITU affiliated union in Trichi got highest number of votes while in Bhopal our union got second position.

The CITU nominated Com. P. Ramamurti and Com. M. K. Pandhe on the Joint Committee which came to an interim settlement of 10 per cent wage rise to all categories of workers. The management, however, tried to make the interim settlement as final. However, the workers group opposed the contention of the management. At the initiative of the CITU all the non-INTUC Unions decided to observe 8th February 1979 as PROTEST DAY which was observed all over India. In some

places even the INTUC Unions had to join the observati on of the Day.

The management and INTUC tried to raise the question regarding Com. P. Ramamurti's book on Siemens BHEL tie-up in the joint meeting but the attempt to criticise the step of Com. Ramamurti was defeated due to the unity shown by several trade union representatives. On the contrary, sale of about 10,000 books among various sections created good impact about the CITU inside BHEL organisation.

JUTE

Though no All India Organisation of Jute Workers has been formed so far under the banner of CITU, Com. Kamal Sarkar has been individually keeping regular contacts with all the unions in Jute industry. During the recent jute strike in West Bengal, Jute workers from other States expressed their solidarity. Some centres even went on strike along with West Bengal Unions. The successful conclusion of the strike has increased the prestige of Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union considerably and Jute Unions in other States naturally look upon it for regular guidance. It is now possible to develop an effective All India Co-ordination of our activities in Jute industry.

RUBBER & TYRE

The All India Rubber and Tyre Federation did not function properly though some struggles have been conducted by the local unions. The Federation did not hold any meeting since the Bombay Conference. It is necessary to take steps so that the activities of the Federation are resumed as soon as possible.

There are many industry-wise Federations which are independent and united but our unions are actively working in them. In Fertilizer, Pharmaceuticals, Newspaper and other industries our Comrades occupy important positions, but the organisations have several non-CITU Unions. In some multinational companies like Avery, Mc-Neil and Magor, Voltas, Lipton, Metal Box, Rallies, ICI, Brooke Bond etc., our Unions are associated with united Federations and at times our Comrades are holding leading positions. Yet these organisations function independently. The CITU took initiative in bringing together all the rival unions and organisations of PF employees in one single conven-

tion and it has been possible to unify their ranks for common action. Com. Samar Mukherjee is the President of the ESI employees Federation but it is an independent organisation in which employees of all affiliations work. The CITU is having extremely cordial relations with all India Loco Running Staff Association, All India Reserve Bank Association, All India Insurance Employees' Association, All India State Government Employees' Federation, Confederation of Central Government Employees and Associations and several other Organisations.

RAILWAYS

Despite our weakness in the railways, the CITU had become popular among militant railway workers, which was evident from the invitation of All India Railwaymen's Federation, to attend their Annual Conference at Jodhpur on May 26-31, 1975. A strong delegation of Com. Samar Mukherjee, M. P., Mohan Punamia and Nrisingha Chakraborty was sent to Jodhpur. The All India Loco Running Staff Assn. (AILRSA) also had invited the CITU, to their annual conference held at Kharagpur—May 29-31, 1975, in which Comrades : Samar Mukherjee and Nrisingha Chakraborty attended.

LEGAL AID WORK

The legal aid to victimised railway workers continued and judgments in favour of railwaymen, setting aside the removal orders, started coming in, from May 1975. The railway authorities in most cases did not honour the judgements and started filing appeals and hence the work had to be continued and a decision had to be taken not to accept new cases. Despite this decision, help had to be rendered in 35 cases when victimised railwaymen emboldened by the favourable judgements came forward for new cases. Equally in 28 cases, which were withdrawn on the basis of the assurances of Railway Advocate had to be reinstated once again, as the authorities did not honour the assurances.

While this work to give relief to railwaymen victimised in May 1974 struggle continued, there was new offensive after the imposition of internal emergency. The leadership of various category-wise associations, particularly in NER was victimised, and the CITU had to take initiative in rendering legal aid in Lucknow and Allahabad High Court. It need be mentioned that

out of 21 cases, only 2 employees were reinstated after the announcement of the Railway Minister in June 1977. Remaining cases had to be fought till last and one such case is still pending. It is also mentioned further that even after the removal orders were set aside by the High Court, 8 employees have been served with penal transfer orders and further legal help may be necessary.

Though ultimately the new Railway Minister had to reinstate all those victimised during May 1974 struggle or emergency, the authorities have refused to pay full wages even on those cases where judgments setting aside the removal orders were given. Hence six cases had to be instituted in Labour court at Durg (MP) by the CITU and Com. P. K. Moitra took up these cases when the railway authorities filed appeals at Indore. Three such appeals are still pending.

Com. Samar Mukherjee, made efforts to secure administrative decisions so that wasteful expenditure and inherent delay could be avoided. Having failed in that, steps were taken to institute further court cases for wages and other consequential benefits. One case has already been instituted in Calcutta High Court and steps have been taken to institute further cases. Besides, when an office-bearer of Traction Workers Association of Agra Division was victimised recently under Rule 14 (ii) of Railway Estt. Code, which does not provide any opportunity of self-defence, the CITU had to render help in legal defence. Shri M. Mazumdar and Shri S. Ghose, advocates, at Calcutta, are helping in these efforts.

After reinstatement the workers have contributed liberally to the CITU and a sum of Rs. 30,000/- has been kept in fixed deposit, considering the need for legal defence which may continue for some time more.

FUNCTIONING OF THE STATE COMMITTEES

The Centre does not get regular reports on the activities of the State Committees. Sometimes only the press communique issued by the State Committees after the meeting is received by the CITU Centre.

On the basis of Reports received from the State Committee a brief outline of the activities of the State Committees is given in this report. It is by no means a complete Report.

WEST BENGAL

Despite repression and gangsterism, the State Committee carried its activities throughout the period. Since the Bombay Conference the State Committee held in all 20 meetings. Out of 115 members on an average 50 attended these meetings. The State has a Council of 453 members (there are 19 vacancies) and only one meeting of the State Council could be organised on 24 November 1977 since the last Conference. The total attendance in the meeting was 193. The State Committee issued 10 circulars in 1976, 7 each in 1977 and 1978 on various campaigns in the states and on solidarity actions with fighting employees. The State Committee has a team of 6 full timers and one part timer to run the state centre. The State Secretariat meeting is held regularly once in a week to consider the issues before the movement and to take appropriate steps to tackle them. At the initiative of the State Committee 9 centralised leaflets were issued and the total number of conventions, meeting and rallies organised on the centralised basis was about 75 since the Third Conference of the CITU. The State Committee published 3 booklets in this period. Districts Councils have been formed in some major districts to co-ordinate the activities of the CITU at district level.

The State Committee has always been at the forefront of struggles on all issues facing the working class in the state. 52 General Council members and 28 other CITU activists have been elected as Members of the Legislative Assembly in the State which is an indication of the influence of the CITU in the state.

KERALA

After the Third Conference the State Working Committee met 4 times in 1975, 6 times in 1976, 7 times each in 1977 and 1978. Out of 33 members average attendance to these meetings was about 24. In August, 1978 the State General Council held a meeting to review the CITU activities in the state. The State Committee issued six circulars each in 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978 and two in 1979 on various issues connected with state-wide movements. The State Committee has one full time comrade working in its office while out of six office-bearers 4 are functioning from the state centre. The State Committee brought out 6 booklets in this period on Madras Working

Committee Report (3000) 1976 May Day Manifesto of the CITU (5000), Fraud in compiling cost of living Index (5000) and "High Wage Island" (5000) The State Committee has given special emphasis on industry wise functioning in the state and organisations have been formed in Coir, Cashew, Plantation, Textile, Toddy Tappers, Road Transport, Bedi & Cigar, PWED. NMR Workers. Agricultural farms, Tile, Headload & General Workers Timber and Plywood, Fisheries and Handlooms to coordinate the activities.

RAJASTHAN

After promulgation of emergency most of the leadership of the State Committee was either arrested or went underground. Naturally no meeting of the State Committee could be held during the entire period of emergency. In view of the nature of attack the CITU Centre deputed Com. Kamal Sarkar and Md. Ismail to attend a meeting of the available cadres in 1976 and help the comrades in developing the activities in the State. The CITU centre also contributed Rs. 2000 to meet the financial difficulties. Since the withdrawal of emergency the State Committee met 4 times once in 1977 and thrice in 1978. The average attendance to these meetings were about 20 out of 35. The state secretariat was also meeting in between to consider the urgent problems each in 1975 and 1976, 14 each in 1977 and 1978 on various issues of state and country wide movements. The state centre has two full timers and one part time working in the office. Out of 13 office bearers only 3 are functioning from centre. At the initiative of the State CITU centre several joint actions were organised in electricity and textile industries, atomic power and copper mine projects as well as against Industrial Relations Bill.

MAHARASHTRA

The State Committee had been active in the entire period in building united movements on common issues. It held eight meetings in 1975, 6 in 1976, 4 in 1977 and 6 in 1978. Out of 42 members of the State Committee 25 to 28 used to attend in these meetings. The State Committee issued 4 circulars in 1975, 5 in 1976, 9 in 1977, 13 in 1978 and 2 in 1979 on organisation of various state wide and nation wide campaigns. There is one full time and one part-time working in the state centre. Out of 15 office bearers only the General Secretary normally func-

tions from the Centre, while 2 others office-bearers help from time to time in the work. In Maharashtra several united actions of the working class have taken place and the state Committee played an important role in most of them.

KARNATAKA

Even prior to the Bombay conference, the State Committee was defunct. The centre, therefore, decided that the members of the General Council from the state should form the guiding team in the State. The team met 4 times since the Bombay conference. It was only after the Second State Conference in December, 1978 that a proper State Committee and State Council was constituted. Since then the work in the state has shown considerable improvement. The secretariat and the State Committee have been meeting regularly to co-ordinate the activity. There is no full-timer or part-timer exclusively working for the Centre. Three of the office-bearers partly work in the State Centre. The State Committee is searching for an independent office and adequate staff to run the Centre effectively.

GOA

Due to the sudden death of Com. Gerald Pereira on March 1976, the State Committee functioning received a serious set back. Com. Luisa Pereira was elected as Acting General Secretary in his place. To help and guide the Movement in the Goa Maharashtra State Committee deputed Com. Prabhakar Donde to Goa. The State Committee met 5 times in 1976, once in 1977 and 6 times in 1978. Out of 11 members, 7 to 8 used to attend these meetings. During the last two years the activities of the CITU were extended to 13 more concerns. However, in some mining areas, there was a set back due to disruption. The State Committee guided several struggles on the question of bonus, victimisation, retrenchment and lay-offs. Many successful strikes were also conducted in textiles, engineering and mines. The State Committee has only one full-timer and 4 part-timers, while none of the office bearers is a full-timer. There is acute shortage of leading workers to cope up with the expanding work.

ORISSA

Though the State Committee was weak, the emergency regime arrested 3 comrades and several comrades, including the State

Secretary had to go underground. Two State committee members surrendered before the authoritarian regime and were expelled by the State Committee. As a result of all these, it was not possible to hold the meeting of the state committee even once. The State Committee has 25 members and in 1977 it met only once while in 1978 there were 4 meetings. Normally 6 to 8 members and 2-3 invitees attend the meetings. The state committee could not issue any circular during emergency but some instructions were issued on current problems. In 1977 and 1978 it issued 8 circulars each for guidance of the local unions. At present no full timer is working in the state committee office. Since last few months 2 part timers are working in the office. Out of the office bearers only the secretary is functioning from the centre. The State Committee has however recently prepared a team of 3 comrades to organise properly the work of the CITU throughout the State.

MADHYAPRADESH

Till 1978 the state had only a coordination committee. During emergency due to severe repression even the coordination committee could not function. It began functioning only after withdrawal of emergency. The State Committee was constituted in the recent State Conference, with 21 members. In the last meeting 12 attended the meeting. Despite several struggles in the state the co-ordination was inadequate. Only recently it has been possible to improve the co-ordination of activities. There is no full timer in the office of the State Committee and only the General Secretary of the State Committee functions from the State Committee Office. The size of the state is so big and our strength so weak that they create several difficulties in having a proper co-ordination of activities. Despite growth of membership in the state from 7 thousand to 25 thousand the centralised activity is still inadequate. To strengthen the activity in the State the centre is paying the wages of the State General Secretary.

BIHAR

Since declaration of emergency the State Committee had one meeting in 1975, 2 in 1976, 3 each in 1977 and 1978 and 1 in 1979. The attendance of State Committee members varies from 8 to 13 excluding invitees. The State Committee issued 8 circulars in unions on various topics of campaigns. The State

Committee had opened a separate office since 1977 and the Secretary of the State Committee functions whole time from the centre. One part time comrade has started working in the State Centre from December, 1978. Though the State Committee could not function properly for about one year since 1977 attempts were made to revive the activity and now it has commenced regular functioning. Though the membership of CITU unions and its influence has grown considerably in this state the state centre is weak to meet the requirements of the favourable situation.

ANDHRA

The State Committee could not meet during 1975 during repression while in 1976 one meeting could be convened. In 1977 there were 3 meetings while in 1978 state committee met 5 times. So far it has met once during 1979. The attendance in these meetings varied from 14 to 27 out of 43 members—After the recent Conference the membership of the State Committee rose to 56 and the participation was 36. The State Committee issued 5 circulars in 1977, 7 in 1978 and 2 in 1979 on various agitations and movements organised in the state. At present 2 office bearers and one comrade are working as full timers from the state centre. However the office bearers meet every month to co-ordinate and guide the activities of the unions.

According to available information in Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujarat there is no woman member on the State Committee. The West Bengal State Council has only one woman member. In Maharashtra Goa, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Kerala State Committees there is only woman member on the State Committee. In Andhra State Committee there are 3 women members while in Karna taka State Council there are 8 women members. This shows that we have not been able to bring up the cadres among women to the position of becoming state level leaders and special attention should be paid to remove this weakness of our functioning. The question assumes special importance in states where the women workers are in large numbers.

THE CITU STATE CONFERENCES

During the emergency no State Committee could organise

the State Conferences. It was only after the decision to hold the Fourth Conference of the CITU the State Committees held the State Conferences. The following table gives a brief jist of the State Conferences : *(include Figures here itself)*

The State Conference in West Bengal, Tamilnadu, Goa and Himachal Pradesh will be held after the CITU Conference.

The State Conferences were better organised than earlier ones. They clearly reflected the growing strength of the CITU. Even in weaker States the activities of the CITU have shown marked improvement. There is more awareness among the CITU unions to develop State-wise Co-ordination.

OUR PARTICIPATION IN OFFICIAL COMMITTEES ETC.

During emergency CITU was kept away from all tripartite forums. The all-pervading National Apex Body and its industry-wise Sub Committees dominated entire consultative machinery of the Government and only the INTUC, AITUC and pro-Indira wing of H.M.S. were invited to such meetings. There were categorical instructions from the Government the unions which do not accept the 20-Point Programme should not be given any consideration.

After Janata Party assumed office, the New Labour Minister, Shri Ravindra Varma, convened an informal meeting of the representatives of 10 Central Unions. The CITU representatives in the meeting, Comrades:P. Ramamurti and M.K. Pandhe, strongly criticised the policies of the former Indira Government and demanded end to them. In the meeting the Labour Minister agreed to convene a tripartite Labour Conference which was given up since 1971.

The tripartite Labour Conference which was held in New Delhi on 6-7th May, 1977, discussed the entire sphere of industrial relations, the question of gratuity, workers participation in management, faulty price index and conditions of un-organised labour. The workers representatives expressed their strong opposition the continuation of the C.D.S. and the failure of the Government to restore 8.33 per cent minimum bonus. On behalf of the CITU Com. P. Ramamurti and Com. M.K. Pandhe represented as delegates and Com. Mohan

State	Date	Place	Who attended from the centre
Madhya Pradesh	13-15 Oct. 1978	Ujjain	B. T. Ranadive Samar Mukherji
Rajasthan	12-14 Oct. 1978	Beawar	B. T. Ranadive
Punjab	Oct. 1978	Rajpura	Samar Mukherjee
Karnataka	8 Jan. 1979	Bangalore	P. Ramamurti.
Andhra		Hyderabad	B. T. Ranadive.
Assam	9-11 Mar. 1979	Naharkatia	B. T. Ranadive. Jyoti Basu.
Orissa	2-5 Mar. 1979	Jhatsuguda	B. T. Ranadive.
Uttar Pradesh	20-22 Mar. 1979	Bareilly	B. T. Ranadive.
Maharashtra	16-18 Mar. 1979	Nagpur	Jyoti Basu. P. Ramamurti.
Kerala	16-18 Mar. 1971	Kottayam	B. T. Ranadive
Bihar	23-25 Mar. 1979	Giddi	B. T. Ranadive. Krishnapada Ghosh
Gujarat	11 Mar. 1979	Ahemdabad	M. K. Pandhe.
Delhi	31 Mar. 1979	Delhi	P. Ramamurti. P. Ramamurti.
Haryana			

Punamia as adviser, Com. Hari Sadhan Mitra who was nominated as adviser could not attend the meeting. In the conference the Union Labour Minister made an announcement of constitution of 3 Committees: (i) on Comprehensive Industrial Relations Law and composition of the Indian Labour Conference, (ii) on Consumer price Index Numbers for the Industrial Workers, (iii) on Workers' Participation in management and equity shares. He also agreed to convene a special conference on unorganised labour.

The Committee on Comprehensive Industrial Relations Law submitted its Report to the Government in September, 1977. Com. P. Ramamurti, CITU representative on the Committee, made efforts to arrive at maximum understanding among the TU members of the Committee. However, except INTUC and NLO, other TUs generally took identical stand on various aspects of industrial relations. The report, therefore, was not unanimous. The Bill that was drafted later by the Labour Ministry contained many issues which were not earlier referred to the Committee.

The CITU nominated Com. M.K. Pandhe on the Committee on Consumer Price Index Numbers. The Committee submitted its Report to the Government on 6 Feb. 1978. Though the Committee suggested some measures to rectify the malpractices in Index, its recommendations contained several clauses detrimental to the interest of the working class. Com. M.K. Pandhe and B.N. Sathaye (BMS) submitted a note of dissent, criticizing the Committee for not fully rectifying the 1960 series of Index and pointed out the drawbacks in its approach. They opposed the introduction of the new series with 1970 as the base year without fully rectifying the earlier series. The AITUC representative refused to sign the note of dissent and placed a separate symbolic note. She virtually gave a certificate to the Labour Bureau by denying that the Index was fraudulent. Utilising the differences among the members the Union Govt. is sitting tight on the Report and no action has been taken in the matter so far. The report has not yet been circulated to the trade unions though more than one year has elapsed since its submission.

The Committee on Workers participation in management and equity shares, in which CITU was represented by Com. P.K. Kurane, has also submitted the Report in February last. The majority recommendations of the Report go contrary to the

CITU's understanding and hence Com. P.K. Kurane had given his note of dissent, explaining CITU's views on the subject. The Report has not yet been published by the Government.

A Conference on Rural Unorganised Labour was held on 25th January, 1978 in New Delhi and CITU was represented by Com. P. Ramamurti and Com. Rama Shankar (West Bengal). Com. Ramamurti drew the attention of the Conference to the harrowing conditions of unorganised labour. The Government later constituted a Standing Committee on Rural Unorganised Labour. Com. E. Balanandan is our nominee on the Committee. The first meeting of the Standing Committee was held in January, 1979.

The Union Labour Minister convened a meeting on safety in mines in New Delhi on 18th May, 1977. The meeting was held after occurrence of several accidents in coal mines, highlighting non-implementation of safety rules. On behalf of CITU Com. M.K. Pandhe and Com. Santosh Kumar Dutta (Raniganj) participated in the meeting. It was agreed to reorganise the Committee on Safety in Mines. The CITU has nominated Com. S.K. Dutta as delegate and Com. Goswami (J.K. Nagar) as Technical Adviser.

The Indirect Taxation Enquiry Committee under Chairmanship of Shri L.K. Jha, Governor of J&K, requested the CITU to reply to the questionnaire. The CITU submitted a Memorandum to the Committee which was explained in person by Comrades: M.K. Pandhe, Nrisingha Chakravarty and P.K. Kurane.

The CITU nominated Com. Sunil Basu Roy on the Committee on Absenteeism in Coal Mines. The Committee has not yet finalised the Report.

Union Minister of Industry convened a meeting of the Central Trade Unions on 3rd March 1978, to consider the fall in production in public sector undertakings and to suggest measures to improve industrial relations. Com. P. Ramamurti, M.K. Pandhe and Md. Ismail attended the meeting on behalf of the CITU. The meeting decided to constitute Study Group on Working of the Public Sector Undertakings and another on National Textile Corporation.

The Study Group on Public Sector Undertakings submitted unanimous report on the mal-functioning of the Public Under-

takings. It pointed out how the Bureaucracy suppresses democratic rights of the workers and how corruption and malpractices corrode the entire atmosphere in Public Undertakings. The Report demanded basic changes in the approach of running the public sector undertakings and asserted for full T.U. rights to the workers. The Minister accepted in full the recommendations of the Committee, but no step has been taken to implement any of the recommendations.

The study Group of National Textile Corporation is on the verge of completion of its Report. Com. S.S. Bose is the Nominee of the CITU on this Study Group. The Group has collected vast material on corruption, inefficiency and mismanagement in NTC Mills which has been responsible for loss of several crores of rupees to the Corporation. It will make recommendations about the steps to remove the malpractices in this undertaking.

The Education Ministry called a meeting of Central Trade Unions on 14th January, 1978 at Delhi to consider the association to Trade Unions in the literacy programme. Com. P. Ramamurti and Com. Nrisingha Chakravarty attended the meeting and criticised the manner in which the Government is trying to run the scheme through official machinery.

The Committee on Companies and MRTP Act had asked the CITU to submit a Memorandum and appear before it. Accordingly Comrades M.K. Pandhe, S.S. Bose and Biren Roy appeared before the Committee on 19th January, 1978 at Calcutta and explained the viewpoints of the CITU. A written Memorandum was also submitted on our behalf to the Committee.

The meeting of the Committee on National Awards constituted by the Union Labour Ministry was held in September 1978 Bombay. CITU nominee, Com. Nrisingha Chakraborty, who attended the Committee, criticized the manner in which these awards are given and demanded that the employers' role in such awards should be eliminated.

The Railway Convention Committee had circulated a questionnaire on an in-depth study of the problems of Indian Railways, including Finance. The CITU has submitted a comprehensive Memorandum to the Committee and demanded personal hearing which has not been given so far.

The CITU was given a nomination on the Board of Trustees for the Employees Provident Fund organisation. CITU has nominated Com. E. Balanandan, Vice President, on the Board. No meeting of the Board has been convened so far. The Central Committee on Vocational Training was reconstituted. The CITU has nominated Com. Mrinal Banerjee on the Committee. However, no meeting of the Committee has been held so far.

The CITU has also nominated Com. S. S. Bose on the General Council of The National Labour Institute. The first meeting of the General Council was held on 20th March, 1979.

As per assurance given by the Government on 26th June, 1978, a meeting of Central Trade Unions was convened by the Union Labour Ministry on 1st September 1978 to consider the guidelines of the Bureau of Public Enterprises and finalise the mechanism to evolve a consultative machinery. Com. P. Ramamurti and M. K. Pandhe attended the meeting on behalf of the CITU. In the meeting all the trade unions opposed the interference of the Bureau in negotiations in public sector undertakings. Though the Government promised to evolve soon a consultative mechanism for 6 months no meeting was convened till the end of February. When the matter was raised in Parliament by Com. Dinen Bhattacharya a hurriedly convened meeting was held on 5th March. Com. P. Ramamurti who was nominated on behalf of the CITU on this Committee sharply criticised the unilateral guidelines of the BPE and demanded that the directives should be stopped forthwith. Another meeting has been convened on 26th and 27th March to consider the issue.

The Union Labour Ministry convened a Conference on women workers in New Delhi on 12th December, 1978. The CITU nominated Com. Vimal Ranadive to participate in the Conference. While she was speaking in the Conference she was interrupted by the Chairman and asked to discontinue the speech. The CITU has recorded its protest at the behaviour of the Chairman.

The Union Labour Ministry organised a Seminar on Family Welfare Programme in Coperation with ILO at Bhopal on 5-8 July, 1978. On behalf of the CITU Com. Durgadas Shirali (Rajasthan) and Motilal Sharma attended the seminar. A

similar programme was arranged at Bhubaneswar on 4-8 February 1979. Com. Biren Roy (W. Bengal) and Com. Ajey Raut (Orissa) participated in the Seminar. In these seminars the CITU representatives explained our stand on the subject.

The ILO organised another Regional Seminar at Varanasi on 20th to 23rd November, 1978. On behalf of the CITU Com. Jagjit Singh Lyallpuri (Punjab) and M. K. Krishnan (Kerala) participated in the Seminar.

The CITU nominated Com. Biren Roy on a Committee of Director for Central Staff Training and Research Institute Calcutta, Com. V. J. K. Nair for Foremen Training Institute Bangalore and Com. T. Nandagopal for Advanced Training Institute (Madras).

Despite these nominations the CITU still is being excluded by the Government on several other statutory committees *viz.* The Employees State Insurance Corporation The Central Committee on Employment, Minimum Wage Advisory Committee (Central), Committee on Beedi Industry and Many other Committees. On all such Committees the unions which co-operated with the Government during the emergency have still got their nominees. The CITU has taking up these questions with the Govt. from time to time but the Govt. has not yet taken any steps so far

On the commodity Boards like Tea, Coffee, Rubber, Cardamom etc. the CITU has not been given any nomination so far. Coir Board has not yet been reorganised despite assurances and our nominee Com. Susheela Gopalan has not yet been invited on it.

The CITU nominees have not yet been included on Development Councils for various industries. We have to take up these issues at higher level so this discrimination is ended.

In several states also CITU has not been given nomination on State Labour Advisory Boards and other Committees. The CITU is trying to take up this question also with the authorities.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

International relations of the CITU continued to grow after

our Third Conference. We have been able to strengthen our bilateral relations with trade unions with whom we had contacts earlier while we developed relations with more organisations.

Our fraternal relationship with Vietnam trade unions were further strengthened during this period. On receipt of telegraphic communication about the First National Conference of United Trade Unions of Vietnam held at Ho Chi Minh City on 6-8 June 1976, Com. Jyoti Basu Vice President, CITU sent telegraphic message of greetings wishing further success in national reconstruction. Com. P. Ramamurti attended the conference of Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions held at Hanoi on 8-11 May 1978 and conveyed greetings on behalf of the CITU.

The Ninth Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions was held in Prague on 16-23 April 1978 and CITU was invited to the Congress for the first time. Com. P. Ramamurti who attended the Congress on our behalf while welcoming growing anti-imperialist struggles the world over criticised the policies of the WFTU during emergency and during several working class struggles in India. He also moved a number of amendments to the draft resolution, some of which were accepted. His participation in the Congress greatly helped the CITU in projecting it projecting its policies before the international forum. WFTU has recently established its Asian Bureau in Ho Chi Minh City which has expressed desire to keep regular contacts with the CITU.

The CITU received letters from the General council of Trade Unions of Japan (SOHOY) for messages to their 53rd, 54th and 55th Conferences held during 1976, 1977 and 1978. The CITU conveyed warm greetings to these conferences and expressed solidarity with the struggling workers of Japan. In our message to the 53rd Conference we expressed our gratefulness at the solidarity expressed by the SOHYO during the All India Railway strike in 1974. The first personal contact with the SOHYO was established during the visit of Com. Chiyuki Doki Director International Bureau of the SOHYO in February 1978. Before visiting the country he expressed his desire to have a discussion with the representatives of the CITU and we welcomed his visit to our country. Com. Doki had a long discussion on 19 February 1978 with CITU representatives which included Comrades Samar Mukherjee, M. K. Pandhe, Nrisingha Chakravarty, Dinen Bhattacharya, Robin sen, Vishwanatha

Menon and Ananda Pathak. In conclusion both organisations agreed to keep regular contacts with each other and strengthen mutual relations. The organising Committee for United National Movement Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bomb, Japan extended invitation to the CITU to participate in the world Conference held at Hiroshima on 3-6 August 1977. The CITU received the invitation very late and time was very short to send a representative to participate in the Conference.

The Confederation of General Trade Unions of Romania organised a seminar from 20th September to 30th October 1977 on T. U. problems in Asia, Australia and New Zealand and CITU was invited to send a representative to participate in it. Com. R. Umanath was nominated for the seminar but he could not attend due to non-availability of pasport in time.

The Ceylon Federation of Labour invited CITU to send a fraternal invited CITU to send a fraternal delegate to participate in their triannual Conference at Colombo held on 16-17 December 1977. The secretariat nominated Com. M. K. Pandhe but he could not attend the Conference due to refusal of the Government of Sri Lanka to grant him Visa. The Conference adopted a resolution condemning this action of the Government of Sri Lanka.

When the Chinese Goodwill delegation led by Com. Wang Pin Nan visited India at the invitation of Dr. Kotnis Memorial Committee, the CITU took initiative in organising a get together of leading trade union functionaries of Delhi on 9 March 1978 in Constituion Club. About 75 representatives of Central trade unions and industrial Federations participated in the meeting. The participation of top leaders of INTUC, CITU AITUC, BMS along with other Federations was significant. Ravindra Varma, Minister for Parliamentary. Affairs and Labour and George Fernandes Minister for Industries also participated in the function. Com. P. Ramamurti General Secretary CITU welcomed the chinese delegation while Com. Wang Pin Nan spoke on the occasion, emphasising the need for strengthening India—China Friendship. All China Federation of Trade Unions conveyed new year greetings to the CITU in 1979 and expressed a desire to keep regular contacts and to exchange information etc. The CITU has reciprocated the desire to do so.

A consultative Meeting of Trade Unions of Graphic Industry of the Region of Asia and Australia was held at Tashkent on 25-30 September and CITU was invited to nominate a representative to participate in the meeting, Com. Kalipada Das, General Secretary Sree Saraswaty Press Employees Union Calcutta was nominated by the CITU for the purpose. However, despite earlier assurance, the Trade Union International of Graphic Workers (WFTU) did not make any travel arrangements for Com. Das. He therefore had to cancel his departure. The CITU recorded its protest to Com. Takeshia Tkahashi President General Federation of Japanese Printing and Publishing Workers Union Tokyo, who was given the responsibility of preparing documents for the seminar.

The Trade Union International of workers in Commerce organised a seminar in Tashkent on 26-29 September, 1979 to consider the applications of the ILO Conventions and Recommendations and the CITU was requested to send 4 representatives. The secretariat nominated Com. M. V. Bhaskara Rao, Sunil Maitra, Naresh Paul and P. K. Ganguly. The West Bengal State Committee also received a separate invitation and Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury was nominated for the seminar. Our delegation played an important role during the seminar.

The Eighth Congress of Confederation of Yugoslav Trade Unions was held in Belgrade on 21-23 November, 1978. Com. R. Umanath attended the Conference as a fraternal delegate. This was our first delegation to Yugoslavia. Com. Umanath also attended a two-day seminar on problems of development of under developed countries in the world on 24-25 November. After the Conference, many delegates from developing countries expressed their appreciation of the points made by him in the seminar. Com. Umanath visited Romania after the Conference and had a discussion with the Romanian Trade Union leaders.

The CITU was invited to participate in the 14th Congress of the Cuban Workers Centre (CTC) held in Havana on 28 November—2 December 1978. Com. Mohan Punamia participated in the Conference on behalf of the CITU. His visit to Cuba enabled us to develop, fraternal relations with the Cuban Trade Unions.

The President and the General Secretary of the British Trade Union Congress visited the CITU Central office on 28 Novem-

ber 1978 and discussed with comrades P. Ramamurti, M. K. Pandhe and Nrisingha Chakravorty the problems of T. U. movement in India.

CITU AND THE ILO

The CITU's relationship with the International labour Organisation have been further strengthened since the Bombay Conference. The General Secretary of the CITU lodged a complaint to the ILO in October 1975 regarding suppression of freedom of association and collective bargaining in India. In the Memorandum of the CITU gave a detailed account of the repressive measure taken by the Congress Government during emergency. We also sent 5 supplementary memoranda giving further facts on repression on other sections of employees including those of railways as well as Central and State Government employees.

The Committee on Freedom of Association registered case No. 837 Which was considered in its meeting in February 1977 and its conclusions were recorded in 165th Report which was approved by the Governing Body at its 20th Session (March 1977). The findings of the report were certainly derogatory to the Government and they considerably helped the CITU in exposing the role of the Congress Govt. during emergency.

The CITU also lodged a complaint to the ILO about large scale victimisation of the leading functionaries of the CITU union in AVB (Durgapur). The findings of the ILO go in favour of the workers on some counts.

At the Instance of Dr. Hatata Population adviser to the Area office of the ILO Delhi the CITU planned to organise a Seminar on population problem for Eastern India. The ILO agreed to give grant to the CITU for the purpose. However due to the objections raised by the Government of India the seminar had to be deferred in view of the emergency condition.

In 1976 when the ILO was reviewing reports on Recommendations and Conventions, the Central Office prepared reports concerning the application in India of the House of Work (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 1) and the Minimum Wage (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 5), which were considered by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations in its session in March 1977.

The CITU received invitation from the ILO to send a delegate to participate in the Second International Trade Union Conference against apartheid in South Africa in Geneva on 10th and 11th June 1977. The CITU nominated Com. P. Ramamurti to participate in the Conference and gave a call for collection of funds to meet the expenses. A total of Rs. 5883 were collected from among the workers for the purpose. After attending the Conference in Geneva Com. Ramamurti visited U. K., France and Italy and had discussion with the representatives of CGT (France) and CGIL (Italy).

The International Centre for Advanced Technical and vocational Training (Turin Centre) run by the ILO organised a course on education of agricultural workers from 24 April to 14 July and CITU was allotted one seat. The CITU nominated Com. S. C. Peter Jt. Secretary Karshaka Thozhilali Union Alleppey (Kerala).

The 61st session of the ILO was held in Geneva on 7-28 June 1978 and for the first time the CITU was allowed to participate in the Conference, so long the INTUC had the privilege to participate in these conferences. Since some years the AITUC and pro-Indira wing of HMS were favoured to some extent in this regard. The Janata Government announced a policy of including other organisations in the capacity of advisers but the delegate continued to belong to the INTUC. In this session also the workers delegate was the INTUC representative while the representatives of CITU, HMS, HMP and BMS were included as advisors in the delegation. The CITU nominated Com. M. K. Pandhe as adviser. He had occasions to discuss the situation in India with several trade union representatives from other countries and explain the position of the CITU. After the ILO conference he visited France and had discussions with CCT representatives and later to U. K. where he addressed some meetings convened by the Indian Workers Association.

Several representatives of the ILO visited CITU office and discussed with CITU representatives the situation in India. Among the persons visiting India included Mr. K. F. Yofhimura Asstt. Director General in Charge of ILO Regional Office Asia and Pacific Bangkok (20 December 1978), Mr. K. Kuraiappa, Regional Adviser on Workers Education (21 February 78) and Mahendra of the Regional ILO Office.

The 120 expert Team of Coal Mines Safety visited CITU office and discussed at length the problems of safety in coal mines with Com. P. Ramamurti and M. K. Pandhe.

In a seminar convened by the ILO in New Delhi from 18 to 31 September 1977 on Industrial Relations and National Development the CITU was represented by Com. Biren Roy. He presented a paper and explained the viewpoint of the CITU.

NEW AFFILIATIONS

Since the Combay Conference the Working Committee and the General Council have granted affiliations to 490 unions. The details of their affiliations are as follows:

	No. of Unions.
(1) Working Committee meeting—Moras—1975	19
(2) Working Committee Meeting—Delhi—1976	9
(3) General Council Meeting—Calcutta—1977	90
(4) Working Committee meeting—Delhi 1978	170
(5) Working Committee meeting—Kota—1978	131
The total number of unions under CITU on the eve of the Conference is:	2934 — — — —

Though it is a good sign that more and more unions are joining the CITU and working under its discipline, it is, however, necessary to take some steps to ensure that all the unions regularly comply with the requirements of the Centre, in time. For instance, though the Constitution provides that each union should send Annual Return to the CITU Centre every year, after its submission, it is seen that during 1976 only 343 unions sent copies of the Annual Returns to the CITU Centre. Though the number of unions sending annual returns to the Centre increased to 580 in 1977, it is still only about 20% of the total affiliated unions. The Centre also is unable to check whether the unions have sent the Annual Return regularly to the Registrar of Trade Unions in order to maintain the Registration Number.

A cursory glance of the Annual Returns has revealed that some unions do not fill in all the columns of the Return as a result of which complete information about the union is not available.

It is necessary that the State Committees should ensure that all unions submit their annual returns in time to the Registrar of Trade Unions and a copy of the same is sent to the CITU Centre, without any delay.

It is also found that many State Committees even now forward the application for affiliation to the Centre without scrutinising the affiliation from carefully and checking up whether all the formalities are completed and all the required documents are submitted alongwith the Affiliation Form. In absence of this, the process for affiliation gets unnecessarily delayed causing lot of inconvenience to the unions concerned as well as the CITU Centre.

The emergence of large number of small unions is another aspect that also should be considered seriously by the CITU. These small unions because of their paltry income and weak organisational strength are also unable to function effectively. Whether such small unions can be grouped together on the industry-wise basis, is also a matter to be considered by the CITU. Formation of industry-wise unions, instead of factory-wise separate unions, should be encouraged, both by the state Committees and the CITU Centre. The emergence of a strong industry-wise union in jute industry of West Bengal has clearly shown how the bargaining strength of the workers is enhanced considerably with formation of industry-wise unions.

Some of the unions affiliated to the CITU have also not been functioning regularly and a method has to be evolved to see that steps can be taken to ensure that such unions are made active and function properly according to its Constitution.

CITU OPPOSES VERIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP

The Central Government has been giving nominations to various trade unions on official Committees on the basis of 1968 verification of membership. It is well known that the CITU was not formed during 1968 and it is being discriminated against as a result of this.

We have been raising this problem with the Union Labour Ministry on several occasions. In 1970 we submitted a list of unions for preliminary verification but no step was taken by the Government to consider our membership. Again in 1972 we

submitted another list for verification, but the Government did not conduct verification due to political reasons.

In 1978 the Government of India once again asked the CITU to submit a list for verification. The CITU wrote back to the Government opposing verification procedure and demanding determination of the strength of each union through secret ballot. The CITU also demanded a meeting of Central Trade Unions to consider the question.

The Government convened a meeting in August 1978 to discuss the problem. The CITU representative pressed the question of secret ballot and most of the Central Trade Unions supported the proposal and it was decided to constitute a small Committee to go into the question. This Committee met on 4th October, in which the representatives of the CITU and HMS pressed for secret ballot, the BMS supported secret ballot but if it was going to be delayed, then it would accept verification. The INTUC and the AITUC representatives supported verification. The stand of the AITUC was publicly criticised by the CITU and the AITUC leaders had to come out with a statement supporting secret ballot.

There has been a stalemate and the Government has not shown any inclination of holding secret ballot. The Government, however, continues its policy of giving nomination to the Central Trade Unions on the basis of ad-hoc decisions which, naturally, results in serious discrimination against the CITU.

WORKING WOMEN'S CONVENTION

As per decision of the Working Committee meeting at Kota in 1978, the CITU constituted a Preparatory Committee for the All India Working Woman's Convention. Some more women members were co-opted after obtaining suggestions from the State Committees. A meeting of the Preparatory Committee was held on 4th January, 1979 in New Delhi to work out details of the preparations for the Convention. Comrade B.T. Rana-dive guided the deliberations of the meeting. Accordingly, a Report on the conditions of working women and a Charter of Demands were prepared. State-wide Conventions were held in Andhra, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi and Tamilnadu. Large number of women workers belonging to CITU unions as well as women from LIC,

Banks, Commercial Organisations, State and Central Government Employees, Nurses, Teachers etc. Participated in these Conventions. The discussions in the Convention also pinpointed a genuine urge among the women for movement on their pressing problems. They also brought to the forefront the utter negligence the T.U. movement in general, has shown towards the problems of the women workers.

It is necessary that the CITU Unions should give emphasis on taking up the problems of women workers and encourage woman to take responsibilities in leading bodies of the Unions. If this work is taken seriously by us, we will be able to attract large number of women workers under our banner.

THE 'WORKING CLASS' AND OTHER CITU JOURNALS

The CITU has been able to bring out its monthly journal since the Third Conference regularly, except one issue, which could not be brought out due to censor regulations. "The Working Class" faced several difficulties during emergency and had to fight in the court to establish its right to publish certain items in the journal. However, despite hurdles the CITU journal could regularly inform the unions about the stand of the CITU on various issues facing the workers and the trade union movement.

In early days of emergency the circulation of the journal went down by about 500 due to arrests of some agents and dislocation of work in certain areas. In the later part, however, the circulation picked up again.

The journal continued to be published from Calcutta even after the office was shifted to New Delhi due to some technical difficulties. It has been brought to Delhi from the April 1979 issue.

Though it is a constitutional requirement that every union must compulsorily pay subscription for the journal, many unions do not pay the subscription in time. Hence, their supply of copies have been stopped after the subscription period is over. Such unions pay their subscription for this period, later on, and the supply of copies is resumed only after that. This results in interrupted supply of the journal to such unions. There have been several cases of unions which have not paid

any affiliation fee and the Working Class subscription since the last conference, but have made these payments only on the eve of the Fourth Conference. This creates an anomaly of a Union making payment for the annual subscription subsequently but not getting the journals for the period. The only remedy lies in unions making prompt payment of annual subscription of the working class regularly.

It is also necessary to take steps to improve the standard of the journal so that it can serve the purpose in a better way. The most important aspect in this regard is that the State Committees do not properly prepare reviews of struggles and united movements organised in the States. It has, therefore, not been possible to adequately utilise the rich local experience gained during the struggles for the benefit of the entire T.U. movement under our banner. Sometimes, the individual unions send reports very late and they lose their news value.

The Editorial Board has not been functioning properly due to pre-occupations of some members. It is necessary to re-organise the Editorial Board so that it becomes a real functioning body and discharges its responsibilities effectively. A statement of the circulation of the journal and its audited account are given in the annexure.

The need for a Hindi journal of the organisation was strongly felt since long and unions and cadres were pressing the Centre all these days for the same. This was also expressed by several delegates during their speeches in the Third Conference. The Centre, however, could not take steps to bring out such a journal due to several difficulties. It was, however, possible to publish the monthly journal from January this year. It began with 3000 copies. But now the circulation has gone up to 4000. The journal created good enthusiasm among Hindi speaking regions and the circulation is likely to be stabilised at 5000.

The Editorial Board of the journal is the same as for English. It is necessary to reorganise this Board also so that it can effectively play the role of popularising the CITU in the Hindi speaking belt.

The West Bengal State Committee of CITU continued to publish its monthly journal 'Shramik Andolan' in Bengali and the circulation is about 3500. The Kerala State Committee also

has been bringing out CITU Sandesham in Malayalam (3000). The Andhra and Maharashtra State Committees had to discontinue publishing their journals 'Karmika Lokam (Telugu) and 'Warga Yudha' (Marathi). However, they have been able to revive the publication and their circulation is 3800 and 1000, respectively.

Some individual unions affiliated to CITU have been publishing printed bulletins for their members. The total number of such Bulletins will be less than 10.

The CITU journals by and large have played extremely useful role in educating its members. With increased circulation and improvement in their contents, it would be possible to further enhance their utility for the CITU workers.

CITU PUBLICATIONS

During the emergency the publication programme of the CITU was severely affected and we could bring out only one publication. However, the publication programme was speeded up after the withdrawal of emergency. The number of booklets published by the CITU after the Bombay Conference were as follows :

		<i>No. of Copies</i>
1. Concluding speech of Com. B.T. Ranadive in the Third Conference of the CITU.		2000
2. Present Economic Situation in India.	English	3000
	Bengali	2000
3. What the Railwaymen are Striving for.	English	1000
	Hindi	2000
	Bengali	3000
4. Opening speech of Com. B.T. Ranadive before the General Council Meeting of CITU. (Hindi edition brought out by Rajasthan State Committee).	English	1000
	Hindi	5000
5. Monopolies and the Law—Memorandum of the CITU submitted to the Expert Committee on Companies Act and the MRTP Act Constituted by Govt. of India.	English	1000

	<i>No. of Copies</i>
6. Wages and Incomes Policy—What it Means to Working Class by B.T. Ranadive.	English 2000
7. The Railway Budget—What it offers to the Working Class and the People (Speech of Com. Samar Mukherjee in Parliament).	English 2000 Hindi 3000 Bengali 4000
8. Real Face of Social Security in India—Paper Submitted by Shri Manmohan Singh, Adviser to the Ministry of Labour to the Seminar Convened by the ILO in New Delhi.	English 2000
9. Against Wage Freeze, for T.U. Rights in Public Sector—Decisions of the All India Convention of Unions in Public Sector Undertakings held in New Delhi on 15th May, 1978.	English 2000
10. Constitution of the CITU (Third Impression).	1000
11. Build up United Struggles for Socio-Economic Changes and Defence of Democracy (Speech of Com. B.T. Ranadive in the Working Committee Meeting, Kota, Rajasthan-6-8 June, 1978.	2000
12. New Industrial Relations Bill—An Anti-working Class Measure—B.T. Ranadive.	English 5000 Hindi 7000
13. STOP BHEL's Dangerous Truck with Siemens—by Com. P. Ramamurti.	English 10000

The CITU State Committees have also published some booklets in regional languages. Calcutta District Committee of CITU published a booklet "Thirty Years of Vietnam Trade Union" in 1976, a Bengali translation of which was brought out by the West Bengal State Committee. Com. B.T. Ranadive's booklet on Industrial Relations Bill was published in most of the Indian languages by respective State Committees.

Though we have been able to publish more booklets than any other Central Trade Unions in India, it is necessary to step up our publication programme so that our view points are brought before the workers. Special efforts should be made to

bring out publications in local languages so that they reach ordinary workers. There is growing desire among the workers to read our literature which should be fully utilised for propaganda purposes.

The representation work from the CITU Centre has increased considerably and CITU Centre had to intervene in several cases. Since the office has come to Delhi, several unions have been approaching CITU for pursuing their cases with the Government authorities and attending to these representations has become a matter of daily routine in the CITU Centre. The accumulated grievances of workers which have been pending for several years and not attended by the Govt. officials, despite several letters by the unions, are now being referred to the CITU for pursuing these cases with the appropriate authorities. Many unions not affiliated to the CITU are also approaching us to take up their cases with various Government Departments. The cases of victimisation during emergency have particularly been quite large in this respect. Since it has been possible for us to settle some of the grievances, it has also caused additional expectations and the number of complaints sent to the Central Office are continuing to mount every day. Due to inadequate machinery at the Centre to do full justice to all the complaints received from the unions, an attempt has been made to give as much attention as possible to this work.

During strike struggles, CITU Centre has been asked by several unions to take up the issues with the Government so that the demands of the workers are settled. CITU Centre is also being asked to send important leaders to address the rallies of strikers in order to maintain the morale of the workers. Whenever there was repression, efforts were made by the CITU Centre to send Members of Parliament or CITU leaders and raise voice of protest against the repressive measures.

Comrade P. Ramamurti has been taking several cases with the authorities. He took initiative on the question of take-over of Swadeshi Cotton Mill, Kanpur and moved the Government and thwarted the attempts of Karam Chand Thapar Group to take the Company into their fold. In a similar manner, he took up several other cases of closures and moved the authorities for take over of the closed units. Com. Samar Mukherjee also receives several letters from various trade unions and he has to give considerable time to take them with the appropriate

authorities. The work of representing Railwaymen's Grievances is being done from Calcutta office and the number of representations is also increasing gradually.

The CITU also took up the question of implementation of Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act and the Central Advisory Board has decided in Dec. 77 to prohibit employment of contract labour in loading and unloading of coal in locosheds including cinder picking. But no Notification to this effect has been issued so far. This is being pursued.

It is necessary to improve the work of pursuing the cases from the CITU Centre and organise its proper publicity to the work done by us on various issues.

FUNCTIONS OF THE CITU CENTRE

Comrades, the activities of the CITU Centre since the Bombay Conference have been expanding very fast, while more responsibilities are being undertaken by the Centre. With growing united movements at an all India level, the CITU Centre has to pay increasing attention to the work of co-ordination of these activities.

Though the Centre has started functioning from Delhi from 1st march, 1978, the sub office in Calcutta is still being maintained to discharge some of the responsibilities. Till the March 1979 "The working Class" monthly journal of the CITU was being published from Calcutta. The work of railway co-ordination is also being done from the Calcutta office.

Shifting of CITU Centre to Delhi has created some difficulties in functioning of the CITU Secretariat. Most of the office bearers are in Calcutta and holding the meetings of the Secretariat has become increasingly difficult. Some co-ordination has been done by keeping Secretariat members informed about the activities of the Centre. However, since both the President and the General Secretary are available in Delhi, co-ordination between them has been improved. It is yet necessary to evolve some method to ensure proper functioning of the Secretariat. Association of Secretariat members outside Delhi and Calcutta with the work of the Centre is also an important aspect of functioning. In this regard, we may have to consider the possibility of holding full Secretariat meeting to take appropriate decisions about CITU's activities from time to time.

For a considerable period of time the CITU Centre continued to be understaffed. Particularly the work regarding affiliation suffered from serious shortcomings. Since the work was done by a part-timer, there have been delays in issuing receipts and Affiliation fee to the State Committees; with the availability of a full-time comrade from the month of February, 1979, it has been possible to clear up all arrears of work and it will be possible for the Centre to attend to the work in time.

At present, 6 full-timers are working in the Central Office, while 4-5 part-timers are helping the Centre in discharging its responsibilities. Though the position regarding staff has improved to some extent, the Centre is still in need of some capable comrades to cope up with the increasing volume of work. The West Bengal State Committee of CITU has released Com S. S. Bose for work at the Centre. However, some more help is expected from the State Committees so that the Centre is helped by some more comrades who can undertake specialised responsibilities at the Centre.

Association of some more senior CITU leaders with the Centre is essential to carry out some of the jobs which go by default at present. Reluctance of some leading comrades to function from the Centre has also led to the weakening of the Centre. It is true that some office bearers have important responsibilities in the local and State level movement and they are not available for centralised work, yet some way has to be found out by which some senior comrades can spare some time for the work assigned to them by the Centre.

In the coming days the performance of the CITU as a whole will be greatly dependent on the way the CITU Centre functions. Hence, it is necessary to give due importance to the functioning of the CITU Centre.

STRENGTHEN CITU ORGANISATION AT ALL LEVELS

Comrades, the influence and prestige of the CITU among the mass of workers has increased considerably. However, the membership of the CITU has increased to about 15 lakh only, Compared to the workers, we bring into action or who support us, our membership is extremely small.

We have also not been able to effectively consolidate our position despite our participation in several united struggles and movements. Our influence has, therefore, become scattered and we are unable to use the growth in our activities for the purpose of strengthening our organisation.

The reported secret circular of the Home Ministry against our organisation, clearly indicates how the official machinery is scared at the advancement of our organisation. This, however, should not make us complacent about our strength. We have to make special efforts to achieve proper consolidation of our movement without which even further advancement will become a difficult task.

We should therefore make serious efforts to enrol more members in our unions and strengthen our work at the base level. Maintenance of proper accounts of union funds, holding of annual general meetings regularly, ensuring democratic functioning of unions, improving of the union office, are all matters which should be adequately looked into by our local leadership.

Some local unions do not keep regular contacts with the State Committees and the CITU Centre. This habit should be given up and regular contacts should be developed/established at various levels of the Organisation. This is necessary to implement CITU policies on all questions to the fullest extent. The State Committees and the Centre should also give more emphasis on having regular communications with the local unions.

During the struggles we have conducted, many young workers have come nearer to us. Many activists belonging to other organisations have joined our ranks. The task of educating them is indeed stupendous. Even our existing cadres require adequate training so that they no more become passive participants in the union activities. Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra and Kerala State Committees have taken some interest in holding T. U. Classes for cadres. However, this activity has to be increased manifold so that the cadres play more important role in the functioning of the Union. The CITU Centre has to take steps to prepare syllabus for education and train the teachers to conduct classes at lower level. The Central Board for workers Education and other official agencies are propagating various