

THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

87th Birth Anniversary of Com. BTR Celebrated

The 87th birth anniversary of Com. B. T. Ranadive was commemorated at a massive meeting that was held in Calcutta on November 19. The venue of the meeting was the vast Netaji Indoor Stadium which was packed to capacity. The meeting which was presided over by the State President of the CITU, Monoranjan Roy got off to an inspiring start with the Bharatiya Ganantya Sangh's 30-member choir rendering mass songs.

In his presidential address, Monoranjan Roy recalled how Com. BTR would regard the slogan of 'unity-struggle-unity' as the basic slogan of the trade union movement and would go on emphasising to the workers that political battles were as important as, if not more than, economic battles. BTR, said Roy, would stress on the importance of enhancing the political consciousness of the working class towards making them fully aware of the ultimate goal that had to be reached. BTR, added Roy, would alienate the significance of bringing in more women workers into the fold of the working class movement and of imparting political education amongst them.

All India President of the CITU, E. Balanandan noted that Com. BTR had always spoken about the urgency of the need to unite the working class in the ongoing struggles. It was this unity that got adequately reflected in the nationwide strike on November 29, where the estimated participation had exceeded 12 million. The assault being mounted against public sector undertakings (PSU's), said Balanandan, provided added incentive to the workers and employees of the PSUs to come boldly forward to support the working class action against the Centre. It was the relentless activities of the public sector—that had contributed immensely—and meaningfully to the growth of the nation's self-reliant industrial base.

Balanandan also drew the attention of assemblage cutting down on subsidies to agriculture by the Centre that would lead to avoidable cuts in production, making more imports imperative to the satisfaction of the international financial institutions and foreign monopoly capital. The TUs must unflinchingly resist this fresh onslaught on the working class. The movement that got off to a spirited start on the November 29, declared Balanandan amidst cheerings, is but a beginning of the struggle that would follow.

General Secretary of the All India CITU, M. K. Pandhe declared that although Com. BTR was no longer there, his teachings, perceptive in progressive content, lived on in the hearts and minds of the working class. A prodigious writer, Com. BTR's essays and articles would tell vividly about the need to be aware of the two kinds of TU movement—the one revolutionary, and the other purely opportunistic. BTR, said Pandhe, would keep emphasising that since social changes were being envisaged, the TU movement should be both militant and revolutionary in character. And the TU movement must come out with the correct stand on issues of importance, national or international. Pandhe recalled how BTR had regretted that the TUs could not take a specific stand either during the emergency of 1975-76 or on the occasion of the Bangladesh war.

One of the originators and founders of the revolutionary TU movement, BTR, noted Pandhe, had also cautioned against repeating the kind of mistakes that some opportunistic TUs had committed in the past. BTR emphasised the need to bring in unorganised workers in the fold of the organised TU movement and had said, again and again, that the organised TUs have to carry out his important and emergent task, as a significant step towards uniting the whole TU movement itself. BTR also stressed the need to impress upon the working class the nature of the revolutionary tasks ahead while carrying forward the struggle for winning of the innate and inalienable rights of the working people of all section. In his very last piece of writing, BTR, recalled Pandhe, had stated in clear, unambiguous term, that only the full dismantling of the capitalist structure could ensure the workers the winning of their rights. Let this, concluded Pandhe, be our pledge for the tasks ahead.

Samar Mukherjee, Vice President of the CITU, in his brief address dwelt on the importance of the restructuring of economism while advancing the working class struggle. Quoting BTR, Samar Mukherjee stated that political battles were to be waged to bring about fundamental changes in the long run. For the short term perspective, said Mukherjee, one should pressurise the ruling classes into changing their policies. Mukherjee also spoke about the importance Com. BTR had attached to the question of

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Narsimham Committee's Recommendations on Banks & Financial System—An appraisal

Ashis Sen, M. P.

(General Secretary, Bank Employees Federation of India)

As apprehended, right from its appointment, the Narasimham Committee's report and recommendations have straight away struck at the roots of the objects for which banking system of our country was nationalised. Bank Employees Federation of India along with other organisations in banking industry did not implement its strike call for September 6, 1991 on the specific declaration in the Parliament that the Government have no move to privatise the nationalised banks. By recommending that in order to expand their capital base these banks can issue additional shares in the market is a clear directive to make inroads for private capital into the banking system. This is a plain and simple process of privatisation through back door in instalments without recourse to open de-nationalisation. When the public demand is for takeover of remaining banks in private sector including foreign ones, the committee has advised not only no more nationalisation but entry of more and more foreign banks to exploit our economy.

On the plea of eroded profitability the committee has asked for free market operations to play thereby doing away with the needs for planned banking so much imperative for a developing economy like ours where institutional credit at subsidised interest rates for the vast rural areas is essential for creation of social assets to improve the economic conditions than making profits alone. To recommend commercial interest rates for loans and advances to weaker sections of the rural masses is nothing short of accentuation of pauperisation and throwing them to the hands of sowkars, the rural money-lending sharks, at exorbitant rates.

To reduce expansion of rural branches is the proposed step in that direction. Priority sector advances are to be drastically cut from present 40% of the total to 10% with liberty to foreign banks not to respond. This means development programmes are to be pushed to the background. At the same time the Mutual Funds which are risky and fraught with dangers to the unwary common investors are to be allowed wider growth.

The Committee has attacked the bank employees by saying that urban offices are over-staffed, massive computerisation is a must, thus proposing a declaration of surplus and their eventual reduction and retrenchment. It wants free hand to the management in the matter of recruitment of officer employees thereby returning to the era of hire and fire on alibi of efficiency. This may be another mechanism by which agents of new economic policy sponsored by World Bank-IMF combine can be planted to

oversee operations on their behalf. The internal administration like creation/abolition of posts, promotions, etc has been sought to be left at the entire discretion of individual banks management thereby throwing to the winds, of the prevailing industrywise settlements by collective wisdom of the trade unions.

The BEFI demanded that instead of so many all-India banks, they should be re-organised with regional thrust with responsibility to look after overall economic growth of specific geographical areas in order to ensure balanced development of all regions removing present imbalances. The Committee has instead suggested formation of 10 or 12 giant banks by merger of existing nationalised ones. This will lead to more concentration of resources to subvert the monopolists and big business in a larger way. According to the Committee's dispensation, the Government and the Reserve Bank should not have much say in business operations of banks except some broad guidelines. Reserve Bank's detailed inspection of all aspects of individual banks' operations by which irregularities, misuse of funds, questionable loans, etc at Head Offices and branches are unearthed is recommended to be whittled down by restricting such investigations to mere scrutiny of the internal auditors' reports. All these are in the name of autonomy in functioning. Free scope will be open to big defaulters, fraudulent operators, etc to run away with depositors money with little exposure.

Out of the total bank advances of about Rs. 130,000 crores or so, a huge amount is understood to be bad or doubtful of recovery. It is anybody's guess whether the volume is Rs 20 or 25 thousand crores. The trade unions in banking industry, BEFI in particular, have raised the demand that drastic measures should be taken to recover these loans by appropriate legislation and amendment of existing laws. The Committee, however, has suggested creation of an Assets Reconstruction Fund to rescue the banks from the load of bad and doubtful loans and advances by taking them over at a heavy discount (say, Commission) ostensibly for recovery which is doubtful itself. And, the Fund will be contributed by the self-same banks and other financial institutions. Thus the banks will be cut by two parallel streams—the discount and the contribution—causing still more losses, with the ultimate result they will be groomed for further sickness face to face with competition from foreign banks, the entry of more of which is the recommendation.

The Narsimham Committee has by all its sugges-
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Fall out of New Economic Policy

Cut in Subsidy Hits Medium and Small Fertilizer Units

P K Ganguly

The fall out of the new economic policy of the Narasimha Rao Government tuned with the demands of the IMF has started coming to the surface. The cut in subsidy on fertilizer products has hit the small and medium units in the industry. In the budget, the Finance Minister had announced a ceiling on subsidy for Single Super Phosphate (SSP) with a view to ultimately de-controlling this product.

It is to be noted that various fertilizer products like SSP Urea, Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and other phosphatic complex fertilizers are under statutory price control. The Government of India fixes consumer price for such products, which is between the reasonable cost of production and distribution. To maintain the growth of the industry the Government pays subsidy to the industry equal to the difference between the reasonable cost of production and distribution on one hand, and the consumer price on the other hand.

SSP is a poor farmer's fertilizer and is being manufactured by mostly the medium and small scale sector in the industry, including several public sector undertakings. A bag of SSP costs about Rs. 66/- whereas a bag of DAP costs about Rs 260/- and the product is manufactured mostly by some monopolists like Birla and Chidambaram groups. SSP besides, is particularly useful for oil seeds, pulses and other cereal crops, as it contains sulphur, which is not the case with DAP.

The Government has announced a ceiling of Rs 790 on subsidy paid per tonne of SSP from 25th July to 13th August and then of Rs. 890/- per tonne from 14th August, 1991 onwards for all units whose retention price exceeds Rs 2130/- per tonne. The ceiling on subsidy for SSP as announced by the Government has been on the plea that it gives one percent lower return as compared to other products. But this discrimination has been done with the ulterior motive to boost the monopoly sections of the industry to allow their entry into the area of the medium and small units. Further, it will lead to further drainage of foreign exchange. The raw materials of SSP, i.e. Rock Phosphate and Sulphur, both are imported. The short fall in SSP will have to be made up by increased import of DAP, which would result in an additional foreign exchange outgo to the tune of about Rs 108 crores as compared to about Rs. 12.5 crores foreign exchange, which is proposed to be saved by the measure.

The problem has been further accentuated due to steep hike in the costs of the two main raw materials (Rock Phosphate and Sulphur). During the last one year, the cumulative increase in the costs has been about Rs 675/- per tonne. This is besides the

increase in railway freights from October 1, 1990 and August 1, 1991 and also rise in the cost of bags. Added to this is the higher cost of transportation of the raw materials.

It is to be noted that most of the SSP manufacturing units in the small and medium sector of the industry commissioned in recent years were located in the backward no-industry and consumption areas, particularly in the northern states as per the policy of the Government itself. As already stated, both the raw materials are imported from abroad. As most of the units are far from the ports, transportation cost becomes very heavy for movement of the raw-materials from the ports to the factory gates. Over and above this, as there is no railway facilities in many places, extra transportation cost has to be borne by the units for movement of the raw materials by road transport. While imposing the ceiling on subsidy under IMF directions, the government did not take into cognizance the increasing cost of the raw materials and transportation charges.

The matter is further compounded due to suspension of the payment of subsidy, withholding of payment every year and then and inadequate budget provision. The last subsidy was announced for the quarter ending on 30th September, 1990, which was paid on 26th June, 1991. After that the IMF stepped in to impose the ceiling on subsidy. Besides payment of several earlier subsidies amounting to about Rs. 3 crores have been withheld due to some reasons or other.

It is further to be noted that the Government has constituted a Parliamentary Committee to look into the present Retention Price Scheme. But due to IMF pressure and commitments made to it, the Government did not wait for the Committee's recommendations before imposing the ceiling on the subsidy.

As a result of this IMF dictated cut in subsidy, a large number of SSP units have become unviable. There are about 85 units producing SSP in small and medium sector. Each unit employes about 500 to 1000 workers directly or indirectly. In total, about 50,000 workers are employed in these units. About 65 units have become unviable due to the policy. Nine units in UP, Bihar, Orissa and Tamilnadu have already closed their shutters from December 1, 1991. Six more units have closed down from December 16. Several thousands of workers have already become jobless. The Damocle's Sword is hanging on the others.

The fertilizer industry has already been taken out from the definition of core sector. The private monopolists, both Indian and foreign will now be allowed

to ravage the industry in their quest for profits. 98 PSUs are already in the hit list with 50 units immediately to go on liquidation. The IMF steam roller has started moving. While the shortage of Single Super Phosphate will create serious repercussion in the agro-economic field, the growing closures, ruination of the small and medium sectors in the core industries and galloping unemployment as the natural eventuality of the IMF prescriptions will smash the national economy. Only a few monopolists and the multi-nationals will reap the harvest.

Saifuddin Chowdhury, Hannan Mollah and Basudev Acharya, MPs raised the issue in the Parliament. Samar Mukherjee, MP and Vice President of CITU took a delegation of Sarada Fertilizers Ltd. a small scale unit of W. Bengal to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister assured to "look into the matters".

But the workers in the industry in particular and the trade unions in general have to take up the cudgel. Having launched the glorious strike of 29th November, all trade unions must intensify the united struggle further.

List of Unviable Units

Adarsh Chems. & Fert., Udhna (Gujarat)
 Agro Chem. Punjab, Singhpura, Dera Bassi
 Andhra Fertilisers, Tadepalle (A.P.)
 Andhra Sugars. Tanuku (A.P.)
 Anil Starch Products, Bhavnagar (Gujarat)
 Assam State Fert. & Chemicals, Chandrapur
 BEC Fertilizers, Sirgitti, Bilaspur (MP)
 Bharat Chemicals & Fertilisers, Alwar (Raj.)
 Bharat Fert. Ind., Kharivali, Unit II (Mah.)
 Bharat Fert. Ind. Kharivali, Unit III (Mah.)
 Bihar State Sup. Ind., Sindri Inst. (Bihar)
 Coimbatore Pioneer Fert., Coimbatore (T.N.)
 Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Co., Ambernath (Mah.)
 Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Co., Amreli (Guj.)
 Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Co., Kumhari (M.P.)
 East Coast Fert. & Chem., Kalma (Orissa)
 EID Parry (India) Ranipet (T.N.)
 FACT, Alwaye, Kerala
 Ganges Fert. & Chem., Farrukhabad (U.P.)
 Hindusthan Copper, Khetri (Rajasthan)
 Hindusthan Zinc, Debari (Rajasthan)
 Indag Products, Cuddalore (TN)
 India Cercoils, Dharuhera (Har.)
 Jayshree Chemicals & Fert., Pataudi (Har.)
 Jayshree Chem. & Fert., Khardah (WB) Unit I
 Jayshree Chem. & Fert., Khardah (WB) Unit II
 Jaysbree Magarwara Fert. & Chem. (UP)
 Khaitan Chemicals & Fert., Nimrani (MP)
 Kothari Industrial Corporation, Ennore (TN)
 Krishna Industrial Corporation, Nidadavole
 Mahadeo Fertilisers, Fatehpur (UP)

Maharashtra Agro Ind. Dev. Corp. Panvel (Mah)
 Mittal Fertilisers, Rae Bareli (UP)
 Munak Chemicals, Bhatinda (Punjab)
 Oriental Carbon & Chemicals, Dharuhera (Har.)
 Phosphate Co. Rishra (W.B)
 Pragati Fertilisers Vizag (AP)
 Pyrites, Phosphates & Chem. Amjhore (Bihar)
 Rama Fertilisers, Junagarh (Gujarat)
 Rama Krishi Rasayan, Loni Kalbhor (Mah.)
 Rama Phosphates, Indore (MP)
 Ramganga Fertilisers, Gajraula (UP)
 Rampur Distillery & Chemicals, Rampur (UP)
 Sarda Fert., Bankura (West Bengal)
 Shaw Wallace & Co., Avadi (TN)
 Shivalik Fertilisers, Rail Majra (Punjab)
 Shree Acids & Chemicals, Gajraula (UP)
 Shrinivas Fertilisers, Jhansi (UP)
 Sri Durga Bansal, Faizabad (UP)
 Trimurtee Fertilisers Kanpur Dehat (UP)
 Udaipur Phosphates & Fert. Khemli (Raj.)
 Unialkem Fert. Raisen (MP)
 Varinder Agro Chemicals, Sanghera (Pb.)
 Vidarbha Phosphates, Pulgaon (Mah.)
 Awadh Fertilisers, Bahraich (UP)
 Brij Fertilisers, Shikohabad (UP)
 Charotar Agro Chem. & Fert., Kanjari (Guj.)
 Dee Bee Agro Products, Nagpur (Maha.)
 Girraj Fertilisers & Chem., Shikohabad (UP)
 Growmore Fertilisers, Nandesari (Gujarat)
 Gujarat Superphos. Ind., Ahmedabad (Guj.)
 Harshavardhan Chems, & Min., Antervella (MP)
 Hindusthan Farms & Fert., Raigad (Mah.)
 H.S.B. Fertilisers, Hoshiarpur (Pb)
 Kaashi Urvarak, Lucknow (UP)
 Liberty Pesticides & Fert., Udaipur (Raj.)
 Madan Madhav Fert. & Chem., Fatehgarh (UP)
 Madhuvan Chemicals & Fert., Dabok (Raj.)
 Modern Agro Chems., Alwalpur (Punjab)
 Narmada Agro Chemicals, Manjrole (Guj.)
 Natraj Organics, Muzaffarnagar (UP)
 Neera Chem. & Fert., Ghaziabad (U.P.)
 Nitin Chem. & Fert., Rukadi (Har.)
 Noble Fertilisers, Taloja (Maharashtra)
 Phosphate India, Bichhadi, Udaipur (Raj.)
 Raashi Fertilisers, Lakhmpur (Maha.)
 Shree Beharji Fert., Kanpur Dehat (UP)
 Shri Krishna Fert., Muzaffarpur (Bihar)
 Shurvi Colour Chemicals, Udaipur (Raj.)
 Suraj Garh Chem. & Fert. (P) Ltd.
 Surya Phosphates, Kodarma (Bihar)
 Swastik Fert., Indore
 S.D. Fertilisers, Kanpur Dehat (UP)
 Tulsi Fertilisers, Patna (Bihar)
 Vijay Fertilisers, Ghaziabad (UP)

CITU Condemns Government's Memorandum on Economic Policies to IMF

The Secretariat of the CITU has issued the following statement :

The Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions expresses serious concern over the Letter of Intent written by the Finance Minister to the Managing Director of IMF on August 27, 1991. In this Memorandum on Economic Policies for 1991-92 and 1992-93, the Narasimha Rao Government has practically accepted the full prescriptions of the IMF as conditionalities under the Extended Fund Facilities for structural adjustment programme. The fundamental changes in the economic policies which the Government undertook from July, are being implemented with greater speed now under the direct supervision and dictates of the IMF.

The Status Paper of the Sick PSUs placed in the Parliament and given to the Trade Unions, the introduction of the Sick Industries (Special Provisions) Act, tabling the Narasimham Committee's report on Financial System, etc constitute the practical steps being taken by the Government one after another to get the consensus of the Parliament, also under the dictates of the IMF.

Thus as asked by the IMF, the Government is in a frantic bid to get the Consensus for ultimate liquidation of the Public Sector and a self-reliant economy; for complete dominance of the Indian and foreign, monopolists over the national economy and for no further nationalisation policy, for liquidation of the sick PSUs; for the Exit Policy leading to closures and mass joblessness; for further delicensing decontrol and import liberalisation; for further increasing the indirect taxation and fleecing the people in the name of modernising the entire system of taxation; for further deduction in subsidies in the name of reducing the fiscal deficits; and the last but not the least, open the nationalised banks to compete with the foreign multinational banks and thus paving the path for their getting sick and liquidated. This way privatisation of the banking system is nothing but putting the final nail in the coffin of a self-reliant national economy by handing over the financial system of the country to the multinationals. The entire gamut of steps being taken by the Government augers danger not only to the economic sovereignty, but to the independence and freedom of the country. It is preposterous on the part of the Government that it sent high officials to Washington to discuss with the IMF & World Bank the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee's report before taking the Parliament and the Trade Unions in confidence.

Under such circumstances, the 'assurances' being

made by the Government to the Trade Unions tantamount to playing fraud with them and the workers and the people. The Tripartite meeting called by the Government at Bombay on December 21 becomes meaningless in this background.

It is not merely a question of impact of this policy on the workers, but as the 29th November strike has shown, the trade unions cannot be committed to such anti-people and anti-national policies. The demand is for total withdrawal of the entire gamut of the IMF-dictated economic and industrial policies. The CITU calls upon working class and appeals to all trade unions irrespective of affiliations to further consolidate the unity achieved through the 29th November strike and start preparations for the next phase of movement to compel the Government to withdraw the policies and free itself from the dictates of the IMF.

List of Units Closed

1. M/s Indag Fertilisers	Madras
2. M/s Ramganga Fertilisers	U.P.
3. M/s East Coast Fertilisers	Orissa
4. M/s Shri Durga Bansal Fertilisers	U.P.
5. M/s Ganges Fertilisers	U.P.
6. M/s Shri Krishna Fertilisers	Bihar
7. M/s Shri Mahadeo Fertilisers	U.P.
8. M/s Trimurtee Fertilisers	U.P.
9. M/s Tulsi Fertilisers	Bihar

(From Page 2)

tions recommended gradual scrapping of the perspectives of bank nationalisation, rejection of mass banking concept and practice and return to full laissez-faire in a period of 3 to 5 years. And, exactly this is in full conformity with what the World Bank-IMF advised in their confidential document—"India: Financial Sector Report". The Committee has just presented the same in its own verbiage. This is evident from the hurry with which the whole exercise has been done. Is the expectation of a few billion dollar loan from the international agencies is of no relevance?

BEFI and other trade unions in banking industry will not take these recommendations lying down. We have fought for nationalisation, we have worked for mass banking for country's economic growth, we have strongly opposed monopolisation of bank resources by big business, we have struggled for job security of employees. We shall strive hard against what is dished out by the Narsimham Committee.

CITU Denounces Government for Voting in Favour of UN Resolution in Support of Zionism

The Secretariat of the CITU has issued the following statement :

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions denounces the Narasimha Rao Government for voting in favour of the UN Resolution rescinding its earlier resolution of 1975 equating Israeli Zionism with racism.

It is the world experience that Zionism is an extreme right reactionary movement based on racism and expansionism. It has served the cause of imperialism with its fascist overtures. The grafting of Israel on the Palestinian land and then grabbing the Arab territories with US support are the burning examples of its objectives.

In this factual background the United Nations had adopted the resolution equating Zionism with Racism. But now the UN has itself been grabbed by the US imperialists, who are going ahead with their objective of world domination and ruthless exploitation of the third world with India as the particular target.

It is a matter of serious concern that the minority Cong. (I) Government of Narasimha Rao has completely surrendered all its anti-imperialist and non-aligned foreign policies before the US pressure and recognised their objective for creating a new imperialist world order and a unipolar world.

The CITU had given the warning when the Chandra Shekhar Government serving as a puppet of Congress(I) had gone against Iraq, and allowed the US war planes the refuelling facilities at the Indian air ports. Now the Narasimha Rao Government has not only surrendered the economic sovereignty of the country, but has also surrendered the long standing anti-imperialist tradition of the country, born out of its anti-imperialist freedom struggle. The statement of the Government that voting in favour of the Resolution does not mean dilution of India's support to the Palestinian cause, is nothing but a fraud. While by surrendering the economic sovereignty of the country to the IMF, it has identified itself as the betrayer of the people's faith, by voting in favour of the resolution, it has betrayed the entire third world countries, the national liberation movements and the anti-imperialist forces, and put the freedom and independence of the country at stake.

The CITU calls upon the trade union movement and the patriotic sections of the people to intervene in the foreign policy stand of the Government as it has intervened into its economic policies and raise their voice of protest against the Government's stand.

MPs Demand Lifting of Sanctions Against Cuba

Following is the Text of the Telex sent by 73 MPs, to the U. N. General Assembly regarding Lifting of Sanctions Against Cuba

It is heartening to note that a welcome move to consider a resolution urging lifting of the ruthless and inhuman economic blockade by the USA of the state of Cuba is being taken up by the United Nations Assembly. We feel that looking to the crippling effects on the brave people of Cuba and also the flagrant violation of human rights practiced against the people by continuing such imposition of blockade, all the member countries would in one voice condemn the same and urge USA to stop stifling the spirit of Cuba, in order to preserve human rights and dignity of free human spirit.

Sd/-

Sd/-

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Ram Naresh Yadav | 36. Purnachandra Malik |
| 2. B. A. Bagodkar | 37. Satyagopal Misra |
| 3. Bhubanes Chaturvedi | 38. Hannan Mollah |
| 4. Choudhary Ram Sevak | 39. Subrata Mukherjee |
| 5. P. M. Sayed | 40. Ajoy Mukhopadaya |
| 6. Veena Vasma | 41. Rupchand Murmu |
| 7. Chimambhai Mehta | 42. Rupchand Pal |
| 8. Kamala Sinha | 43. Sivaji Patnaik |
| 9. K. G. Maheswarappa | 44. Radhikaranjan Pramanik |
| 10. Anandi Charan Das | 45. Ramana Rai |
| 11. Syed Shahabuddin | 46. Premchand Ram |
| 12. Venkataraman | 47. Sudhir Ray |
| 13. Dr. Vijaya Mohan Reddy | 48. B. N. Reddy |
| 14. S. Ramachandran Pillai | 49. Haradhan Roy |
| 15. Sukomal Sen | 50. Tarit Topder |
| 16. M. A. Baby | 51. Zainal Abedin |
| 17. Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh | 52. Mohd. Amin |
| 18. Acharia Basudeb | 53. E. Balanandan |
| 19. Anjalose T. J. | 54. Sunil Basu Ray |
| 20. Asim Bala | 55. Dipen Ghosh |
| 21. Uddhab Burman | 56. Ram Narayan Goswami |
| 22. Anil Basu | 57. Narayan Kar |
| 23. Malini Bhattacharya | 58. Sarala Maheshwari |
| 24. Susanta Chakraborty | 59. Samar Mukherjee |
| 25. Nirmal Chatterjee | 60. Nallasivam |
| 26. Somanath Chatterjee | 61. R. K. Poddar |
| 27. Saifuddin Chaudhury | 62. R. B. Rai |
| 28. Jitendranath Das | 63. Hanumantha Rao |
| 29. Amal Datta | 64. Ashis Sen |
| 30. Ramachandra Dome | 65. Tridib Choudhury |
| 31. Ramachandra Ghangare | 66. Souren Bhattacharya |
| 32. Sudhir Giri | 67. Nani Bhattacharya |
| 33. Susheela Gopalan | 68. Pius Turkey |
| 34. Syed Masudal Hossain | 69. Palas Barman |
| 35. Sukhendu Khan | 70. Sanat Mandal |
| | 71. Chitta Basu |
| | 72. Amar Roy Pradhan |
| | 73. Debabrata Biswas |

Hit List of the Public Sector Units

(Although the Government had earlier announced that there are 98 sick public sector units, out of which 50 are chronically sick, yet in the Status Paper submitted to the Central Trade Unions for discussion in the Tripartite meeting to be held at Bombay on 21st December and also submitted to the MPs, there are 58 units termed as chronically sick, instead of 50. The number of workers to be affected in the 58 units would be 4,07,781, while the total number of workers to be affected in all the 98 units would be 7,90,460, who are directly employed in these units. The Government does not have any estimate of the number of workers who are indirectly employed in the ancillary industries dependent on these units. We are publishing hereunder the list of these units.—Ed)

List of Loss Making PSUs

1. Cochin Shipyard Ltd
2. Delhi Transport Corpn.
3. Food Corpn. of India
4. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd
5. Indian Airlines
6. Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd
7. Mazagon Dock Ltd
8. National Film Dev. Corpn. Ltd
9. North Eastern Regional Agri. Mrtg. Corpn. Ltd
10. Northern Coal Fields Ltd
11. South Eastern Coal Fields Ltd
12. Visvesvarayya Iron & Steel Co. Ltd
13. Western Coalfields Ltd
14. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd
15. Vayudoot
16. Air India Charters Ltd
17. Artificial Limbs Mfg Corpn. of India
18. Central Inland Water Transport Corpn. Ltd
19. National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd
20. National Seeds Corpn Ltd
21. Rehabilitation Industries Corpn Ltd
22. Assam Ashok Hotel Ltd
23. Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd
24. Bengal Immunity Ltd
25. Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd
26. Bharat Leather Corpn Ltd
27. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd
28. Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd
29. Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd
30. Bharat Refractories Ltd
31. Biecco Lawries Ltd
32. Birds, Jute & Exports Ltd
33. Brathwaite & Company Ltd
34. British India Corporation Ltd
35. Brushware Ltd
36. Burn Standard Company Ltd
37. Cawnpore Textiles Ltd
38. Cement Corpn of India Ltd
39. Central Electronics Ltd
40. Cycle Corporation of India Ltd
41. Electronics Trade & Technology Dv. Corporation Ltd
42. Elgin Mills Company Ltd
43. Engineering Projects (India) Ltd
44. Fertilizer Dorpn of India Ltd
45. Heavy Engineering Corpn Ltd
46. Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn Ltd
47. Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd
48. Hindustan Insecticides Ltd
49. Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd
50. Hindustan Prefab Ltd
51. Hindustan Salts Ltd
52. Hindustan Steel Works Constn. Ltd
53. Hooghly Dock and Port Engineering Ltd
54. Hooghly Printing Company Ltd
55. Hotel Corpn of India Ltd
56. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd
57. Indian Road Constn. Corpn. Ltd
58. Intelligent Communication Systems India Ltd
59. Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corpn Ltd.
60. Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd
61. Mahashtra Electros melt Ltd
62. Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd
63. Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn Ltd
64. Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd
65. Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd
66. National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd
67. National Bldg. Construction Corpn. Ltd
68. National Instruments Ltd
69. National Projects Const. Corpn. Ltd
70. Nepa Ltd.

71. North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Dev. Corpn. Ltd
 72. NTC (A. Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala & Mahe) Ltd.
 73. NTC (Delhi, Punjab, & Rajasthan) Ltd
 74. NTC (Gujarat) Ltd
 75. NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd
 76. NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd
 77. NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd
 78. NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd
 79. NTC (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar & Orissa) Ltd
 80. Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd
 81. Paradeep Phosphates Ltd
 82. Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corpn Ltd
 83. Projects & Development India Ltd
 84. Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd
 85. Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corpn Ltd
 86. Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd
 87. Scooter India Ltd
 88. Scooters India (Intrnl.) GMBH W. Germany
 89. Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceuticals Ltd
 90. Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd
 91. Spices Trading Corporation Ltd.
 92. Tannery & Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd
 93. Triveni Structural Ltd
 94. Tyre Corporation of India Ltd
 95. UP Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Company Ltd
 96. Utkal Ashok Hotel Corpn Ltd
 97. Vignyan Industries Ltd
 98. Weighbird (India) Ltd
- List of Chronically Sick PSUs**
1. Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd
 2. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd
 3. Fertilizer Corpn of India Ltd
 4. Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn Ltd
 5. Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd
 6. Bengal Immunity Ltd
 7. Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd
 8. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd
 9. Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd
 10. Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd
 11. Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceuticals Ltd
 12. Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd
 13. Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd
 14. Braithwaite & Co. Ltd
 15. Burn Standard Company Ltd
 16. Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn Ltd
 17. Triveni Structurals Ltd
 18. Weighbird (India) Ltd
 19. Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd
 20. Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd
 21. Biecco Lawrie Ltd
 22. National Instruments Ltd
 23. Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd
 24. Vignyan Industries Ltd
 25. Cochin Shipyard Ltd
 26. Cycle Corporation of India Ltd
 27. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd
 28. Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd
 29. National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd
 30. Scooters India Ltd
 31. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd
 32. Birds Jute & Exports Ltd
 33. Hooghly Printing Company Ltd
 34. Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd
 35. Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd
 36. National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd
 37. Rehabilitation Industries Corpn Ltd
 38. Tannery & Footwear Corpn of India Ltd
 39. Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.
 40. British India Corporation Ltd
 41. Cawnpore Textiles Ltd
 42. Elgin Mills Company Ltd
 43. NTC (A. Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala & Mahe) Ltd
 44. NTC (Delhi, Punjab & Rajasthan) Ltd
 45. NTC (Gujarat) Ltd
 46. NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd
 47. NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd
 48. NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd
 49. NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd
 50. NTC (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar & Orissa) Ltd
 51. North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Dev. Corpn. Ltd
 52. Delhi Transport Corpn.
 53. Vayudoot
 54. Hindustan Steel Works Costn. Ltd
 55. Indian Road Constn. Corpn. Ltd
 56. Engineering Projects (India) Ltd
 57. Projects & Development India Ltd
 58. Artificial Limbs Mfg. Corpn. of India

Railwaymen's Struggle

Railwaymen Advancing with the Main Stream of the Working Class Movement

Though the decisions for joining by the railwaymen in the industrial token strike on 29th November 1991 against the draconian economic and industrial policies of the present central government could not be taken due to lack of materialisation of united movement, at least by the like minded trade unions in the railways who have taken stand on opposition to these policies and committed to fully build up the struggle against such policies, there were great numbers of absenteeism in the workshop, divisional and zonal offices and open line etc. *There was a total strike in Chittaranjan Locomotive works.* There was an over all mental preparation and agitational mood of the workers and employees irrespective of their affiliations against these policies, when the workers were explained about the serious bearing of these policies over the railways also. There would have been total participation, if the united movement could have been materialised. The A'l India Railway Employees Confederation in its continuous and sustained efforts of building up united movement and participation in this struggle appealed to the other organisations and given clarion call to Railwaymen to prepare seriously for joining in this strike, through issuing of huge posters, leaflets, holding of group meetings, gate meetings, mass rally and street corner meetings throughout the country. Some zonal and other level units of the AIRF affiliated unions also took resolutions requesting their main organisation to take decision for participating in the industrial strike which ultimately could not get materialised.

The zonal railway units of AIREC ultimately took and implemented solidarity programmes by wearing black badges, holding procession, demonstrations, mass meetings and adopted resolutions against such policies and sent them to the government. This time there was no attempt at all on the part of the employees to enter and remain in the working place in the night in advance. In the face of picketing there was no attempt of force entry also. The AIREC has taken unique task to continue education and mobilisation of the Railwaymen for participating in the bigger struggle against these policies in future.

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works

There was a total strike on 29.11.91 against anti-people economic and industrial policies of the present Central Government.

Irrespective of affiliations the workers and employees of CLW including its offices at Calcutta and

Howrah totally stopped function. In Calcutta officers were also not present in the office.

To organise the strike and for educating the railwaymen in Chittaranjan Locomotive works there was series of programmes organised by the CLW labour union alongwith other unions (except AIRF, NFIR and BRMS) and for this trade union conventions, gate meetings, mass rally, squatting, processions were held. Thus the workers and employees could be convinced to participate in the strike. This time the workers and employees showed their higher consciousness for participating in the strike.

Railway attempt to sell out 'Yatri Niwas' at Howrah Eastern Railway to the Private Concern

Continuous demonstration and dharnas are being held against the conspiracy of selling out the Yatri Niwas in Eastern Railway under the leadership of ERMU branch of Howrah. The services of hundreds of catering and other employees will be bleak, if this sell out of Yatri Niwas to the private concern is materialised. So determined struggles be launched to defeat this nefarious game of the Railway administration.

AIRF Convention & Demonstration

The 64th annual convention of AIRF was held at Delhi during 26th to 28th November 1991 preceded by a massive rally at Boat Club on 26th November 1991. A memorandum was submitted to the Speaker, Lok Sabha in a delegation. About 15 thousand railwaymen participated in the rally. The rally was addressed by many MPs and trade union leaders. Besides, M.K. Pandhe, General Secretary CITU also addressed the rally.

The convention was attended by thousands of delegates. In the discussion and deliberation the report of the general secretary, the delegates enriched the report with various proposals and suggestions. A number of delegates raised voice of criticism for organisation's failure to prepare and give call for participation in the industrial strike on 29th November 1991 against anti-people and anti-working class economic and industrial policies of the central government when the organisation was committed to fight against such policies.

In the main resolution, on the 18-points charter of demands, and against policies of the Central Government including economic, industrial privatisation policies etc, it gave a clarion call to the rail-

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Joint Statement by INTUC and CITU against Government's Move on PSUs

(We are publishing hereunder the joint statement issued by M. K. Pandhe, Manoranjan Roy (CITU), and Subrato Mukherjee (INTUC) in a press conference held at Calcutta on December 5.—Ed)

The spectacular response by the working class of India of all affiliations to the nationwide strike call on 29th November 1991 against the economic policies of the Government of India has focussed the attention of the entire country to the resentment prevalent among the workers belonging to all Central T U organisations.

The Government of India should see the strong feelings of the workers and take suitable steps to change the policy in consultation with Central T U organisations.

The Minister of State for Industries Shri Thungan has made an announcement in Parliament recently that 50 public sector undertakings would be referred to BIFR and a Bill has already been hurriedly introduced in Parliament to enable the Government to take such an action. About half of the public sector units are from West Bengal and this action of the Government would result in serious unemployment situation in the state.

When the Government has already taken decision to appoint Tripartite Committee to deal with the question of sickness in industries including public sector undertakings it would be totally wrong to refer the public sector units to BIFR before their revival is considered by the Tripartite Committee.

The trade union movement has already told the Government of India that they would give full cooperation in reviving the sick public sector undertakings if workers co-operation is taken in right earnest and workers representatives are involved in decision making process. We believe that all the 50 units can be revived if the trade unions are taken into confidence by the Government of India.

Reference of these units to BIFR will only mean paving of the way of their privatisation or closing them down. We must note that these units did not receive necessary assistance for modernisation, replacement of obsolete machinery or for diversification of products. It was the bureaucratic handling of these units which were made sick by the private sector that they became more sick after their take over. If the Government of India adopts a suitable policy, proper steps can be taken to revitalise these units in cooperation with the workers. The trade union movement has already made it clear that it would take a positive approach in improving the performance of these undertakings.

The measures towards privatisation of public sector units is also causing concern to the working class and the trade unions. Nearly 1 lakh crore of rupees have been invested in 244 undertakings employing 22 lakh workers. One fifth of the employment of public sector is in West Bengal.

We are sorry to note that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are imposing humiliating conditionalities on the Government of India which will hit hard the self-reliance of our country and foreign multinational companies would be given a free reign to exploit Indian natural resources and labour. The trade union movement has unitedly demanded that the penetration of multinationals must be stopped at all costs so that Indian economy can adopt a course of independent economic development.

The trade union movement must oppose the Exit Policy announced by the Union Finance Minister. The so-called National Renewal Fund cannot help India in any manner. It would only aggravate the unemployment problem in India.

The trade union movement should unitedly carry forward the movement so that the interests of the working class and the people are fully protected and all the retrograde policies are reversed without any further delay.

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way workers to prepare seriously for a long drawn struggle. The said resolution also directed its affiliated unions to prepare for conducting strike ballot by the month of May 1992, the exact date of which will be decided by the standing committee. The resolution also said that since some of the demands are common with other central government employees, therefore it directed the general secretary of the federation to take all necessary steps for broad based unity of all the employees in the services of the central government.

The election of the working committee was held without any basic change, re-electing Umraomal Purohit as president and J. P. Choubey as the general secretary.

AIREC All India Conference

The all India conference of All India Railway Employees Confederation will be held at Calcutta in Salt Lake Stadium in the second week of March 1992. A broad based reception committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Subhash Chakraborty, Minister in West Bengal Government. An elaborate preparation is undertaken to make the conference a grand success.

American Usage in Indian Draft

Just who drafted the Memorandum on Economic Policies and the covering letter submitted by the government to the IMF on August 27 and place in Parliament on Monday?

Of course, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the finance minister, whose signature the document bears. Yet the question can be raised in view of extensive American, as against habitual British, usage in the construction, style and spelling deployed in the language of the draft.

Consider the following :

1. Throughout the text, "programme" (not related to computers) is spelt "program"

2. "Centrepiece" becomes "centerpiece" and "kilometres" becomes "kilometers".

3. The normal Indian way of writing the financial year (viz 1992-93) is replaced by the standard American form (1992/93) and "per cent" by "percent"

4. The all-American "minimize", liberalize, and "rationalize" replace their more common Indian counterparts terminating in "se".

This is not a matter of spelling alone, nor is it explained by someone using a U.S. made type writer/computer with an American "spell-check program".

Much more probably, if not certainly, the draftsman is an American or a person who habitually uses specifically American English—unlike Dr Singh, or most other Indian officials and ministers.

That might explain why expressions such as the following are used throughout the text :

1. "In addition the Government will consult with (not merely consult) the Fund..."

2. "...the Government requests an 18-month stand-by arrangement in an amount (a characteristically US expression) equivalent to SER 1,656 million..."

3. "...a number of...items had to be exclusively channelled (canalised) through specified public sector agencies".

This is the original version, evidently meant to explain the equivalence between the US expression "channelled" and the standard bureaucratic Indian term ("canalised").

4. The memorandum repeatedly notes synonyms between Indian and U.S. forms. This it explains—something that Dr Singh would find quite unnecessary to do—the meaning of "dearness allowance", a common expression in this country, by placing the term in brackets after "provision for cost-of-living increases."

Here are some more instances of the American influence on the style: "Cash export subsidies on new shipments were extended.."

"Understandings" were reached, "targeted buildup in gross official..." And last, but not least, "Attachment" instead of "Annexure" or "Enclosure" along with the covering letter.

[Quoted from Times of India dated 18.12.91]

CITU Objects to the Wrong Briefing by the ILO Officials

M. K. Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU, has issued the following statement to the Press :

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions strongly objects to the erroneous briefing by the ILO's Regional Director Elias Mabere and Rizwanul Islam of ARTEP regarding the two day workshop organised by the ILO on "Social Dimensions of structural Adjustments" held in New Delhi on 10th and 11th December, 1991.

The report of the workshop as appeared in the press creates an impression about the workshop having reached a general consensus that the changes made in the industrial policy by the Government of India will help the national economy in the long run.

The CITU wants to make it clear that there was no consensus whatsoever in the workshop. On the contrary, all the Central Trade Unions participating in the seminar unanimously opposed the industrial policy adopted by the Government of India at the dictates of the IMF and the World Bank.

Some of the economists participating in the seminar also disagreed with the policies of the Government.

In the concluding session of the workshop the

trade union representatives made it clear that the workshop only highlighted the strong disagreement prevalent between labour representatives and the Govt. of India. The Director of the ILO Area Office in his concluding remarks mentioned that the workshop would not draw any conclusions. Hence no written document was adopted in the workshop.

The CITU expresses its grave concern at the manner in which a tripartite forum such as ILO workshop is being used to boost the Govt. of India's official propoganda.

The workshop highlighted that the extent of unemployment as a result of exit policy of the Govt. will be as high as 10 millions in the next 5-6 years. The working class of India will resolutely oppose this policy. If the Govt. of India doggedly pursues this policy, it will only invite further confrontation with the entire working class and the people of the country.

The CITU appeals to the working class of all affiliations to understand the seriousness of the threat to their living conditions and job security and carry forward the united struggle initiated by countywide strike on 29th November till the policy is reversed by the Govt. of India.

Convention of Construction Workers

All India Joint Convention of Public Sector Construction Workers & Employees and Engineers and Officers Association was held on 6th December, 1991, at Moulali Yuba Kendra, Calcutta.

The convention was presided over by Sujit Mukherjee (CITU); Anamika Saha (INTUC); P. K. Mukherjee (Officers Association); T. K. Sarkar (Engineers Association); Samiran Ganguly (NBCC); B. Paswan (NPCC); S. N. Roy (EPI); P. K. N. Murthy (Vizag, A. P.).

The convention was inaugurated by Patitpaban Pathak, Minister of State for Public Sector Undertakings, Government of West Bengal. In his inaugural speech, he criticised the Government of India's new economic and industrial policy and urged upon united movement of the working class to fight against this anti-labour and anti-people policy.

K. C. Ghose placed the draft resolution of the convention. M. K. Pandhe, General Secretary of CITU addressed the convention. In his speech he told that need of the hour to build up united movement of the workers, employees, Engineers and Officers of public sectors to fight against the new economic and industrial policy of Government of India. He mentioned about the rampant corruption of the public sector managements. He mentioned about the artificial crisis of the central public sector construction companies. He mentioned about the negligence of Government of India towards 52 lakhs of construction workers by not setting up National Bipartite Wage Committee, not passing Central Legislation etc. He urged upon extending the joint platform and march forward to protect the interest of public sector construction companies.

Shanti Ranjan Ghatak, Labour Minister of Government of West Bengal, analysed how Government of India deliberately and in a planned manner was denigrating the public sector. He also criticised recently passed Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Amendment Bill in the Parliament. He assured that Government of West Bengal will stand by the side of workers, employees, engineers and officers in their struggle to protect the interest of the public sectors.

Debanjan Chakraborty, General Secretary of Construction Workers Federation of India discussed on the resolution and urged upon united movement of public sector construction workers.

Bidyut Ganguly, Minister of Commerce & Industries, Government of West Bengal was also present. He expressed his desire to receive a joint delegation from the affected companies.

S. K. Roy (HMS); Kali Ghosh, Convenor, West Bengal State Public Sector Co-ordination Committee

greeted the convention.

S. K. Jha of Bihar, Basanta Das of Durgapur, Kamalesh Dutta of Engineers Association, B. Chowdhury of IPF (Bihar), Jagnarayan Chowdhury of IPF (Madhya Pradesh), Daroga Singh of Bhilai, Sujit Karmakar (NBCC) of Bombay, P K N Murthy of Vizag (AP), N B Prabhakar of Bolani (Orissa) and Amal Kundu of NBCC discussed on the resolution.

The hall was fully packed with the representatives of six industries under hit list.

The resolution with some amendments was passed unanimously. Sujit Mukherjee greeted the delegates on behalf of the presidium.

Resolution of the Convention

The All India Convention of Public Sector Construction Workers, Employees, Officers & Engineers held on 6th December, 1991 at Calcutta expresses its grave concern at the recent economic and Industrial Policies announced by the Government of India which hits hard the very basis of self-reliance in the country. The big business houses in India and multi-national companies will have their full sway over Indian economy while the public sector and its employees will come under big attack challenging their very existence in the country.

By declaring the new policy, the Government of India is going back from its policy statement of 1951. "The scope and need for development are so great (that) it is best for the public sector to develop those industries in which private sector is unable or unwilling to put up the resources required and run the risk involved"—Planning Commission, Government of India, First Five Year Plan, New Delhi, 1951, P. 422.

Out of eleven public sector construction companies the Government of India put six enterprises in the sick list with an intention either to close down their chapter or to privatise them. The sick list comprises of (1) Engineering Projects (India Ltd, EPI) under the Ministry of Industry; (2) Hindustan Prefab Ltd, (HPL) under the Ministry of Urban Development; (3) Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd, (HSCL) under the Ministry of Steel & Mines; (4) Indian Road Construction Corporation Ltd, (IRCC) under the Ministry of Surface Transport; (5) National Building Construction Corporation Ltd, (NBCC) under the Ministry of Urban Development; (6) National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd, (NPCC) under the Ministry of Water Resources. These six PSUs employed 32,299 workers, employees, officers and engineers as on 31.3.1991. Moreover they engaged more than 20,000 contract workers through sub-contractors and petty

contractors The capital investment by the Government of India to the tune of Rs. 827.34 crores as on 31.3.1990 in these 6 PSUs.

The proposal of selling 20% equity capital to workers will ultimately end in allowing private capitalists to enter the equity capital in these undertakings. This will only pave the way for gradual handing of such units to the private sector.

This convention expresses deep concern over the closure proposal of these six enterprises as it will hit more than 52,000 employees, affecting nearly 3 lakhs family members. The nation will loose huge investment of Rs. 827.34 crores. The multinational corporations of USA, Italy, France and UK will penetrate into the sphere of construction activities of these six PSUs in replacement due to open door policy and ultimately they will be as powerful as to control the Indian Construction Industry. The project work may be subverted and sabotaged for imperialist interest.

The convention observes that from 1st plan to 7th plan total construction component was: 1st plan (1951-56) Rs 988 crores; 2nd plan (1956-61) Rs 1990 crores; 3d plan (1961-66) Rs 3032 crores; 4th plan (1969-70) Rs 7841 crores, 5th plan (1974-79) Rs. 16.327 crores, Annual Plan(1979-80) Rs. 6399 crores; 6th plan (1980-85) Rs 48,359 crores; 7th Plan (1985-90) Rs 69,160 crores and now in 8th plan (1990-95) more than 70,000 crores approx. allotted for work under different heads such as agriculture & allies sectors, irrigation and flood control, power, small industries, organised industries, transport and communication, education, scientific research, health, housing, etc. Hence, the situation demands more and more involvement of public sector construction companies in nation building. But, at this juncture the decision of the Government of India to close down the six sick public sector construction enterprises is against the interest of nation building.

The convention also notes that these six PSUs have developed indiginous technology and expertise in some sector. If these units are closed, the nation will loose expertise and indiginous technology developed through years.

The convention also notes with anxiety that the IDA based wage settlement is still pending in NBCC and NPCC. The number of disputes arising out of implementation of Mishra Commission pay scales etc still remain unresolved in HSCL and EPI.

The Tripartite Committee on DA for public sector workers constituted as early as November 1988 has not completed its deliberations despite lapse of more than two and a half years. This convention urges upon the Government of India to announce the decision of DA Committee immediately. The Convention also regrets the Government of India's attempt to freeze DA for coming two years for the Central government, State government and public sector workers, employees and officers.

The systematic effort of privatisation of PSUs

has created a serious situation for public sector units. It can be proved that public sector is more profitable than Modi, Ambani, Birla and Bangur. The best overall measure of profitability and efficiency is the return on total capital employed. Below the public sector came the Modies, Thapars, Birlas, Singhanias, Walchands, Bangurs and Ambani's of Reliance, with a return of 7.7% to 3.7% on capital employed, less than the public sector's 8.1%.

The convention denounces the sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Amendment Bill which has already been passed by voice vote in the Lok Sabha on 4.12.1991. This Bill bring Government companies within the purview of the Bureau for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) from now onwards. The convention express its deep concern over this bill because it will jeopardise the interest of public sector units at the interest of the private sector.

In this context and at this crucial juncture the convention feels the defence of public sector and strengthening of public sector assures better return. The convention, therefore calls upon the workers, employees, officers and engineers in the public sector construction enterprises to resist these policies of the Government with all their might and organise a powerful countrywide campaign on the following demands :

1. Scrap the new Industrial and Economic Policies and reformulate the industrial and economic policies of Government of India in consultation with the trade unions.

2. Stop all measures of privatisation of PSUs.

3. Immediate finalisation of Tripartite DA Committee's recommendations.

4. Scrap BPE circular on wage negotiation and finalise pending wage settlement of IDA pattern workers.

5. Restore price preference system to all the 11 public sector construction enterprises.

6. Immediate enactment of Bill on Workers' Participation in Management based on conclusions of Indian Labour Conference which endorsed the recommendations of the seminar held in January 1990.

7. Withdraw ban on recruitment.

8. Ensure payment of Bonus to all employees.

9. Trade Union rights to Officers and Engineers in Public Sector Construction Companies.

The convention calls upon all the 52,000 workers, employees, officers and engineers of eleven public sector construction enterprises to rise to the occasion and take up following programme of action :

1. Hold local convention to popularise the demands raised by this convention.

2. Unit wise sit-in-agitation programme on

3. Mass signature campaign on the basis of this convention resolution to be sent to the Prime Minister, Union Labour Minister by first week of January, 1992.

4. Joint delegation will meet Prime Minister by the 1st week of January 1992.

5. Demand week to be observed from 6.1.1992 to 11.1.1992 by wearing demand badge.

It is only the powerful united movement of the public sector employees that can save the public sector and protect the interest of all its employees.

(From Page 1)

organising sweeping land reforms as a means of advancing the ongoing struggles of the working class.

Polit Bureau member of the CPI (M), H. K. S. Surjit in his speech recalled how it had been the all pervading influence of the October Revolution that had encouraged young BTR to plunge into the thick of the Communist movement. In a reminiscent mood, Surjit noted how BTR had written to the Party from Deoli Jail where he had been lodged during the second World War, exhorting it to remember that a 'triumph of fascism would mean the end to our struggle'...BTR, said Surjit, virtually lived for the working class struggle and had remained sharply aware of the nuances in the international and national situation affecting the interests of the working class movement. A voracious reader, BTR would frequently enter into discussions that were inevitably marked by a spirited adherence to the precepts of Marxism-Leninism. Com. BTR would ask the TUs not to get bogged down in the morass of economism but to conduct wider political struggles for affecting fundamental changes without which the rights of the working class could never be achieved in full. The future, Com. BTR would declare, belonged to the working class 'when the red banner was being shamelessly pulled down in the Soviet Union' noted Surjit, "it falls upon our shoulders to raise it to new heights and we have to remember what BTR stood for, and carry the struggle relentlessly forward along the path he had depicted."

Addressing the assemblage, Polit Bureau member of the CPI (M) and Vice President, CITU Jyoti Basu recalled how BTR had joined the ranks of the Communists when he had been fresh out of college. Throughout his life, said Basu, BTR worked tirelessly for the working class movement, and come up with an inspiring leadership. As BTR was never tired of stressing the need to raise the political consciousness of the toiling people and ensure that they were never divided up. The still pervading influence of bourgeois parties on a section of the workers proved detrimental to the health of the working class struggle itself which was the fall out of not conducting the political battles with ardour,

from the beginning. "We" said Basu, "must also remember all the time to take in the vast multitude of the rural masses along with us in order to make the TU movement truly broad based, given the fact that the largest percentage of the toiling masses in this country are rural based."

Basu declared that intense class struggle was necessary if identifiable gains had to be made in the working class movement. And the workers must be made appropriately aware of the fact that the ultimate aim lay in achieving socialism. The recent events in the Soviet Union and the eastern European countries, said Basu, merely depicted the wrong way the political leadership there had conducted affairs—it never was an indictment of the principles of socialism or the methodology of Marxism-Leninism. Citing the examples of China, Vietnam, and Cuba, Jyoti Basu reminded the assemblage how these nations had progress along the socialist road, sweeping aside all hurdles put on their path by the forces of imperialism and their cohorts.

On this occasion, Com. Jyoti Basu, formally released the third volume of Com. BTR's writings titled: BTR and the Trade Union Movement.

CITU Challenges Shri Sangma's Claim

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions challenges the claim of Shri P.A. Sangma, Union Minister of Coal, that 60 per cent of the T.U. membership in the country is opposed to the strike on 29th November, 1991.

Shri Sangma's claim is based on the truncated verification conducted by the Government of India in the year 1980 which was boycotted by the CITM and AITUC. It is a ridiculous to base one conclusion on the dubious figures more than a decade old.

Moreover several trade unions which are not affiliated to the Central Trade Unions are participating in the strike such as Banks, Insurance, Airlines, Central and State Govt. Employees, Public Sector Undertakings etc. Their membership is not included when Mr. Sangma is making a statement to the press. Some of the independent trade unions have much more membership than the unions opposing the strike.

The meeting convened on 17th November '91 was only of Central Trade Unions and the independent federations were not invited to the meeting. Therefore, Shri Sangma's logic has no basis whatsoever and his attempt to confuse the workers on the eve of the strike will not succeed. The working class of India will give a fitting reply to the Government of India by observing complete strike on 29th November, 1991.

Callous Managements Neglecting Safety in Coal Mines

M. K. Pandhe

The utter neglect of the safety aspect in coal mines was clearly highlighted in a meeting of the standing committee on safety in coal mines, held in New Delhi on December 7. P. A. Sangma, who was in the chair, had to admit that there has been serious lapses on the part of the managements which he expected to overcome at an early date.

Deteriorating Safety Situation :

It will be recalled during 1982, there were 158 fatal accidents resulting in death of 185 workers. In the year 1990, according to provisional figures, there had been 153 fatal accidents killing 168 workers. The number of workers killed in open cast mines has increased from 14 in 1982 to 25 in 1990 (provisional) while those killed in coal mines above ground rose to 41 in 1990 from 21 in 1982.

The total number of seriously injured workers in the accidents has been 1184 in 1982 which stood at 1002 in 1990 according to provisional figures.

The analysis of the accidents made by the office of the director general of mines safety stated, "sixty-two per cent of accidents due to fall of roof following the blasting of coal face, could be averted if the immediate roof upto a distance of 10 meters from the coal face is tested, dressed and made secure before allowing the loaders to the blasted coal. This action shall, in fact, result in reduction of fatal accidents due to fall of roof by 35 per cent. It may be mentioned here that the operations of roof after every round of blasting is a statutory requirement."

This statement admits the complete failure of the coal companies to observe statutory provisions and safety regulations.

Government Apathy :

The callousness of department of coal towards the standing committee on safety in coal mines was convened after a period of two years, though in an earlier meeting it was agreed that it should meet once every six months.

The ministry of labour which is supposed to convene a conference on safety in coal mines has not convened the conference during the last two years while no date has yet been fixed for the next conference so far. If this is the state of affairs at apex level, one can well imagine the conditions of safety committees at the lower levels.

The Coal India has constituted a tripartite safety board which does not meet regularly, and holding of the meeting is being treated by the management as a mere ritual. Same is the plight of the company level bipartite committees. The regulations under Mines Act provides constitution of pit level safety

committees. But in many mines the committees exist on paper, and no serious business is transacted in these committees.

Need to Redraft Regulations :

The representatives of management in the December 7 meeting gave a rosy picture about the steps they were taking to improve the conditions of safety in mines. They observed that trade unions have been involved at all levels in observation of safety regulations.

M. K. Pandhe, general secretary of the CITU, while speaking in the meeting, criticised the coal managements for not implementing the safety regulations. He pointed out that in several mines, even a copy of the regulations is not available.

Pandhe observed that the entire regulations need to be re-drafted and properly compiled. There is a need to prepare comprehensive safety regulations for open mines. They are drafted in a language which the workers cannot properly understand. He demanded that the whole gamut of safety regulations should be reviewed by a safety conference.

The CIL chairman noted that the senior executives are held responsible as 'owner' of the mines and suggested that the regulations should be modified so that they are not involved. However, the CITU and the INTUC representatives opposed the proposal and insisted that the senior officials should be held responsible for violation of safety regulations. They pointed out that senior officials do not visit the mines regularly to supervise the operation of the safety regulations. This should be made compulsory, they demanded.

Patra, the HMS representative, criticised the SECL management for not implementing the agreed decisions of the earlier meetings which were responsible for some of the accidents.

Pandhe drew attention to the inordinate delay in completing the work of the Mahabir Colliery accident which occurred on November 13, 1989. "Such a delay in completing statutory enquiry into accidents

Second Telephone Installed at CITU Centre, New Delhi

This is to notify for the information of all concerned that one more telephone, in addition to the existing one, has been installed at the CITU Centre, New Delhi. Both the old and new telephone numbers are given hereunder :-

- 1) 371 4071
- 2) 375 5404

was defeating the purpose of holding such an enquiry," he said. The representative of the union labour ministry noted that the report is likely to be submitted by the end of December this year.

Inadequate Training :

Criticising the training programmes in safety, the CITU and the INTUC representatives criticised that the programme is totally inadequate. There should be complete recasting of the programme and a new syllabus should be prepared for the purpose. The secretary of the department of coal agreed with the suggestion and asked the CIL management to take immediate action in the matter.

Pandhe further pointed out that during the court of enquiry proceedings, the coal managements, instead of helping to find the truth, are making attempts to protect the guilty officials. "This could be easily seen from the statement submitted by the management and the findings of the court of enquiry," he added.

The CITU representative criticised the coal management for not implementing the earlier decision to hold joint investigations about the accidents to find out its cause and fix up the responsibility. "If this is done, then the workers would have confidence in the departmental enquiries."

Subsidence Threat in Raniganj Area

There was a detailed discussion on the subsidence in Raniganj coal belt where a large population is staying in extremely unsafe conditions. The central government has not taken any step to tackle the problem on the plea that it is the responsibility of the state government. The CITU demanded a meeting of the representatives of state and the central governments, CIL management, trade unions and technical experts to be called to discuss the problem thoroughly so that a proper plan of action is prepared to tackle the problem of subsidence. The union coal minister agreed to consider the suggestion.

The trade union representatives demanded that the standing committee should monitor the working of all internal safety organisations in coal industry in a business like manner which will help in reducing the accidents and save the precious lives of coal miners who supply a major source of energy in the country.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the standing committee would be held in six months time in a coal belt so that the work of the committee would be more meaningful.

The secretary of the department of coal summed up the deliberations.

CITU Denounces Vandalism by Kerala Police

The Secretariat of the CITU has issued the following statement :

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions denounces the highhandedness by the Kerala Police for its attack on the Members of Parliament and on the CPI (M) head-quarters in Trivandrum.

The CITU holds the UDF Government of Kerala led by the Congress (I) as totally responsible for the brutal attack. It was done in a preplanned manner to contain any protest against its decision to privatise the medical education, which in fact was a precursor to privatise the education system in the state in tune with new economic policy of the Congress (I) Govt. at the Centre as dictated by the IMF.

The police, which acted at the behest of the UDF Government and its mentors, the private businessmen, who are in the quest for profits through huge capitation fees, were not content by attacking the students only. As per reports, they had the audacity to enter the A.K.G. Bhawan, create hooliganism, beat up respectable Members of Parliament like Sushila Gopalan and M. A. Baby and even thrust stone into the mouth of M. A. Baby, who is also the President of DYFI.

The acts of vandalism created by the police tantamount to semi-fascist offensives as measures to suppress the democratic voice, and deserve severest condemnation by the democratic forces.

The CITU extends full support to Kerala Bandh call given by the LDF on 9th December and call upon all its state committees and unions and appeal to all trade unions and the mass organisations of the students, youth and others to demonstrate solidarity in support of the Bandh.

Book Post

the removal of ceilings in the payment of Bonus Act.

The inordinate delay in the finalisation of the recommendations of the Tripartite DA Committee for the public sector undertakings was also criticised by the trade unions who demanded early conclusion in the work of the DA Committee. They further demanded withdrawal of the BPE circulars regarding pension schemes and wage negotiations in public sector undertakings.

The trade unions were unanimous in opposing the Exit Policy of the Government and they warned the Government that the working class would not allow any retrenchment measure to be implemented in both private and public sectors.

The question of import of technology without taking into account national needs also came up for sharp criticism by the trade unions. They oppose induction of technology in fast food and drinks, luxurious items consumed by a small affluent section of society and technology that would lead to large scale unemployment. No technology should be inducted without consulting the trade unions they asserted.

The working of the private sector monopoly houses also came up for sharp criticism in the meeting. They pointed out the failure of the Government to check high profit making by certain industries and cornering of markets. They deliberately make the units sick and borrow excessive loans from the banks to divert funds to other profitable ventures. They demanded stringent actions against economic offenders in the country.

They criticised the Narasimham Committee report on Banking and the proposal to privatise

IDBI. The Minister of Finance had to accept that Central TUs would be consulted before taking a final decision in the matter.

Among these who participated in the discussion were G. Ramanujam (INTUC); Homi Daji (AITUC); R. K. Bhakt (BMS); Samarendra Kundu (HMS); Nani Bhattacharya (UTUC) Pritish Chanda (UTUC, LS) and D D Shastri (TUCC).

The Finance Minister assured that he would give serious consideration to these proposals and have more dialogue with the representatives of trade unions.



He is unable to see !?

Working Class Getting Ready for Future Action

All the Central Trade Unions and Federations of West Bengal have issued the following statement on 30.12.91.

The Central Trade Unions and Federations of West Bengal met at CITU office at Calcutta to review the post 29th November strike situation and to undertake future programme. The meeting noted with deep concern that the Government of India have not taken any lesson from the nationwide protest registered by the working class through 29th November strike. They are still pursuing their anti-people policies and have taken further steps to implement the same. Bypassing the tripartite committee, they have already passed the bill to send the cases of public sector enterprises to BIFR and already have listed 50 public sector enterprises for the purpose.

Under the circumstances, the meeting decided to request the All India Sponsoring Committee to call an all India convention involving all the Central Trade Unions and Federations at Calcutta some time in the first half of February 1992 to chalk out

further programme of action against the disastrous steps taken by the Government of India regarding public sector enterprises, sick industries and the economic and industrial policies in general.

The meeting also noted with great concern that the Government of India is bypassing the Parliament, even the recently held meeting of the NDC which was just concluded. and have enhanced the prices of rice, wheat, coal etc by 30%. This will surely lead to soar the prices all essential commodities and the condition of all sections of people including working class will be further worsened. The meeting called upon the working class and the people to mark their protest against the steps through demonstrations, gate meetings, processions etc jointly.

Signed

Manoranjan Roy, CITU
Bhajan Dasgupta, HMS

Sailen Dey, TUCC
Nares Das, BEFI

Ram Sen, AITUC
Anil Das Chowdhury,
UTUC
Samar Sinha UTUC(LS)
K. P. Kedia,
MercantileFed.

CITU Secretariat Congratulates the Working Class

A meeting of the office-bearers of CITU held at Calcutta on 23rd. December, 1991, called upon the working class of India to unitedly continue the resistance to the economic policies of the Government of India, so that it is forced to withdraw the retrograde policy measures.

Comrade E. Balanandan, M.P., President of the CITU presided over the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the response of the working class to the all India strike on 29th November, 1991 and congratulated the working class for raising its powerful voice against the IMF dictated policies pursued by the Government of India. It specifically noted the participation of all sections of the working class including those belonging to the INTUC and BMS whose leadership were not a party to the strike call. The meeting decided to prepare a comprehensive review of the strike so that the working class is informed about the achievements and lessons of the strike. The meeting directed all the CITU unions to campaign against the Government's policies, so that another round of struggle is initiated all over India in near future.

The meeting strongly objected to the manner in which the Government of India hastily got passed the bill in Parliament empowering it to refer the cases of the so-called sick Public Sector Undertakings to the BIFR. When the Government has constituted a special tripartite committee to deal with the same question, the passing of the legal enactment is only making a mockery of the tripartite committee. The Secretariat welcome the proposal of the West Bengal Trade Unions including those belonging to the INTUC to organise an All India Convention of the 50 Public Sector Undertakings at Calcutta sometimes at the end of January or beginning of February next year so that a countrywide campaign can be launched to save the so-called Public Sector Sick Undertakings and other sick units both in the public and the private sector in the country.

The secretariat condemned the BPE circular imposing moratorium on wage negotiations in Public Sector Undertakings and demanded its immediate withdrawal, so that wage negotiations can commence in the Public Sector Undertakings. It noted the growing resentment among the Public Sector workers due to non-settlement of long-standing issues, such as DA & Pension and the drive towards privatisation. The Secretariat therefore appealed to all the 22 lakh Public Sector workers to launch a countrywide campaign including direct action to settle outstanding issues.

The Secretariat appealed to the Sponsoring Committee of the 29th November strike to chalk-out new programme of country-wide movement, so that

the working class is mobilised for further actions against the retrograde economic policies. The Sponsoring Committee should be strengthened by involving several organisations who spontaneously joined the historic strike action on 29th November, 1991.

CITU Denounces Narasimha Rao Government for Price Hike of Rice & Wheat in PDS

The Secretariat of the CITU has issued the following statement:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions denounces the Narasimha Rao Government for announcing a steep hike in the prices of Rice and Wheat in the Public Distribution System.

Coming in the wake of doubling the DTC fares, which however affected the commuters in the capital only, the rise in the prices of the two most important staple food items will hit hard the toiling people all over the country. Not content with this, the Government has increased the price of coal also by 30 percent.

Beginning with the cut in subsidy on Single Super Phosphate, the poor farmers' fertilizer, the rise in the prices of Rice and Wheat in the Ration Shops tantamounts to reduction in the subsidies in the Public Distribution System by over 50 percent.

While the trade unions and the people have been demanding expansion and strengthening of the PDS System by reduction and fixation of the prices of 14 essential commodities in the Ration Shops, the Government has resorted to just opposite steps to boost the private monopolists.

In one hand it was yet another practical step towards "market economy" in line with the guidelines and conditionalities of the IMF, it on the other hand marked the beginning of systematic dismantling of the Public Distribution System, which will hit the poor and the middle class below the belt.

The trade unions and the working class which launched the massive strike action on 29th November against the IMF dictated economic policies, cannot but react sharply against this measure from their own experience. Having enunciated the policies, the Government has now started implementing them one after another under direct guidance and supervision of the IMF. The passing of the Sick Industries Bill, the amendment of the MRTP Act, the Narasimham Committee's recommendations on the

(Cont'd on page 4)

ILO Food & Drinks Committee Session

Food and Drink Industries Committee of ILO held its second session on and from 4th December to 12th December, 1991 at Geneva. The Government of India was requested to send a delegation of six members consisting two from Government two from employers and two from the workers side. The Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India requested representatives, one from INTUC and one from CITU to attend. CITU nominated Com. Robin Chakraborty, Member of All India General Council.

The second session of Food & Drink Industries Committee was held on the issues of freedom of association, right to organise, industrial relations and collective bargaining through Report II and on skill requirements, vocational training and retraining through Report III. Report I was the result of implementation of the decisions of first session of food and drink industries in different countries.

From India Robin Chakraborty, All India General Council Member, CITU, Sri R. N. Choubey President India National Food & Drink, Workers Federation of INTUC, attended the session as workers' representative, Shri Ashit Kr. Sarkar Vice president, Human Resource, Britannia Industries Ltd, Employes Federation of India, Shri P. Venkatachalam, Managing Director Modern Food Industries Ltd represented the employers of India and from Permanent Mission of India Ms. D. C. Wadhwa and Shri V. K. Sathu Madhavan represented Govt. of India.

The session resumed its business on 4th December 1991. Firstly different committees were sent up. In different groups, subcommittees were formed. During the discussion on the workers group on Freedom of Association Com. Robin Chakraborty pointed out the ineffective and discriminatory action of the Government of India regarding the implementation of ILO Convention decision on Freedom of Association in our country. This callousness on the part of Government has provided the advantages to the employers which lead to deny and defy the right of association of the workers in Food and Drink Industries.

Com. Robin Chakraborty placed a detailed report through two papers on the issues of Freedom of Association, the Right to Organise, Industrial Relations, Collective Bargaining, Skill Requirements, Vocational Training and Retraining in the Food & Drink Industries named in abbreviation "27 points Discussion" based on the views of CITU. And the matters regarding food problem, agricultural production, food processing, occupational safety, health hazard, the working environment, technological development and the minimum wages pattern and other conditions of service have been discussed and the views of CITU on the above topics have been expressed through the papers named in abbreviation "summarised information". The two papers have

been well circulated in the session amongst the delegates of various countries. Neither the Govt of India nor the employers association and INTUC submitted any written report on the above topics in the session.

Being impressed with the papers submitted by the CITU, the ILO expert suggested Com. Robin Chakraborty in the workers group to speak in the "Plenary Session" and his name was recorded in the list of speakers.

He delivered his speech on 9th December 1991 in the Plenary Session. The Madam Chairman of the plenary session highly appreciated his speech and expressed that "though the speech is brief but it is very precise, contributing and beneficial to ILO. We must thank Mr Chakraborty for his valuable speech."

The session has adopted seven resolutions unanimously on (1) "the impact of environment issues, (2) on occupational safety and health (3) on multinational enterprises (4) various forms of employment (temporary, casual, part-time, seasonal and contract workers (5) on the informal sector (6) on equality between women and men (7) on future activities of ILO, in the Food and Drink Industries Sector.

The reports have been submitted by the sub-committee on Freedom of Association and the Right to organise, industrial relations and collective bargaining in the Food and Drink Industries Sector. The reports of the Sub-committee on skill requirements, vocational training and retraining in the Food & Drink Industries have been adopted unanimously in the plenary session.

The second Food & Drink Industries Committee session closed on 12th December, 1991 with vote of thanks to the chair and all concerned.

(From Page 3)

Financial System, etc, and now hitting the PDS, all are practical steps to dismantle the Public Sector infrastructure in the national economy and allow the Indian and foreign private sector to fleece the people and the workers. While taking these practical steps of implementation, it is ridiculous that the Government is trying to woo the trade unions to "discuss" the impact of the industrial policy on the workers in the so-called "Special Tripartite Committee" singling out the performance of the Public Sector only. Such an exercise is being done by the Government also obviously at the dictates of the IMF. Having surrendered the economic sovereignty it is virtually an IMF Government, and not the Narasimha Rao Government that has started functioning in India.

The only answer is mass protest actions by all democratic and patriotic forces in the country. The CITU calls upon the trade union movement to prepare for the next phase of direct actions to compel the Government to reverse the policies.

Trade Unions Oppose New Economic Policies In ILO Workshop

The two-day Tripartite workshop organised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in New Delhi on 10-11 December 1991 highlighted the basic differences of approach between the Government officials, employees and workers representatives on the present industrial and economic policies pursued by the Government of India.

Though the theme of the workshop was "Social Dimensions of structural Adjustment" the under current of discussion was clearly on new industrial policy of the Government of India. Incidentally, the representatives of the World Bank and the IMF were also attending the deliberations though they did not participate in the discussions. P. A. Sangma, Union Minister for Coal in his opening address and Man Mohan Singh, Union Finance Minister in his key note address dealt at length the new economic policies of the Government of India and assured the working class that the policies would do no harm to them.

In the inaugural session the UNDP spokesman Erling Dessau stated, "As UNDP's Resident Representative, as Dr. Man Mohan Singh knows, I attach the highest importance to the success of policies which he has described as 'adjustment with a human face'". The background was thus clear to make the workshop a forum to mobilise support for the Government of India's economic policies.

Additional Unemployment of one Crore

However, the paper submitted in the workshop by Sudipto Mundle of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy presented the employment effects of the new economic policy during the period 1991-92 to 1993-94 estimated that "employment would be lower by as much as 8 to 10 million persons per year during the next 2 years, implying a reduction of around 8 percent to 9 percent in total employment in the sector as compared to trend".

The author made this calculation on the basis of the National Sample Survey data and made some projections of employment and unemployment as a result of implementation of the new economic policies of the Government of India.

Though the author has characterised the new economic policy measures of the Government of India as "Stabilisation Programme" he had to admit that "the level of unemployment will be really quite high as a consequence of the stabilisation programme".

The author also made an attempt to calculate the growth of under-employment as a result of the new economic policy measures and came to the conclusion that it would be of the order of "a little under one million person per annum". He therefore observed, "It would be unethical and contrary to all

modern principles of welfare if the burden of such austerity and adjustment is allowed to fall on who are least capable of bearing that burden. Unfortunately it is precisely such groups which may end up bearing the burden, simply because they are not sufficiently powerful or organised to protect their interests".

The author further noted that "without counter-measures this would lead to increased social tension on a scale which would threaten not merely economic stability but the entire socio-political fabric, which is already under considerable pressure on account of ethnic and religious tensions".

After showing so much sympathy for the down-trodden in the country, the author suggested an employment oriented programme with Rs. 10 per day as wages for a period of 270 days in a year. When in several states even the minimum wages have been fixed at Rs. 25 per day, this paltry sum of Rs. 10 will not be sufficient even for one square meal a day for the family. Moreover the employment will be given only for 270 days thus forcing the families to literally starve for about 95 days in a year. The expenditure does not include even the provision for shelter, clothing, education or medical benefits. Thus the so called relief package is nothing but extension of Jawahar Rojgar Yojna. The proposal given by the author will therefore not give any genuine relief to the victims of the new economic policies. Moreover, those workers who are already employed are being offered such ridiculous jobs as alternative source of employment which is just making a mockery of the rehabilitation package.

Working class does not want to survive on doles. What they desire is a gainful employment which would ensure a minimum requirement of a human family.

The author has not considered the practical experience of such official schemes wherein large part of the projects completed only on paper and money had been pocketed by the middle-men with links with the high officials who are in charge of the execution of the projects.

The promise given in the Congress Election Manifesto that about a crore of new jobs would be generated every year has proved to be a sheer hoax meant only to hoodwink the gullible and get votes in elections.

Another Package of New Attacks

Dr. Ashok V. Desai of the National Council of Applied Economic Research and recently appointed economic advisor to the Government of India in his paper reviewed at length the background of the recent policy changes relating to industrial licensing, foreign direct investment and foreign trade drew the conclusion that the changes made so far have been

totally inadequate. He wanted full fledged freedom to be given to the Indian and foreign big business houses so that they could invest more money in India. The author criticised the Government of India for "discrimination against foreign business" and pointed out the following measures of "discrimination";

(1) The legislation against managing agencies in 1956, which was especially damaging to older British investments in tea, jute, coal and electricity.

(2) discriminatory taxation from 1955 onwards against branches of foreign companies which affected British investment in sterling companies operating business in India.

(3) anti-monopoly legislation in 1973, which automatically applied to all foreign controlled rupee companies.

(4) restrictions from 1968 onwards on the products into whose production new foreign capital could be invested, and

(5) compulsory disinvestment in existing foreign branches and subsidiaries under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act of 1973. (Emphasis added).

He wanted to reverse all these measures taken by the Government so that free flow of foreign capital can be ensured on the Indian soil. He was virtually advocating handing over the Indian economy for exploitation by multi-national companies.

Demand for Scrapping of Job Security

Dr. Desai proposed most dangerous proposals for hitting the working class interests. He openly advocated the replacement of "legal protection of employment by contractual obligation to make separation payments. Thus, everywhere in India the author wanted to introduce a system of casual employment. He wanted scrapping of the present system of regularisation of jobs and withdrawal of all "permanent employment." He further advocated that "All laws preventing closure should be repealed" and even make all malafide closures legal. If the workers lose their jobs as a result of such closures then some token compensation can be paid to them, says the author.

Dr. Desai went to the extent of demanding establishment of right of dismissal of an employer. "The protection against dismissal embodied in the Industrial Disputes Act should be replaced by a contractual obligation to make separation payment" He further made a plea for drastic changes in favour of employers in industrial policy. The following are some specimen :

"Custom duty.....should cease to be a source of revenue."

"Price and distribution controls of agricultural goods should be abandoned together with export controls"

"Foreign direct investment is not to relieve the balance of payments or to bring in technology but to bring in new forms of management—"

"There should be no limit on foreign portfolio investment"

"Banking should be deregulated, private banks should be allowed, bankrupt public sector banks should be closed down and their deposits transferred to other banks."

Thus the author has made out a case for converting Indian economy subservient to imperialism and give a free reign to them to intensify the exploitation of the Indian market. If such person become economic advisor to the Government of India one can imagine the fate of our national economy. The World Bank and the IMF lobby in the Government of India has already occupied vantage positions in policy making apparatus of the Government of India.

United Opposition By Trade Unions

M. K. Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU while intervening in the discussion stated that the working class of India will never allow the new industrial policy of the Government of India to be implemented and confrontation with trade unions is inevitable if this policy is further pursued.

He pointed out that Exit policy is totally unacceptable to the working class and physical resistance would be organised throughout the country. "The working class does not want to live on doles offered by the Government in the name of removal of hardships," he said.

The CITU representative resolutely opposed privatisation of public sector undertakings and said this measure was taken at the dictate of the IMF and the World Bank.

Pandhe noted that the Government of India cannot introduce any measure if the entire working class is opposed to it. He criticised the servile economists who are speaking as apologists of the multi-national companies.

Gopeshwar, General Secretary INTUC, criticised the role of IMF and opposed the additional unemployment that would be generated due to the implementation of the new industrial policy of the Government of India. He also attacked the concessions given to the multi-national companies and the Indian big business houses. He mentioned that the tenor of the papers was against the spirit of the ILO itself.

Umraomal Purohit, General Secretary HMS said that no section of the working class will accept the

new economic policy of the Government of India. He pointed out the growing inflation and the price-rise which is bringing down the standard of living of the people while the growing unemployment would increase the pauperisation of the country.

R. K. Bhakt, General Secretary BMS stated that the Government wanted to consult the trade unions after adopting and implementing the new economic policies. He opposed the Exit policies and criticised the conditionalities of the IMF.

N. M. Barot, President, NLO disagreed with the economists that private sector was running more efficiently. Private sector in the country was thriving on malpractices and black money. He pleaded for strengthening the public sector in the economy and involve workers through participation in management.

Despite opposition by all the trade unions Dr. Amit Bhaduri of the Indian Institute of Management tried to state that there was a consensus on several points in the workshop. He argued that the country was having a transition from high cost economy to low cost economy. Regarding the criticism made by the trade unions, he characterised that there were some apprehensions in the mind of the trade unions. He was generally indicating that in the long run Indian economy would be benefitted by the policy measures and some method of compensation for the redundant workers should be found out. He also noted that the disturbance that would be created because of the implementation of the policy can be overcome by the long term benefits.

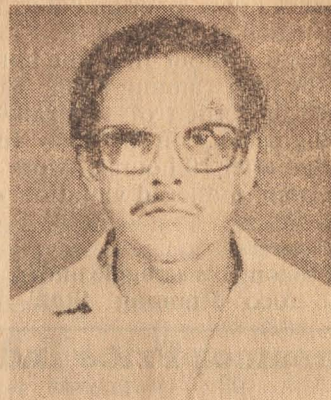
Pandhe objected to the conclusions drawn by Dr. Bhaduri and stated that the seminar only highlighted the divergent views of the workers and the employers representatives, on not a single issue the workshop could reach any conclusion and hence no commonly agreed document can be adopted in the Seminar.

R. K. Bhakt, Gopeshwar, Purohit and Barot also stated that there were no conclusions arrived at in the Seminar.

The Director of the ILO Area Office Elias G. Mabere in his concluding speech pointed out that the workshop was intended just to exchange views on the present situation and there was no question of drawing any conclusion.

However, the briefing to the press mentioned about the consensus in the workshop and as reported by *Hindu*, the workshop felt that in the long run the new industrial policy would benefit India. The CITU therefore had to issue clarification to the Press stating that there was no conclusions drawn in the Seminar which only highlighted sharp differences prevalent between employers and Government of India on the one side and trade unions on the other.

Comrade Swapan Bose



The Centre of Indian Trade Unions expresses its deep sorrow at the untimely demise of Com. Swapan Bose, one of the frontline leaders of the steel worker movement, on December 26, 1991 at Durgapur, West Bengal.

Com. Swapan Bose, since his joining at trainee at Durgapur steel plant in the early sixties got himself absorbed in the steel workers movement, gradually came to the fore taking initiative of building all India movement of the steel workers in the country. He took keen interest in building and coordinating the movement in all steel centres. He was one of the founder working committee member of the steel workers Federation of India. He was also the general council members of the CITU.

Side by side his trade union work Com. Swapan Bose also played an active role in the left and democratic movement. He joined communist movement in the sixties and was the member of the Durgapur-II local committee of the CPI(M).

Due to various ailments Com. Swapan was not well since last four/five years but that could not deter him from his devotion and militant service to working class movement. He was comrade, brother, friend as well as dependable guardian of all his colleagues. His passing way is a great loss for the steel workers and would be very difficult to fill the void.

The CITU pays homage to the memory of Com. Swapan Bose and extends its deepest sympathy to his wife, two children, mother and other members of the family.