



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

Make the National Integration Day a Success

B.T. Ranadive

ON 9th August all trade union centres will unitedly observe a common day to warn the people against the attack of the divisive forces and call on the workers to take the challenge to defend national unity and defeat its disruptors.

The initiative taken by the trade union movement is born out of its patriotic fervour of trade union organisation and its determination to throw the organised strength of the working class in the battle against the forces of disunity.

The initiative should have come much earlier because of the challenge and its brazen facedness was growing every day. The fact that all the Trade Unions including the INTUC have now taken a common decision to fight these forces is of great importance to the cause of Indian unity and freedom. The tens of lakhs mobilised under the banner of the Trade Union Centres, the Industrial Federations, the Railway Federations, the Confederation of Central Govt Employees, the State Govt. Employees Federation and Mercantile and Bank Federations constitute a mighty force which unitedly can rebuff the divisive offensive.

The working class composed of all communities—Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Harijans and Adivasis has repeatedly demonstrated its unbreakable class unity in the prolonged strike struggles. The workers have withstood together privations and hunger for months without wavering. Considerations of community or caste did not influence any section to break this solidarity in the class struggle.

If the working class plunges into the struggle for defending the nation's unity armed by this consciousness and backed by its organised strength, it will inspire all other sections to wage a determined battle to protect the integrity of the country.

The seriousness of the challenge is not yet seen by large sections of the working class and its trade unions. This is not an ordinary challenge of a few communal riots bursting out on this or that issue,

over hurt religious feeling of this or that community. Nor can the situation be compared with the earlier years after independence when there were large popular movement for the formation of linguistic states. Today it is a pre-planned attempt to destabilise the country, to cut it into several parts so that it can be easily converted into a dependency. Behind this all pervading conspiracy stands the hand of US imperialist which is out for dismembering the country.

The ruling Cong (I) Party and its Government are now forced to talk about the foreign hand behind the forces of destabilisation. It is now emphatically stated that the Khalistani terrorists in Punjab are trained on the soil of Pakistan and financed from there. Behind Pakistan stands the financial purse of the US and its expertise in organising terrorism and destabilisation in other countries.

The daily murder of innocent persons in Punjab is the handiwork of USA financed elements. The death toll of hundreds of people, the forcible migration of the minority from the state, untold miseries and sufferings inflicted on the innocent people constitute the instrument of the nation's enemies to create permanent discord in Punjab and detach it from the rest of the country. The unscrupulous enemy does not stop at anything in pursuit of its aims of dismembering India.

Earlier it made a similar assault in Assam. Its project Operation Bramaputra Valley was a blue print of a secessionist movement to cut off Assam and the North-Eastern region from the rest of India. Those who are now in the Ministry in Assam are still not free from separatist outlook and ambitions, and the secessionist danger in Assam is not yet over.

The British and US imperialists and Canadian Govt. have been openly helping and financing the Khalistani terrorists. UK refuses to send back to India terrorists wanted for murders and robberies. In the USA agencies have been training terrorists for sabotage. When its patronage for the terrorists got ex-

OBSERVE PEACE DAY ON SEPTEMBER 1

posed the US authorities made a show of taking some steps against them. In Australia and Canada the local Sikh terrorists are allowed to plan murders and assault Indian diplomats and or visiting dignitaries from the country. The imperialists and their stooges have left nothing undone to show their partiality for the secessionist terrorist movement.

Why is it so? Because a free India which refuses to join the U. S. bandwagon in international affairs weakens and obstructs imperialist plans for war and global domination. A free India is also an obstruction to unbridled imperialist exploitation of the country. The US imperialists therefore must attack the united strength of the country to reduce it to the status of their satellite. They would like India to be as much dependent on them as Zia's Pakistan.

The secessionist movement, challenges like Khalistan and Gorkha Land are to be fought by the people unitedly as a common struggle to defend the unity of the country. To consider them as a battle of one community against other is to play the game of imperialism. It is the enemies of the country that count on Sikh-Hindu conflicts and riots as a result of the Punjab situation. Some Hindu communal organisations in Delhi and elsewhere are helping imperialist machineries by rousing Hindu communal feelings over the happenings in Punjab. The situation cannot be met either by organising only the minority community in Punjab for defence as the Shiv Sena is doing there now.

The working class and trade union movement must uphold the banner of Hindu-Sikh unity. The working class of Punjab responded splendidly last month to the visit of the trade union delegation representing all Central Trade Unions and reaffirmed its faith in national unity. Every help is to be given to the trade unions in Punjab to carry on their fight in face of the determined challenge of the disruptive forces. The working class in other states especially in cities which has a sizeable Sikh population must guarantee that the minority is well protected and has no cause for concern from rabid Hindu communal or mercenary agencies of divisive forces.

The working class must also demand from Rajiv Govt. that the Punjab Accord must be immediately and fully implemented, and the transfer of the Chandigarh should not be delayed. This is no time for haggling over few acres of land when the nation is faced with a big challenge from imperialism. What is necessary is to rally the entire Sikh-Hindu mass in Punjab to fight the terrorists. The task will be immensely helped by the immediate implementation of the Accord. Delay is being exploited by the terrorists and unscrupulous leaders like Badal to torpedo the accord and create a new crisis.

It is equally necessary to assure full protection to the minority in Punjab which are the main target of the terrorists. It has to be noted however that a large number from the Sikh community also have

been killed by the same elements. The protection to minority has to be guaranteed by the united people and by the Government. Guarantee of such steps will foil the designs of the enemies of the nation to destabilise the state and end the dream of a separate Khalistan.

There is no doubt that the Barnala Government has shown a lot of vacillation in the past and has been unable to fulfill many obligations. It has mixed religion with politics and weakened itself. Nonetheless it has stood by the accord and announced its determination to fight the secessionists, whom it has denounced as elements financed and trained from abroad. Everything should be done to strengthen this resolve of the Barnala Government.

Difficult also is the situation in Kashmir and Assam which again calls for popular unity to defeat the forces of disruption. People do not feel assured either over the Mizoram Accord which has installed in power a person and a party known for their secessionist views and their links with organisations unfriendly to India.

The CITU trade unions in Assam and the working class led by them have been waging a determined struggle against the secessionists in the riots risking their limbs and lives. The entire working class of the country must support this valiant struggle of the workers of Assam and inspire the people all over the country to forge popular unity against the forces of dismemberment.

Equally dangerous is the challenge delivered through communal disruption, communal appeal, riots and sabotage. The communal reactionaries are now well supplied with arms to wreck vengeance on each other. Never before India was subject to so much internal discord as in the last four five years. What is the reason? communal reactionaries financed, encouraged, and patronised by the foreign resources are out to destroy the unity of the people and create permanent barriers between them. They preach hatred towards other communities in the name of religion to destroy all sense of national unity among the people. This is to paralyse and emasculate the people when the final attack for destabilisation is launched by the imperialist forces.

Muslim fundamentalists appeal to the Muslims as a separate people having nothing in common with the rest of the country. To keep them away from the common democratic struggle, they seek to enslave them to reactionary customs, anti-democratic practices and anti-national outlook in the name of religion. They recently demanded enslavement of Muslim women in the name of religion and opposed maintenance for a divorced Muslim wife as running contrary to the tenets of Islam.

What chance has secularism and national unity before this outlook? The entire appeal to religion is a device to destroy all secular and democratic values which bind the people together.

In opposition to the minority fundamentalism Hindu fundamentalists regard Muslims as virtual aliens and disrupt all sense of national unity. The Christian and the Sikh fundamentalists and others are all busy burying national unity and gathering their community as the separatist force with no obligation to the people and the country as a whole.

The unity that was built through years of struggle and sacrifice and through the blood of Indian people, the unity that chased the British after a heroic struggle is being attacked and buried by handful of mercenaries and reactionaries. Will the working class allow it? Will it tolerate the Indian people to be divided and enslaved again? The working class which has forged unity embracing members of all communities in its struggles must defeat this challenge and gather its forces to fight it. Its trade unions must embrace all sections and show in practice how all of them can unite to defend the integrity of the country. The working class cannot remain a mute spectator during com-

munal riots. Its united strength must be thrown against the rioters to defend the minority and the unity of the people. The unity of the people is not a law and order problem, not an administrative responsibility. It is the political responsibility of the entire working class.

The trade unions and working class must realise that the reactionary forces are often able to activate large sections of people by distorting and exploiting the economic mass discontent generated by the capitalist path. The stronger the economic struggle against the inequities of capitalist path, the more unitedly it is carried, the more effective blow would be delivered to the divisive forces.

The working class must also note that the Muslim mass which is susceptible to religious appeal, not only suffers from the common economic grievance along with rest of the people but also suffers from discrimination against the minority community. While fighting the appeal of minority communalism the working class must unitedly protect the Muslim

Comrade Le Duan

The Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, meeting at New Delhi on July 15, 1986 expresses profound grief at the passing away of Comrade Le Duan, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam at Hanoi on July 10, at the age of 79.

Comrade Le Duan, a close comrade-in-arms of Comrade Ho Chi Minh, was an outstanding leader of the working class and of the Vietnamese revolution, which was of international significance. Comrade Le Duan came from a working class family with tradition of patriotism and was conscious of the revolution at an early age. He was one the greatest Marxist-Leninist of the present era and as the leader of the Workers' Party and later the Communist Party of Vietnam, led the people arduously through the path of scientific socialism as propounded by Marx and Engels, based on proletarian internationalism. It was with this steadfast allegiance to the tenets of Marxism-Leninism that he worked under the leadership of Comrade Ho Chi Minh in the protracted struggle of the Vietnamese working class and the people in defeating the French and Japanese imperialists and then had to take up the reins to vanquish the mightiest imperialist power of the world — the USA. During the course of this protracted life or death battle of the Vietnamese people against the imperialists, Comrade Le Duan had to undergo imprisonment for a period of about 30 years and was deported twice to the Poulor Condor Islands. But even from the prisons

he alongwith other comrades led the struggle against the imperialists and organised political classes to build up workers for the liberation of the country. Within fifteen years as the First Secretary of the Party, Comrade Le Duan successfully led the Vietnamese people in dealing a crushing blow to the U.S. aggressors, liberating the South and reunifying the country, taking the whole nation towards socialism. The Communist Party of Vietnam under his leadership also worked for the liberation of Kampuchea and Laos and discharged its task of upholding the banner of proletarian internationalism to defend the revolution in Kampuchea when it was endangered by the despotic Pol Pot clique.

As a leader of the war ravaged country, Comrade Le Duan greatly valued international peace and did his best to preserve and promote it, welcoming all proposals of the Soviet Union and the Socialist block for genuine peace. He never yielded to the imperialist threats, blackmail and machinations, and throughout his revolutionary life made it clear that real and lasting peace cannot be established unless imperialism is rooted out.

The CITU dips its red banner in honour of the great departed leader and conveys its heartfelt condolences to the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions, the working class and the people of Vietnam and to the bereaved members of his family.

mass against discrimination and emerge as powerful champion of the rights of minority community. This will be another blow to the fundamentalist appeals.

The working class and its trade unions cannot but criticise and sharply attack the opportunist policies of the Cong (I) and the Central Government run by it. The Cong (I) and the Central Government compromise with the forces of destabilisation and communalism to protect their electoral following. Under Hindu communal pressure Cong (I) Govt in UP offered unmitigated provocation to the Muslim mass when it decided to open the Babri Masjid/Ram Janam Bhoomi Temple. This has led to communal tension all over the country. The Central Government prostrated itself before the Muslim fundamentalists when it sponsored the notorious Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill in the Parliament. This followed its debacle in the Assam elections due to loss of Muslim vote. The Cong(I) Party does not fight the divisive forces politically. It either relies on administrative measures or capitulates under their pressure.

The record of opposition bourgeois parties is also deplorable. They do not see the imperialist designs behind the divisive forces. They are prepared to use them for electoral gains. A leader of one of the opposition parties in Haryana is now openly denouncing the Punjab Accord and helping the game of the terrorists.

In contrast stands the record of the left parties and the united trade union movement of West Bengal. Defeat of Cong (I) in the recent municipal elections in the State was not only a rebuff to the Cong (I) party but also a rebuff to the divisive and communal forces and assertion of national and class unity. This is the model the working class and trade union movement have to follow.

The 9th August day should be widely observed. Every effort should be made to secure the mass participation of the workers and participation of their organisations. Let not any organisation of trade union remain outside the programme.

It is obvious that the constituents of the programme of the National Integration Day against divisive forces will represent view points which may not completely agree with each other. However, there is a keen desire to isolate the forces of disruption and assert the sense of national unity. All speeches and activities of the programme should be based on this common desire to wage a battle against the enemies of national unity.

Let the 9th August programme be the beginning of a massive and relentless battle against US plans to dismember the country, a battle to defend national unity. Let the disruptors know that the working class and its organisations will have the last word. Experience of modern times shows that

only the working class and its organisations can save the unity and integrity of the country overcoming all other sectional and sectarian considerations. It is the responsibility of India's working class and the trade union movement to discharge this historic task.

CPI(M) M.P.s Demand India's Withdrawal from Commonwealth Games

BASUDEB ACHARYA, M.P., Leader CPI(M), Lok Sabha and Dipen Ghosh, M.P., Leader, CPI(M), Rajya Sabha issued the following statement to the Press on July 15:

We note with concern that the Central Govt. is still dragging its feet to take a firm decision about withdrawal of India's participation in the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games, though certain African countries have already taken such a decision. We consider that India should also take a stand not to take part in the said Games, in the background of the aggressive offensives by the apartheid regime of South Africa on the people of South Africa, Namibia and their neighbouring countries and the British Govt's refusal to enforce sanctions against the racist South African regime. This stand, we feel, will be in conformity with the expressing of our country's solidarity with the people of South Africa, Namibia and other African countries against the apartheid regime in South Africa.

We, therefore, demand of the Central Govt. not to send Indian contingent for participation in the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games.

CITU Delegation to China

On the invitation of All China Federation of Trade Unions, a good will delegation of CITU will leave for China on August 5 for a three week visit to the country. The delegation consists of Jamini Saha, W.C. Member; Rajdeo Goala, General Council member (both from W. Bengal); C. Nanjundappa, G.C. member and General Secretary of the Karnataka State Committee of CITU and Ranjit Basu from the Central Office. The delegation will visit several places in China and is expected to return by August 30.

Central Govt Employees And the Fourth Pay Commission

Nrisingha Chakrabarty

THE Fourth Pay Commission has submitted on June 30 last the four-volume first part of their report dealing with Pay and Allowances of Central Govt Employees. It draws satisfaction that it has recommended such pay scales and allowances which would "enable a government employee to lead a clean, honest and respectable life at a standard compatible with what he likes to obtain or accept as reasonable at his level of living."

But the consternation and concern among the government employees for denial of parity in wages with public sector is universal and even the most ardent supporter of the Govt among the Central employees organisations in the JCM who initially were ready to welcome the report, have, on a study decided unanimously to observe a Protest Day on August 12. It is not that there are nothing to welcome in the report. There are some aspects, but on the main question of parity in emoluments with the Public Sector, the report has not done justice to the Govt employees.

Widening Gap in Emoluments

The Second Pay Commission while formulating the Pay Scales of Central Govt Employees had adopted a fair comparison formula and recommended pay scales not unfavourably compared with those prevailing in Banks, LIC for common posts like Peons, Clerks, Stenographers, Typists etc.

But what is the position today? The Pay Commission notes that "If the salaries of central govt employees at the lowest level are to be revised to bring them at par with those paid by public undertakings it would amount to an increase of about Rs. 320/- per month over the present emoluments". This is without HRA etc. A public sector employee of the lowest level gets a House Rent Allowance of Rs. 55/- in any unclassified cities (10 per cent of their basic pay) and Rs. 165/- in 'A' class city at the minimum (30 per cent of the basic pay).

Can there be any doubt that the recommendations of the Pay Commission of an increase of 20 per cent of their old basic pay which is 6 per cent or less of their present emoluments and works out such a small sum that an over-all minimum of Rs. 50/- had to be put in, would be considered unsatisfactory? Surely not and the Central Govt employees have articulated their protest through various means.

Back Ground of the Parity Demand

Before examining the arguments put forward by the 4th Pay Commission to deny parity in wages, it

is necessary to trace the wage fixation of Central Govt employees. During the Second World War, 'Rau Court of Enquiry' was set up to determine the minimum wage and they had recommended Rs. 25/- as the minimum in 1939 prices. The First Pay Commission fixed wages on a slightly lower scale which resulted in a dissent note by the labour representatives in the Commission. The Principle of automatic linking of D. A. to neutralise increase in prices was first propounded by the 1st Pay Commission. The Govt accepted this in principle but did not implement it. But such automatic linking has now become common for both public and private sector. The 1st Pay Commission hoped that as a "National" Govt is taking over the governance of the country, the employees will be given a 'fair wage' shortly. The Govt had also set up a "Committee on Fair Wages" (CFW) which stated that between need-based minimum which is a must for every industry/undertaking and a "living wage", fair wage should be determined on the basis of capacity of the industry to pay. It also said that those who are not able to pay the need-based minimum has no right to conduct business. The 15th Indian Labour Conference had unanimously recommended the norms for need-based minimum wage. As the Conference was Chaired by the Union Labour Minister, high hopes were roused that the Govt would accept the recommendation.

It was at this stage the Second Pay Commission came out with the "favourable comparison" formula, drawing its sustenance from the concept of "Equal Pay for Equal Work" and had chosen some common categories of office-employees. The Central Govt employees struck work for 6 days but were ruthlessly suppressed.

Another point of interest is that the wages in Public Sector undertakings established upto the year 1960 had more or less comparable scales of pay with Central Govt employees. In fact in 67 public sector undertaking including the Hindustan Steel Construction Ltd., the Central Govt pattern of scales of pay and D.A. formula are still in vogue.

The Public Sector employees had been able to make a break through in 1970s which was discernible in 1973 itself and now has gone to such a length. The Third Pay Commission admitted justifiability of the argument in favour of parity in wages. But did not grant parity on monetary consideration. They urged upon the Govt to restrain wage rise in Public Sector.

Gains Despite Wage Freeze

It is not that the Govt of India did not try to choke the wages of the public sector employees. In

1973-74 a general wage freeze was sought to be imposed. Since then the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) had tried to impose restriction of wages to 10 per cent, then to 12.5 per cent and then to link wages with increase in productivity and so on. But the Public Sector employees through united and determined struggle could secure these gains.

Nevertheless it must be noted that the Public Sector employees have not been able to secure need-based minimum wage as yet which as worked out by them comes to Rs. 1500/- on 600 points of C.P.I. which they have now demanded during the next phase of wage negotiation.

What the Pay Commission has Recommended

Before going into the tenability of the arguments offered by the 4th Pay Commission to deny parity in wage, it has to be put on record as to what has been recommended by the Commission.

On the question of Pay they have fixed the pay-scale on 608 points of C.P.I. (1960-100) with effect from 1.4.1986. The total emoluments of the Central Govt. employee, as was being drawn by him would be combined together and refixed in the new pay scales with a 20 per cent increase over the old basic pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 50/-. This increase constitutes 6 to 7 per cent of the total emoluments on 1.4.86.

On the question of Dearness Allowance, the Commission has recommended that it should be refixed twice in a year in September and March taking into account the yearly average as existing in the six months from January to June and then from July to December. The D.A. should be given as percentage of pay equivalent to percentage increase over 608 points ignoring fractions of points and amount both. The rate of neutralisation should be cent per cent for those drawing Rs. 3500/- as basic pay, 75 per cent for those drawing between Rs. 3501/- and Rs. 5000/- and 65 per cent for above.

On the question of House Rent Allowance (HRA) the earlier system of payment according to percentage of pay has been reversed. It has recommended that HRA should be paid to all who are not provided with Govt accommodation, including unclassified cities. The quantum of HRA has been fixed according to pay ranges and the eligibility of different types of accommodation. The cities belonging to A, B-1 and B-2, have been grouped together and given the same amount of HRA, i.e., Rs. 150/- as against Rs. 30/- or Rs. 20/- which they were in receipt of earlier, thus giving a nett increase of 120/- to Rs. 130/-. For 'C' class cities it has been revised to Rs. 70/- at the minimum while they were in receipt of Rs. 15/- only. This constitutes less than 10 per cent. For those in unclassified cities would get Rs. 30/- as minimum constituting only 4 per cent of revised pay.

Only those employed in A, B-1 and B-2 were

eligible for getting City Compensatory Allowance. The commission had maintained the same. Earlier it was 6 to 6.5 per cent for those in A cities. Now while the minimum amount has been raised by Rs. 18/-, the maximum has been increased by Rs. 25/- only. In terms of percentage however it has been reduced to 1.1 to 4.5 per cent.

There are some other fringe benefits like Traveling Allowance, Daily Allowance etc. which are in the nature of compensation for special jobs done and hence may be ignored. The quantum of Education Allowance has been increased but not commensurate with the rise in prices.

In the background of the unjust denials to the bulk of the C & D employees, the benefits given to A & B appear to be generous giving a elitist touch to the entire report. It has also to be admitted that since the First Pay Commission this section had suffered erosion in their real wages.

Attitude to Working Women

The Commission while recommending that the working women could take leave upto one year after delivery of the child on half pay or extraordinary leave without pay at the end of normal six week period of maternity benefit, restricted it to only two children. Even Education Allowance, Hotel Fees, Stipends etc, all have been sought to be limited to two children only. It has also gone one step further and stated that the maternity benefit of 3 months leave should be restricted to two children. It escapes one's imagination as to how a Commission under a sitting judge could make such a recommendation which is illegal in terms of the Maternity Benefit Act. This shows how the campaign for family planning has influenced rational thinking.

An Analysis

The Central Govt employees particularly the railwaymen are to a great extent angry. Because after the historic strike in 1974, more than 12 years have passed. Erosion of real wage during all this period was unabated. Apart from the irregularities in compilation of Consumer Price Index Numbers, the system of yearly average and rise upto 8 points for being eligible for one instalment of D.A. remained a single big source for erosion in real wages. For example on 1st April '86, when the yearly average had come to 608, the real number was at 643. So the Central Govt. employees are not getting any D.A. for 35 points. Every month such gap had been continuing for all these 12 years. It is well known that the Rath Committee had admitted as far back as in 1978 that there are irregularities in the C.P.I. numbers at least to 7 points. Hence the employees have been receiving much less than what they would have received if their D.A. entitlement was linked to points and not to yearly averages.

The new system which has recommended cent

per cent neutralisation for those drawing upto Rs. 3500/- (a welcome feature no doubt) would continue to keep the D.A. depressed on two counts, viz (i) Due to six monthly revision on yearly averages and (ii) Ignoring of fractions both in rise in C.P.I. numbers and also in D.A. The instances cited vide Annex-13. 1 (Para 1320) show that for a 4.76 per cent increase in prices, compensation would be only for 4 per cent. Similarly if the amount works out to Rs. 12.99p, the employee would get only Rs. 12.0 only. It is not understood as to why the accepted international norm of rounding off to the higher figure if the fraction is more than .5 and ignoring the same if it is less than .5 was not recommended. Equally it is not understood as to why the basic pay was not related to 600 points of C.P.I. which would have made all calculations easy. Perhaps it was done to ensure that fraction remains at all stages, which would be ignored. Besides the workers would not get any arrears of pay as compensation for the loss of real wage suffered by them.

The increased House Rent Allowance is no doubt an economic relief, though it is less than the public sector employees.

On the question of rate of increment also the workers at the lowest level are deprived. Earlier with a basic pay of Rs. 200/- at 200 points of CPI it was Rs. 3/- per year or 1.5 per cent of pay. With a basic pay of Rs. 750/- at 608 points the increment has been fixed at Rs. 8/- or 1.06 per cent of pay.

In essence it boils down to the fact that there would be a gross addition to the emoluments of the C.G. employees of Rs. 80/- or above. But the take home pay packet will be decreased by Rs. 44.25 per month on account of increased contribution to P.F., CGHS and Group Insurance Scheme etc. Thus the nett increase in hand would be Rs. 35.75 minimum while they would get less D.A. for about 35 points or above.

For those who are provided with Govt. accommodation, the gross increase is Rs. 50/- while they may have to pay an increased Quarter rent of Rs. 33/- or may get Rs. 17/- as nett increase. Taking into account the P.F. and other deductions of Rs. 44.25, their take-home pay packet will be Rs. 26.75 less.

Specious Arguments

What is most atrocious is that the Pay Commission tries the justify denial of wage parity. What are the argument? Firstly the public undertakings are not comparable because they were created for specific purposes — an argument which has no relation with policy of wage fixing which has been described in detail. Second is that there are differences in the packet of total benefits and emoluments of these two sections, which again is not true. Because after the Supreme Court judgement on Tulsiram Patel's case was delivered on 23.7.85,

the govt. employees are worse placed than the public sector employees. The third argument which they have offered is that "the job content of even a Peon or Messenger in the Central Govt. may not be similar in all respects with that in the public sector undertakings for a variety of reasons". This is not only contrary to fact, but also contradicts the considered opinion of the Second Pay Commission. Besides what should be the difference between the emoluments? Rs. 320/- as is existing now which comes to more than 40 per cent while the wage differential between an unskilled and highly skilled or a Peon and an UDC are near about that. What happens to the concept of horizontal relativity? To cap all the Commission argues that "there is no evidence of movement of any category of employees from the Govt. to the Public Sector." As if jobs are there for the asking and the Govt. servants declined to accept even if an opening was there. The fact is that while in the initial stages the public sector management wanted workers from railways and other departments, they stopped taking further people once their requirement was over.

The leaders of the J.C.M. had given the Pay Commission virtually an Olive Branch by demanding Rs. 950/- for 600 points while all others like AIREC, AILRSA etc. had asked for Rs. 1000/- or 1050/- for 500 points. This was lower than what was prevailing in the Public Sector by about Rs. 100/- or so and they are now demanding Rs. 1500/- at 600 points of CPI (1960=100). The Commission could have disarmed the C.G. employees movement if they had accepted this. The wailing that the total burden of the Pay Commission's recommendation would be Rs. 1280 crores or so is a bunkum, as more than 20 per cent posts are vacant.

Build up United Struggle

Despite some good recommendations about confirmation etc. the Pay Commission had not been able to do justice to the question of wages of Govt. employees. For over 12 years they were forced to live a life of privation. The Commission failed to bring an end to this. The State Govt employees who also want similar wages like the public sector and the Central Govt. employees have decided to observe August 21 as Demands Day. The AIREC, AILRSA and others have decided to hold a mass Dharna before the Prime Minister's residence on August 4. So far all have demanded that the Govt. modify the recommendation in favour of the workers. In case the Govt refused to do the same, the central govt employees are bound to overcome the present disunity and start a mighty movement to win their just demands. Let all forces who are interested about a common wage policy as was decided by the Committee on Fair wages and the 15th I.L.C. come together and fight for a proper wage policy.

CPI(M) M.P.s Visit Riot Affected Ahmedabad

SUKOMAL SEN and **Amal Datta**, CPI (M) Members of Parliament visited the riot affected areas of Ahmedabad and met the Union Minister of State, **Sri Chidambaram** and the Chief Minister of Gujarat on 16.7.86.

They visited some camps where the affected people have been sheltered and talked to the affected people and heard their harrowing tales. They also visited some of the worst affected localities of the city and gathered direct experience of what happened and how things happened from the local people. Besides, they talked to cross section of other people also.

During this visit they gathered the impression that the riot was the handiwork of an organised conspiracy by the arch communal forces operating in the state. Hell was let loose in the city and suburbs starting from the evening of 9th July, 1986 the day of Rath Yatra, by these communal force, combined with the rowdy and anti-social elements.

The Bundh of 12th July, 1986 organised by the Hindu Raksha Samity and other hard core communal organisations was calculated to further aggravate the situation.

The administration and the police remained almost paralysed and there was practically a free for all for the first three or four days till the deployment of para-military forces. The confidence of the minority community on the Govt. for their safety and security was shaken after their harrowing experiences during the days of arson, looting and killing. It also appeared that some forces were very much active in creating a sharp communal division between the two communities.

The callous and casual attitude of the Govt. became further clear from the fact that although the State Govt. appointed a Judicial Commission to enquire into the last year's riot, the Commission is yet to start functioning while another riot has flared up in the State. In fact, the State Govt. instead of fighting the communal forces in a determined manner and sternly dealing with the situation is pampering the communal forces as a vote catching device.

The CPI (M) MPs requested the Chief Minister to deal with the situation firmly without any compromise and take adequate measures to restore normalcy in the State and bringing back confidence among the people.

They also appealed to the citizens to assert themselves and come out courageously for restoring amity and peace between the two communities.

Newspaper Employees Plan Demonstration

THE National Confederation of Newspaper and News Agency Employees' organisations in an emergency meeting held at Delhi on July 2, under the presidency of **S.Y. Kolhatkar**, Vice-President of **CITU**, decided to organise demonstrations in front of the Parliament and the State Legislatures, demanding immediate implementation of the interim relief award. The meeting also strongly condemned the one day closure of newspaper establishments on July 1 by the employers because the Government doubled the interim relief awarded by the Wage Board. The meeting further condemned the rabid anti-labour attitude of the employers and the newspaper barons like **Bennett Coleman & Co.**, who had gone to the **Bombay High Court** for a stay order against implementation of the 15 per cent interim relief award but failed. The meeting also congratulated the employees for their persistent struggle which only compelled the government to enhance the paltry award granted by the Wage Board. The meeting also demanded removal of the present Chairman of the Wage Board for being guided by the interests of the employers. It demanded of the Government to take stern action against the employers who refuse to implement the award and called upon employees to make the demonstrations a success and prepare for further prolonged agitation.

CITU Demands Release of Nelson Mandela

Responding to the appeal made by **WFTU** within the framework of international solidarity action for the immediate release of **Nelson Mandela**, the **CITU** Secretariat in its meeting held on July 15 decided to send a postcard sent by **WFTU** to **P.W. Botha**, President of the South African racist regime, demanding the following:

- * Unconditional release of **Nelson Mandela** and the political prisoners and detainees in South African jails;
- * An immediate end to the abhorrent system of apartheid;
- * Majority rule Now in a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa;
- * Immediate withdrawal of murderous soldiers and police from townships;
- * Unbanning of legitimate people's organisations including the African National Congress of South Africa.

The post card with the above demands was signed by **P.K. Ganguly**, Secretary.

Jute Strike On August 7

THE Jute Workers of West Bengal will observe one days' strike on August 7. Simultaneously, at the call of the Left Kisan organisations, there will be rural Bengal bandh on the same day. The decision of the strike was unanimously taken by all the seven Central Trade Unions in a meeting held on July 14 at the office of West Bengal State Committee of CITU, following the rejection of their demands of nationalisation of the jute industry, monopoly procurement of raw jute directly from the growers by the JCI etc. by the Government of India. An all party delegation had already met the Union Ministers and the trade unions had also submitted memorandum to the Prime Minister in this respect. The meeting was attended by Niren Ghosh, Kamal Sarkar, Mohd. Amin (CITU), Subrata Mukherjee, Lal Bahadur Singh (INTUC); Tarun Moitra (AITUC); Saral Deb (TUCC); Matish Roy (UTUC); Bibhas Ghosh (HMS) and Fatik Ghosh (UTUC-LS). The meeting of the Kisan Organisations was held on July 15 and attended by Paritosh Chatterjee (State Kisan Sabha); Kamal Guha (Aragami Kishan Sabha); Manoranjan Sur (W.B. State Kishan Sabha); Ashok Chowdhury (Joint Kishan Sabha) and Paritosh Sarkar (Kishan and Agricultural Workers' Sangha). The 8-point demands raised include nationalisation of the jute industry; monopoly purchase of raw jute directly from the growers by the J.C.I.; procurement price of Rs. 600/- per quintal for W-5 raw jute and Rs. 400/- per quintal for Mesta; ban on import of raw materials for synthetic bags; full implementation of the 1984 tripartite agreement; inclusion of 50 per cent of workers' representatives in the Board of Directors; fixation of the prices of jute products by the State Govt.; etc. The meeting of the trade unions was presided over by Subrata Mukherjee of INTUC, who stated in a statement that although the meeting did not decide about a general industrial strike in Bengal, but another meeting to be held shortly in INTUC office will discuss about this point.

The Left Front of W. Bengal in its meeting on July 15 supported the Jute strike and the rural Bengal bandh on August 7. In a statement, Saroj Mukherjee, Chairman of the Left Front said that the rural Bengal Bandh will cover all villages, schools, colleges, offices, courts, districts, markets, etc. It will however not cover greater Calcutta, the industrial areas of Howrah, Barackpore, Asansol, Durgapur, Kharagpur etc., the tea gardens and the railways. The Congress (I) has, however, opposed the rural bandh and will actively oppose it. Saroj Mukherjee said that the State had raised a number of demands to the Central Government which are vital for the working class and the people. If the Centre does not concede the demands, there may be a state wide general industrial strike.

On July 22, Dipen Ghosh (CPI-M) raised a calling attention motion at Rajya Sabha. On refusal of the Govt to nationalise jute industry and monopoly purchase of jute from the growers by the JCI, the entire opposition walked out.

Delhi Textile Strike Continues

THE united strike of the Delhi textile workers has now continued for nearly two months due to the adamant and anti-labour stance taken by the mill owners and the inalcitrant attitude of the Delhi Administration and the Central Government. The indefinite strike started on May 28 in pursuance of 11-point demands (reported in the last issue). Several negotiations were conducted during the period but the mill owners remained adamant not to concede the workers' demands. On the contrary, they are insisting for a productivity linked interim wage. The pro-monopoly and anti-labour attitude of the Central Government was laid bare when even the Prime Minister stated in the Parliament that he will not allow the trade union leaders to hold the country to ransom. Such attitude of the Government and irresponsible utterances by the Prime Minister gave a filip to the mill magnates.

The 20,000 workers, however, have remained undeterred, drawing support from various other trade unions and mass organisations. Having already courted arrest on June 12, and despite hundreds of charge-sheets, dismissal of trade union functionaries and involvement in false charges, the strike has taken more militant form during the period with a series of actions.

The CPI(M) initiated a meeting of the opposition parties which staged a dharna before the Prime Minister's residence on June 13. On July 8, thousands of workers demonstrated before the Parliament at Parliament Street and courted arrest. Then on July 10, the Central Trade Unions organised dharnas before the various Labour Offices under Delhi Administration at Rajpur Road, Karampura, Shahdra and Kalkaji. On July 16 again, the opposition parties organised a mass meeting at Parliament Street and also courted arrest. Basudev Acharya, the leaders of the CPI(M) group in Lok Sabha addressed the meeting among others. On July 18, the Central Trade Unions organised a massive procession from Ferozeshah Kotla Ground to Boat Club, where a rally took place, which was addressed by Hannan Mollah, MP, CPI(M) and others. Later, the workers courted arrest there. The same day, hundreds of women volunteers of the Janwadi Mahila Samiti demonstrated before the main gate of Parliament and blocked the passage for more than two hour and then courted arrest. Sukomal Sen, MP, CPI(M) raised the question in Rajya Sabha and Saifuddin Chowdhury in Lok Sabha on July 22. The State Committee of the Central Trade Unions have decided to call for a general industrial strike in Delhi on July 28 in support of the textile workers' struggle.

Late News : On July 24, the management of Ajodhya Textile Mills, an NTC mill, arrived at an agreement with the Unions agreeing to pay Rs. 70/- p.m. as interim relief, not to victimise the workers for the strike, etc. The strike was withdrawn in this mill, but continues in the other private owned mills. Welcoming the settlement, the CITU has demanded nationalisation of the private mills.

Protest Action by Railwaymen

RECOMMENDATIONS on pay, dearness allowance and other related matters made by the Fourth Central Pay Commission which has submitted its report to the Government of India on 30th June had not just disappointed the railwaymen and other central govt employees all over the country, it evoked serious resentment among the railwaymen, leading to protest demonstrations being held in front of the Divisional Railway Managers' offices throughout India on July 14. Call for the demonstration was given by the All India Railway Employee's Confederation (AIREC). The working committee of AIREC meeting at Samastipur on May 17-18, decided to hold protest demonstrations in case the Pay Commission is found to deny wages based on principle of parity with public sector undertakings, complete, neutralisation of price rise through automatic increase in DA, when its report comes out. Already there was sufficient indication in the press of rejection of the parity principle by the Commission.

LRSA: S.K. Dhar, Secretary General of ALRSA which is a constituent of the AIREC and joint convenor of National Campaign Committee for Railwaymen assailed the recommendations of the Pay Commission in a statement issued immediately after publication of its report. He accused that like all other pay commission, this commission has also cheated the workers fixing Rs. 750 as minimum wage at 608 points of consumer price index, denying the most legitimate demand of the central govt employees for wage parity with public sector undertakings like the ONGC at Rs. 1030 at 500 point CPI. He pointed out that the pay scales recommended for the running staff also are far from satisfactory though the commission claimed that a better deal had been extended to them. He commented that even the demand for a minimum pay of Rs. 800 at 500 point of CPI and Rs. 950 at 600 point CPIs submitted by the JCM organisations, a demand which was itself below a truly parity wage, has been denied by the commission. At least after this experience he said the JCM organisations should understand reality and come forward to build up a powerful united struggle to achieve real parity in wages. Dhar called upon all organisations of railwaymen and other Central Government employees to launch immediate protest against the injustice done by the pay commission.

AIRCCA: In a similar statement B.P. Chowdhury, General Secretary. All India Railway Commercial Clerks' Association denounced the retrograde recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission and has given a call for building up united movement of all trade unions.

Eastern Railway: At the call of the AIREC demonstrations in protest against the retrograde recommendations of the Pay Commission were held on 14th July in all the Divisions of Eastern Railway in front of respective DRMs. In Sealdah Division over one thousand railwaymen assembled before the DRM's Office and demonstrated their resentment for some hours by shouting slogans and through speeches. The demonstration in Dhanbad division also was participated by about a thousand workers. Large demonstrations were also held in other divisions of the railway.

South Eastern Railway: In Bilaspur division, several hundred workers marched in a procession to the DRM Office and held the demonstration. Hundreds of workers demonstrated in front of the DRM Office at Chakradharpur. Similar demonstration were held in other divisions also. Demonstrators at the South Eastern Railway Headquarters were addressed by S.K. Dhar, Secretary General, LRSA. In Khurda Division a deputation met the Divisional authorities.

North Frontier Railway: In Alipurduar the demonstration was preceded by a week long explanatory campaign during which gate meetings, workers' meetings etc were held. Similar campaign was carried out in New Bongaigaon also. Demonstration was held in Tinsukia for the first time since the Assam agitation started. The demonstrators on all Railways submitted to the respective DRM's memorandum voicing the workers' protest against retrograde Pay Commission recommendation as well as the demands of railwaymen.

Dharna on 4th August: The AIREC Central Office Bearers meeting held in Delhi on 20-7-86 expressed its serious discontentment after detailed examination of the Pay Commission report, which has given a further of life to the colonial character of the existing wage structure of Central Government employees, and decided to expose and so called "better deal" towards Government employees. The meeting ratified the NCCR decision for holding a protest Dharna on 4th August in front of Prime Minister's residence and decided to consider further course of action in the full Working Committee meeting to be held on 4th August. The meeting appealed to all Central Government Employees' Organisations for united struggle.

Protest Day on 12th August: The Working Committee of AIRF held on July 14-15 at Delhi decided to observe Protest Day on 12th August unitedly with other JCM organisations. The meeting also discussed the question of a National Convention
(Continued on page 11)

Bank Employee's Struggle

ORGANISED under the Bank Employees Federation of India, the bank employees all over India staged dharna on July 15. The dharna was staged demanding withdrawal of ban on recruitment, filling up all vacancies, against automation and computerisation, against premature retirements and against the mass transfer policy.

The BEFI had repeatedly brought to the notice of the managements, the Govt and the public that the customer services would create problems, despite all sincerity of the employees, unless the necessary complement of staff commensurate with the increasing volume of work are provided with. The growing volume of work necessitated an annual average increase in the staff strength to about 25,000 to 30,000. But for the last three years the Government's dictum to ban recruitment had its natural impact on services, when the transactions have gone up enormously. Resultantly, the in-house work gets accumulated, for which the employees and the ordinary officers are held responsible. Apart from ban on recruitment, premature retirements have further complicated smooth functioning in the banks. In such circumstances, the Government's propaganda that the banks are over-staffed is nothing but a canard, and is only to justify its policy of automation and computerisation to retrench personnel at an unwarranted colossal cost of Rs. 500/- crores. The monstrous scheme of computerisation will result in rendering 50,000 to 1,00,000 bank staff redundant within a short time.

As since its inception BEFI is agitating on these burning problems affecting the employment security of the bank employees, its cadres have been particularly the target of attack and victimisations. However, despite the repressive measures, BEFI is continuously advancing agitational programmes including strike actions. After countrywide demonstrations on June 26 and rallies on July 8, the July 15 programme was another successful protest action against the anti-labour policies of the Government and the managements.

Dharna by Gramin Bank Employees: The Regional Rural Bank employees (Gramin Banks) similarly are also victims of the Government's anti-labour policies. The employees, totalling about 65,000 all over India, suffer from destabilities inherent in the RRB Act itself. Their wages vary from state to state and are much lower than the Commercial banks. Led by the All India Regional Rural Bank Employees Association, the employees are on agitation demanding equal pay for equal work and uniformity in wage structure all over India; regularisation of messengers (sub-staff) who are treated as casual labour; recognition of negotiating forum; pay scale for area managers, etc. At the call of the AIRRBEA, the employees will converge at Boat Club on July 29 from all over India to stage a

dharna in pursuance of the demands. The BEFI has extended full support to their movement and called upon all its units to demonstrate solidarity and champion their demands also alongwith the BEFI demands.

CPI(M) M.P.s Visit Kansara Village

SATYAGOPAL MISHRA and M.A. Baby, CPI(M) Members of Parliament visited on 17.7.1986 Kansara Village under Karti Police Station of Bihar where 8 persons belonging to agricultural labourers family of Kahar community have been killed in a combined attack of the landlord, upper castes and their goondas on 8.7.1986 following a dispute over the right for fishing in a pond. Among the 8 persons who were killed were six women. Two children were missing. Police had arrested only one culprit. People belonging to Kahar community of Kansara have already left the village. The Chief Minister of Bihar visited the place on 15.7.1986. On the tenth day of the incident the victims received only 7 days' nominal relief. Relief works are not adequate. More than 250 people with all their belongings are put into a small school building having only 8 rooms. No monetary support to construct their houses have been given so far. In the relief camp there is no medical unit. The Members of Parliament demanded: Immediate arrest of the culprits; immediate rehabilitation of the victims and total relief to the victims for one year.

The MPs also expressed their serious concern over the connivance of the administration with the criminals. Bihar State administration including police openly supports upper caste landlords and goondas when they commit atrocities of inhuman nature on Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other oppressed sections of the people, who are mainly agricultural labourers.

(Continued from page 10)

and huge rally in the capital. The United Committee of Railway, Defence, P&T other Central Government Employees in the eastern region will meet in Calcutta on 24th July to consider observance of the "Protest Day" on 12th August unitedly by both JCM and non JCM organisations.

Railwaymen abroad

Turkey Locomen Resist Excess Time Work: In the latest of what the authorities are calling acts of "resistance" engine drivers in Ankara, Turkey, refused to take trains out between 3 pm and 5 pm claiming that they are being forced to work overtime against their will. —*Transport Review, NUR, UK.*

Airline Employees' Agitation

THE Air Corporation Employees' Union, Bombay Region, had submitted a 34-point Charter of Demands to the management on June 12. On repeated representation made by the union for opening discussions on the demands, the management had assured the union leadership that 12 points out of the 34-point demands will be discussed by the Regional Director on July 3, which included withdrawal of suspension order from several employees who were made victims of a false enquiry report. But the attitude meted out by the Regional Director was extremely dictatorial and autocratic from the very beginning. Hardly 3 points were discussed, when the Regional Director put an end to the discussions stating that he cannot discuss for more than one hour. The meeting thus ended abruptly without any progress at all. Reacting to the rabidly anti-labour and arrogant attitude of the Regional Director the union held an emergent meeting and decided to launch a protest walk out and demonstration on July 4. The union has also planned to hold a series of meetings in all places to explain to the members the attitude of the management and prepare them for further struggle to achieve the settlement of the demands.

Meeting of NJCS

A meeting of the National Joint Committee of Steel Industry was held at Delhi on July 4 and 5. The meeting was attended by Mrinal Banerjee, V.K. Mohanty, P.K. Mukherjee, N. Mishra, A. Roy, R. Singaravelu, C.S. Tewari and D. Bhattacharya from the SWFI. Although the meeting was supposed to discuss the new charter of demands, but it was not discussed as the INTUC had not submitted any charter of demands. The management therefore utilised the meeting in highlighting and showing slides about the cost of labour, drop in productivity, rise in workers' wages etc, aimed at defeating the workers' claim for higher wages. The CITU and most of the other unions protested against the management's attitude. Besides, the management also shamelessly propagated the demand of INTUC to include its minority union at Salem in the NJCS to side tract the demand for inclusion of the CMOs. The Salem INTUC union recently lost all Centeen Committee seats to the CITU union. In verification also the CITU's majority has been established. Due to protests by CITU, the management however, assured to discuss the Charter of Demands in the next meeting to be held on August 12 and 13,

Consumer Price Index Numbers

(Base 1960)

State/Centre	Mar. 1986	April 1986	May 1986									
				Bangalore	713	715	732	Coonoor	680	686	690	
				Chikamagalur	625	632	632	Madurai	658	660	672	
				Kolar G.F.	638	647	658	U.P.				
Andhra Pradesh				Kerala				Kanpur	648	647	648	
Gudur	569	566	552	Alleppey	690	692	714	Saharanpur	649	651	642	
Guntur	669	668	670	Alwaye	682	668	692	Varanasi	724	723	729	
Hyderabad	647	651	669	Mundakayam	627	624	636	West Bengal				
Assam				Madhya Pradesh				Asansol	637	642	642	
Digboi	634	644	654	Balaghat	639	659	663	Calcutta	622	628	639	
Doom Dooma	498	507	526	Bhopal	723	731	744	Darjeeling	544	543	556	
Labac	473	477	481	Gwalior	652	641	644	Howrah	591	598	601	
Mariani	495	503	506	Indore	701	704	712	Jalpaiguri	508	520	536	
Rangapara	484	503	512	Maharashtra				Raniganj	574	583	590	
Bihar				Bombay	678	692	701	Delhi Territory	679	690	683	
Jamshedpur	603	611	628	Nagpur	648	654	656	Other Centres				
Jharia	539	547	553	Sholapur	674	662	665	Berhampur ('49)	861	859	886	
Kodarma	625	637	640	Orissa				Cuttack ('49)	831	843	854	
Monghyr	630	631	652	Sambalpur	579	582	683	Jabalpur ('49)	826	836	848	
Noamundi	550	553	555	Punjab	649	656	676	Beawar ('51-52)	738	723	725	
Gujarat				Amritsar	636	648	643	Tripura ('61)	577	602	612	
Ahmedabad	609	620	632	Rajasthan				H.P. ('65)	467	470	475	
Bhavanagar	678	699	703	Ajmer	633	640	648	Goa ('66)	492	492	505	
Haryana				Jaipur	659	637	650	Bhilai ('66)	414	419	423	
Yamunanagar	643	645	634	Tamil Nadu				Bhilwara ('66)	413	413	410	
J. & K.				Madras	649	644	647	Chhindwara ('66)	338	340	342	
Srinagar	694	703	760	Coimbatore	687	691	693	Kothagudem ('66)	423	421	431	
Karnataka								Rourkela ('66)	429	437	440	
Ammathi	635	630	656					All India ('60)	638	643	651	

(Figures in bracket indicate base year)

AROUND THE STATES

BIHAR

May Day Centenary Celebrations: The Bihar State Committee of CITU organised May Day Centenary celebrations in all districts of the State from May 1 to 7. The State centre printed 45,000 badges and 10,000 posters and distributed the same to all industrial centres.

The Patna a massive procession was taken out on May 1, jointly with AITUC, which culminated in a rally in front of the Reserve Bank. The rally was addressed by Srikant Sharma of CITU and K.K. Gopalan of AITUC apart from leaders of various other trade unions. Another rally was held in front of BATA shoe factory on May 2, which was addressed by Yogeshwar Gope, the State CITU President. The CITU unions at Ranchi and Hatia organised rally and public meeting on May 1. On May 4, the Coordination Committee organised a Seminar at Hatia, which was addressed by Yogeshwar Gope. At Lohardaga, the CITU unions organised rallies, public meetings and seminars from May 1 to 6. At Jamshedpur, a big public meeting was jointly organised by CITU and AITUC, which was addressed by Yogeshwar Gope and Chaturanan Mishra, the President of AITUC. The CITU unions continued the celebration organising seminars, etc. At Hazaribagh, the May Day Centenary Committee alongwith the Colliery Labour Union decorated the entire town and the colliery areas with red flags. Thousands of leaflets were distributed. Several rallies were addressed by Chandni Prasad, State General Secretary, Ramnika Gupta and Nand Kishore. The Giridih District Committee of CITU observed the centenary, from May 1 to 7 in all the industrial centres with rallies, public meetings and cultural shows. At Dhanbad, Jharua and Nirsas the CITU unions held celebrations for several days. A big rally was held at Children's Park on May 1. A seminar was held on Imperialism. The DVC Shramik Union organised seminars on May 11 and 12 at Panchet and on May 23 at Maithon. At Motihari, the celebrations were organised under the banner of the Centenary Committee. The rally was addressed by leaders of CITU, AITUC and other organisations. The rally demanded holiday on May 1 and trade union right to the Government employees. CITU distributed 1000 copies of its Manifesto in the rally. Similar rallies were held at Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Deogbur, Sahibganj and Dumka. At Begusari, CITU organised rallies in the village areas also participated by fertiliser and beedi workers in large numbers. At Bettiah a public meeting was organised by CITU.

Joint Movement in Fertilizer Plant: The workers of the Hindustan Fertilisers Corporation, a Central Public Sector undertaking at Barnuni are on struggle demanding recruitment of contract workers as regular employees in 173 vacancies advertised by the management. It was the long standing demand

of the contract workers who were engaged in perennial jobs for absorption as regular employees. The management also agreed with the Joint Action Committee consisting of the Mazdoor Ekta Kendra and the Urvarak Karkhana Shramik Sangh that recruitment would be given from the contract workers. But violating this agreement, the management in conjunction with the so-called recognised union and INTUC started recruitment from other sources. When the workers went on agitation, the management deployed hoodlums to beat up the union activists. On June 2, the hoodlums entered the factory and beat up several workers. The workers launched protest actions and hunger strike from June 3. On June 16, M.A. Baby, M.P., CPI (M), met the Union Minister of State for Fertiliser alongwith the representatives of the unions and submitted a memorandum to him. The Minister assured to take suitable measures on the issue.

KARNATAKA

May Day Centenary Celebrations: As a part of the May Day celebrations, the CITU State Committee distributed 2000 copies of the CITU Manifesto in Kannada language. It also brought out 3000 special number copies of CITU Sandesha, 800 copies of May Day and the Tasks of the Working Class by V.J.K. Nair, in Kannada and 5000 copies of a pamphlet on unemployment in Kannada by C. Nanjundappa.

CITU flags were hoisted over the quarters of the workers from May 1 to 31 at Kolar Gold Fields, Gulbarga, Dandeli, in coffee plantations and other places. A state convention on unemployment was held on May 22 at Bangalore, which was inaugurated by B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU (*report published below*). Seminars were also organised for three days on Trade Unions and Social Changes at Harihar in the first week of May. At Bangalore on May 1 a massive procession of about 25,000 workers was jointly organised by CITU, AITUC and several other organisations of Central Government Employees, BEFI, AIIEA, HAEA, etc. The procession culminated in a mass rally at National High School ground, which was addressed among others by Suryanarayana Rao (CITU), M S Krishnan (AITUC), Keshav Murthy (State Govt Employees), etc. As a preparation of the rally, about one lakh leaflets were distributed, 5000 posters pasted, 50,000 badges and joint manifesto distributed and CITU conducted week long street corner meetings and processions. At Managlore, CITU and AITUC jointly organised a public meeting on May 1. At Coondapara, the CITU unions organised rallies and public meetings. At Udipi, CITU and AITUC jointly organised a rally and public meeting. At Hassan also joint rallies were held. CITU distributed 2000 leaflets. At Mysore, the celebration was jointly conducted on May 1 by CITU, AITUC, various other trade unions, SFI, DYFI and the Iranian and Palestinian Students' associations. As a part of the anti-war programme, a big procession was taken out and an effigy of the war monger Reagan was burnt. Picture exhibitions of the two

world wars were held and on 7th, dramas and movies entitled, "Down with Imperialism" and "Return to Life" were exhibited. In a similar programme another effigy of Reagan was burnt at Vamanjoor. At Bhadravati, a big joint procession of various trade unions and a public meeting was held. The CITU unions also organised rallies and meetings at Belthangadi, Kustagi, Akkialoor, Sirsi, Shimoga, Tiptoor, Hunsoor, Chamraj Nagar, Kuppevadavu, Surathkal, Kadur and other places.

Convention of Plantation Workers: The Karnataka State Convention of Plantation Workers was held at Chikmagalur on May 17 and 18. 145 delegates and observers including 16 women from the three plantation districts of Chikmagalur, Hassan and Kodagu attended the convention. C. Nanjundappa, while welcoming the delegates condemned planters who attempted to pull down the red flags hoisted by the plantation workers at their quarters as a part of the May Day Centenary celebrations. A number of delegates had to stay back at their places to defend the red flag. Inaugurating the convention, Vimala Ranadive, General Secretary of the All India Plantation Workers' Federation deplored the indifferent attitude of the Government towards the manifold problems of the plantation workers, lakhs of whom were kept as temporary, casual and contract workers and were deprived of the statutory benefits. She called upon the workers to intensify the struggle demanding nationalisation of the plantations owned by Indian and foreign monopoly capital without compensation. N.K. Upadhyaya released a book written by C. Nanjundappa on thirty years of plantation Workers' Movement. The convention was greeted by Bimal Singh, Vice-President of the Federation and Deputy Speaker of the Tripura Legislative Assembly; T.S. Māni, M.L.A.; M.M. Rajamma, Convener of the State Working Women's Co-ordination Committee and V. Sukumar. Nanjundappa placed a report on the conditions of the State plantation workers. Fifteen delegates including one woman participated in the discussion on the report. After discussions the convention decided to observe June 16 as the All India Demands Day; to conduct two weeks post card movement demanding of the State Government to notify rules under Plantation Labour (Amendment) Act, 1981; for upward revision of minimum wage to 5 paise per point and observe an All India Week in September to demand implementation of the welfare provisions of Plantation Labour Act and its amendment. The convention also adopted resolutions in support of the 4-month long strike of the Muruga Estate workers and the struggle of Jenkolli Estate workers. It elected a 12-member Co-ordination Committee with C. Nanjundappa as the Convener to co-ordinate the struggles of the plantation workers in the state.

Meeting of Co-ordination Committee: The first meeting of the Co-ordination Committee was held at Hassan on June 25. The meeting heard reports of observance of June 16. The workers in Bhagya Estate in Hassan District and the Mylemoney and Sulimane Estates in Chikmagalur district went on strike on the day and staged dharnas. The workers

also took out processions and then demonstrated before the District Planters' Associations. In Kodagu district no demonstration could be organised due to incessant rains.

TRIPURA

Strike by Plantation Workers: The plantation workers all over the state went on strike on June 16 in observance of the All India Day as decided by the conference of the All India Plantation Worker's Federation. The strike was hundred per cent successful. All the tea gardens, coffee plantations and the rubber plantations were completely paralysed by the strike. Organised under the CITU, about 8000 tea plantation workers 5000 rubber plantation workers 1000 and coffee plantation workers joined the strike. To mobilise the workers, a state level convention was held at Agartala on June 9, which was attended by over 150 delegates from all the plantations.

Following the convention, division-wise and gardenwise conventions, rallies, demonstrations and campaigns were organised in which apart from the plantation workers, workers from other trade unions, kishans, agricultural workers and students participated. The strike was opposed by the State INTUC with their full strength. The plantation owners also deployed anti-socials and goondas to intimidate the workers. But the workers unitedly faced the disruptionists and made the strike a complete success.

UTTAR PRADESH

Indefinite Strike by Electricity Workers: The electricity workers of U.P. are on indefinite strike since July 11 in pursuance of their long standing 11 point of demands, which include removal of wage disparities, rent free residential quarters, Rs. 1000/- as minimum salary, at least three promotional opportunities, cent per cent neutralisation of Dearness Allowance, etc. The workers went on a day's token strike on June 11. But the authorities remaining still adamant, the workers were left with no alternative than to go in for indefinite strike. The Government in pursuance of its rapid anti-labour policies have unleashed repressive measures on the workers, dismissing a number of them from services and getting the leaders arrested. But despite the repressive measures the strike has remained successful. In statements issued on July 11 and 15, the CITU and AITUC condemned the attitude of the government and demanded immediate negotiated settlement. *(The strike has been withdrawn from July 22 after an agreement).*

Indefinite Strike by Spinning Mill Workers: Organised under CITU, about 4000 workers of the State Cooperative Spinning Mills of Amroha, Nagina, Kashipur, Etawah, etc, are on indefinite strike since June 13 and 16 respectively, demanding implementation of labour laws, regularisation of temporary workers, etc. Before launching the indefinite strike the workers had to go through long drawn agitations which included relay hunger strike

from May 29 and one day's token strike on June 3. But the managements remained adamant and the state government intensified its repressive machinery to beat up the workers and arrest hundreds of them. In a statement on July 12, Daulat Ram, the General Secretary of the UP State Committee denounced the government's anti-labour actions and demanded immediate settlement of the workers' demands. Later on July 15, a delegation of the CITU consisting of Harsahay Singh, Daulat Ram, Ravi Sinha, Albel Singh, Kamalapati Tripathi and Munna Prasad met the State Labour Secretary and the Joint Secretary and informed them that unless the government takes measures to settle the workers' demands, the textile workers from all over the state would stage a dharna at the residence of the State Labour Minister.

Strike of Engineering Workers: Jointly led by the CITU and AITUC, the workers of the engineering industry and the engineering foundry workers have decided to go in for one day's token strike on August 11 in pursuance of their 21 point demands. The decision was taken in a joint meeting at Lucknow on July 5. The engineering workers of UP are extremely low-paid. They have demanded emoluments and DA at par with that prevailing in West Bengal. In case the employers remain adamant to resolve the demands, the second phase of the movement will include conventions, rallies, dharnas and demonstrations. In a joint statement issued on July 18, CITU and AITUC have warned the government that the workers may be compelled to go in for an indefinite strike if the demands are not settled.

Demonstrations by Kishans: The UP State Kishan Sabha in its meeting held on June 9 decided to organise demonstrations before the District Magistrates on July 2 and submission of memoranda containing the demands formulated by the Golden Jubilee Kishan Conference held at Patna. Accordingly, demonstrations were held before the different District Magistrates. As per reports so far, in 15 districts, thousands of kishans and agricultural workers participated in the demonstrations and submitted the demand memoranda. More than 40,000 leaflets were printed by the State Kishan Sabha for the campaign.

W. BENGAL

Conference of DVC Shramik Union: The Third central Conference of DVC Shramik Union was held at Durgapur Thermal Power Station Township from April 11 to 13. The conference was inaugurated by Prabir Sengupta, Minister of Power, W. Bengal and greeted by P.C. Malik, M.P., Dilip Mujumdar, MLA, Tarun Bhatteerjee, MLA and others. It also received messages of greetings from Jyoti Basu and Samar Mukherjee. About 450 delegates from all the DVC formation and substations attended the conference. The General Secretary's report was placed by K.H. Batabyal, which was discussed by 40 delegates and adopted. The conference took a resolution affiliating the union with CITU, which was applauded by the delegates shouting slogans and blasting crackers. After the conference, a massive procession and rally was held on

13th which was addressed by various leaders. The conference elected a Central Committee with Sushil Chakravarty and K.M. Batabyal as President and General Secretary respectively.

Conference of WBMSRU: The First Annual Conference of W. Bengal Medical and Sales Representatives Union (CITU) was held at Calcutta on July 5 and 6. The conference was attended by about 800 delegates. The conference was inaugurated by Lakshmi Sen, the State CITU leader. Among those who addressed the conference were Gobindo Guha, General Secretary of W. Bengal Branch of AICAPEF; Dr. Gouripada Dutta; Paritosh Chatterjee, the State Kishan Sabha Leader; J.S. Majumdar, General Secretary, George Verghese, President and C.S. Sharma, Secretary of FMRAI, and P.K. Ganguly, Secretary of CITU. The proceedings were conducted by a presidium consisting of Niranjan Mukherjee, Sukhendu Ghosh and Jyotish Dutta. Giridhari Goswami placed the General Secretary's report which was discussed by about 50 delegates and adopted. The conference also adopted a number of resolutions; viz on danger of war and struggle for peace; on Nicaragua; on the new economic policy of the Central Government; on deletion of Act 311(2) of the Constitution; on new drug policy; on nationalisation of multinationals and Indian monopoly houses in drug industry; on struggle in Raptakos Brett, etc. The conference elected Niranjan Mukherjee as President, Giridhari Goswami as General Secretary and Samir Roy as Joint General Secretary.

Convention of ECL Workers: Jointly organised by CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS, and UTUC a convention of the Eastern Coalfield workers was held at Asansol on July 6. More than 500 delegates participated in the convention. A presidium consisting of one from each central trade unions conducted the proceedings of the convention. The convention adopted a resolution condemning the ECL, CIL and the Government of India for not fully implementing the NCWA-III, for which the problems faced by the coal workers had aggravated. There was shortage of drinking water, shortage of power, lack of medical facilities, education and lack of safety measures. There was no rehabilitation of villagers affected due to opening of open cast mines. The villagers around Raniganj and Barakar faced danger of collapse. The convention congratulated all the coal workers for the successful strike on April 9 and also greeted the two thousand miners of HISCO's Ram Nagar Colliery for their successful 72 hours strike from July 3 to 5. The convention decided to hold area level conventions, organise dharnas before the General Managers of the companies, demonstrate before the CMD's office, sanctoria and other places and to prepare for higher stages of struggle.

KERALA

Conference of NGO's: The 23rd Annual Conference of the Kerala NGO Union was held at Trichur from May 10-12, which was inaugurated by K.A. Keshavamurthy, Chairman of the All India Federa-

tion. The Conference was addressed by V.R. Krishna Iyer, the former Justice of the Supreme Court, who called for amendment of Art 311 of the Constitution and urged for united struggle of the workers championing the cause of the toiling masses of the country. Greeting the conference, Sukomal Sen, General Secretary of the State Government Employees' Federation congratulated the employees for the successful strike of February 26 demanding amendment of Act 311. The Conference also organised a symposium on Corruption in Civil Services which was inaugurated by V.M. Sudheeran, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and presided over by P. Subramanian Potty, the former Justice of the Supreme Court. Among those who addressed the symposium were E. Padmanabhan of CITU and K.V. Surendranath of AITUC. The Conference was also addressed by K.R. Gouri Amma, who stressed for mobilising the women employees in the trade union movement. The General Secretary's report by T.K. Balan dealt with the international and national situation and the policies of the State Government and laid the tasks of the employees to face then unitedly. The report was discussed in details and adopted unanimously. The conference ended with a big procession and rally participated by thousands of employees. The rally was addressed by E. Balanandan and leaders of other political parties. The conference elected K.V. Rajendran and T.K. Balan as President and General Secretary respectively.

ORISSA

Activities of State Committee: A joint convention on power crisis was organised at Bhubaneswar on May 29 by CITU, AITUC, HMS, BMS, UTUC(LS) and other mass organisations. The Save Public Sector Day was observed by the CITU unions and various other trade unions in the public sector on May 21. The workers went in a big procession and submitted a memorandum to the Private Secretary of the Governor. On the initiative of CITU, a state level federation of textile workers was formed, which was joined by the unions of AITUC, UTUC, BMS also along with several independent unions. Lambodar Naik, Pradip Das and R. Sarangi, the CITU State Council members were elected President, Vice President and Secretary of the federation. The federation chalked out a charter of demands to mobilise the textile workers. In the meantime a number of textile unions comprising of about 5000 membership have got affiliated with CITU. In the Bhaskar Textile Mills also despite hooliganism and intimidation by the INTUC and a local Congress(I) MLA, the membership of the CITU unions have raised. CITU organised a gate meeting on June 22, when 1300 workers out of 2000 in the mill paid subscription to CITU. To resist the growing goonda and police attacks on the CITU unions the All Orissa Mining and Mineral Transport Co-ordination Committee has decided to observe a Protest Day on July 23. The State Council of CITU has decided to hold the next State Conference at Barbil in October-November.

HARYANA

Convention on Communal Harmony: A joint convention on Communal harmony was organised at Panipat on June 15 by CITU, AITUC, HMS and BMS, which was participated by 300 delegates. Among those who addressed were Prithwi Singh (CITU), Darshan Singh (AITUC), Ajit Khurana (BMS) and R.K. Saigal of HMS. The resolution called upon the workers to fight the divisive forces to maintain the unity of the country. It decided to observe August 9 as the National Integration Day as per the call of the Central Trade Unions. Another resolution was adopted supporting the struggle of the South African people against the racist regime of P.W. Botha.

Karnataka Convention Against Unemployment

The Convention was held at Bangalore on May 22 as a part of the May Day Centenary Celebration. Over 600 delegates, including 400 unemployed workers attended the convention. Inaugurating the convention, B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU, highlighted the problem of growing unemployment and the attempt of the Government to put the unemployed against the employed. He said that the trade union movement cannot remain a preserve for the employed workers only and explained the necessity of championing the cause of the unemployed, demand the right to work to be recognised as a fundamental right in the Constitution and mobilising the unemployed work force in the mainstream of the working class struggle. He called for organising a march of the unemployed workers from every state to the capital to present a memorandum to the Parliament demanding the right to work.

C. Nanjundappa, General Secretary of the State Committee moved a resolution calling for a census of the unemployed in the state and hold conventions of the unemployed in the districts and taluks prior to massive dharnas before the Employment Exchanges throughout the state on August 8. The resolution demanded reversal of the policies of the Government which caused unemployment in the country; incorporation of the right to work as a fundamental right in the Constitution; unemployment relief; opposition to the policy of job killing automation and computerisation; to open the closed factories and lift ban on recruitment imposed by the Government. Among these who spoke on the resolution were V.J.K. Nair, S.M. Basha, K. Purushottama, Nityananda, C.R. Bhatt, S.T. Shivashankar, Vasanthakumar, Prabhu Rao, etc.

As a part of the preparation for the convention, the State Committee also organised local conventions on unemployment at Dandeli, Dharwar, Harihar, Mysore and Mangalore. Apart from the pamphlet, 5000 posters and 5000 leaflets were published to draw attention to the convention and make it success.

Another convention on unemployment was also held at Kolar on July 10, which was addressed among others by T.S. Mani, MLA; R. Venkataramaiah, MLA; S. Savaridoss and A. Jayaram.

Conference of CSIR Employees' Federation

THE 13th Annual Conference of the All India Federation of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Employees' & Workers' Unions & Associations was held at Roorkee from May 22 to 24. Delegates from all over the country representing National Laboratories and Institutions of CSIR attended the conference.

The Conference assailed the new economic policy of the Government of bringing in imported technology, which will only help the multinationals and satisfy the imperialist agencies like the IMF and the World Bank. The policy will seriously hamper the work of the scientific institutions like the CSIR and nip the task of making the country self-sufficient in the field of science and technology in the bud. The conference demanded a better science policy in consonance with India's socio-economic needs. It denounced the policy of computerisation which will further increase unemployment in the country. The conference warned the Government against any attempt to dismember the CSIR and demanded that the Review Panel set up by the Prime Minister must consult the scientists and workers of CSIR before giving its final recommendations.

The conference also expressed serious concern over the growing victimisation of the trade union functionaries and that even after 44 years of the existence of CSIR, there was no security of the services of the scientists, technologists and other employees. It demanded an Act of the Parliament to ensure security of services of the employees. The other demands raised by the conference included recognition of the Federation and the Scientific Workers Associations; vacation of all victimisations; uniform promotion and retirement policy for all categories of staff including administrative staff and Class IV non-technical staff; implementation of Supreme Court judgement and extension of the benefits of the Labour Laws to the CSIR workers; implementation of Supreme Court judgement and regularisation of the daily wage employees who have put in more than six months of service; and better service conditions and parity in wages with the public sector employees.

The conference adopted resolutions denouncing the divisive and secessionist forces, demanding scrapping of NSA, ESMA, etc. It reelected Hari Mohan and B.K. Roy as the President and General Secretary respectively.

Convention of South Regional Construction Workers

THE second South Regional Construction Workers' Convention was held at Ernakulam on June 2 and 3. 120 delegates from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamilnadu attended the

convention, which was conducted by a presidium consisting of T.M. Mohammad, H.K. Pisharady, P.K.N. Moorthy and M.T. Kuriakose. M.M. Lawrence, Secretary, CITU hoisted the red flag. Inaugurating the conference, M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU critically explained the new economic and industrial policy of the Government of India and how the multinationals were entering the construction industry. He held the Government's policy responsible for the present deplorable conditions of the construction workers and the threatened closure of the HSCL and EPI and urged for united struggle against the Government's policies. T.H.K. Warriar placed the work report which was discussed and adopted. Debanjan Chakrabarty, Convenor of the All India Co-ordination Committee in his address urged for co-ordinated struggle on an all India level. On the first day there was a symposium on Women's Liberation which was presided over by M.M. Lawrence and addressed among others by P. Govinda Pillai, Abdul Salam, Shamim Aliar, Soni Kamath, Shamsuddin, Josephine, etc. The conference also appealed for contribution towards the Nicaraguan fund and an amount of Rs. 152 was collected on the spot. To conference also adopted several resolutions on national and international issues. On the second day afternoon a mass procession and public meeting was held which was participated by over 5000 workers including a large number of women.

Conference of NPCC Workers

THE 9th Annual General Conference of National Projects Construction Corporation Workers' Union (CITU) was held on May 11 at Shramik Bhawan, the W. Bengal State Committee building at Calcutta. A presidium consisting of Nirmal Roy, K.C. Ghosh, Ajoy Roy and A.P. Prasad conducted the proceedings. Inaugurating the conference Ajoy Roy briefed the international situation threatened by nuclear war preparations by the USA and called upon the delegates to intensify the struggle for peace extending full support to the Soviet peace proposals. He also assailed the domestic policies of the Central Govt. and called for united struggle against these policies. The conference was then greeted by fraternal delegates from NPCC Barrage & National Workers' Union, Godavari (AP) and the Coordination Committee of Construction Unions (W.B.).

Binoy Mukherjee, the General Secretary placed the annual report and Atul Chandra Giri, the Treasurer placed the accounts. 16 delegates participated in the General Secretary's report narrating their experiences of organising united struggles. The report and the accounts were adopted after the replies. The conference adopted a number of resolutions which included the demand for a law on construction workers, on sick units, against war, etc. The conference also decided to send a delegation to meet the management at the Registered

(Continued on page 20)

Book Review

THE STORY OF THE PAST:
How we Became Communists in Jails
English Version of
ATEETER KATHA:
KARAGARE COMMUNIST HABAR
KAHINI — Bengali)
Author: Sudhansu Das Gupta.
Translated by
Leela Sundarayya
Price: Rs. 15/-
Available at: Nishan Prakashan,
Calcutta 700009.

IT is a pleasant surprise to note that Comrade I Sudhansu Das Gupta, who is noted for his journalistic contribution based on Marxist ideology had the experience of a trade union worker. This had been the practice of the old guards who believed that theory must be put into practice, one must work in the class organisation of the working class in order to get a class orientation in the thought process which would help him to get declassed if he comes from any other class origin.

The book is a lucid portrayal of the hurdles which the communists had to cross in the old days for arming themselves with Marxist-Leninist ideology. Only a few books were available in India. The British imperialists did not allow these books to come to the country freely. On the other hand, they struck at the communists in the early stages once in Kanpur conspiracy case in 1924 and then in Meerut conspiracy case in 1929 in order to stifle the growth of the ideology. But the communists turned the court into an instrument of propagating the communist views.

The book covers an important period of freedom movement when on one hand, there was peaceful non-co-operation movement and on the other, the death defying struggle of the early revolutionaries who were engaged in armed struggle, was sweeping the length and breadth of the country. The early communists thrown to the jails between both these sections of freedom fighters worked patiently to show them correct scientific analysis of the development of society, the economic laws of exploitative systems and the necessity to arm oneself with the correct Marxist-Leninist ideology to build up a political party which could work for ushering in socialism in our country.

Incarceration generally weighs down the fiery spirits. Despondency takes over, if the political prisoners do not utilise the time to develop themselves theoretically. Serving long sentences in the far away cellular jails of the Andaman Islands, the communists had won over finest sons of our country to the communist movement. The story would help all to understand how patiently the communist movement in India was built up. This is a commendable

book for all those who would like to know the past.

As far as the translation of the book is concerned, the author has correctly complemented Com. Leela Sundarayya for her depth of understanding Bengali language and rendering the same to English.

—Nrisingha Chakrabarty.

Mass Dharna by Electricity Workers

THE Working Committee of the Electricity Employees Federation of India, meeting at New Delhi on July 7 under the Presidentship of E. Balanandan decided to stage a mass dharna and rally at Boat Club on August 12 when the Parliament will be in session. The meeting fixed the statewide quota of each affiliated union, and it is expected that about 5000 workers from all over the country will converge at the Boat Club.

The programme was taken in pursuance of the decision of the meeting held at Calcutta on March 26 to press the Government of India for resolution of the Charter of Demands formulated by the EEFI at its foundation conference at Trivandrum. As part of the preparation and campaign to make the rally successful, the meeting decided to print posters and leaflets in English, Hindi and other regional languages for distribution among workers.

The meeting also took stock of the activities of the affiliated unions in various states. H.S. Minhas from Punjab stated that the secessionist extremists entered the office of the State Electricity Board on more than one occasion and killed 16 workers brutally, including one junior engineer belonging to the union. A joint protest action was launched by the union and Rs. 20,000/- was paid to the bereaved family of the engineer from the union's Benefit Fund for which a mass function was organised. The union was mobilising workers for joint peace movement. Amarnath from Haryana reported that under the banner of CITU they were also carrying on peace movement in the state. Krishnakant Verma from Rajasthan explained the efforts to bring in the electricity unions under the fold of CITU and EEFI in the state. K. R. Unnithan from Kerala reported about the united struggle being carried forward and further consolidation of the CITU unions in the State. D. Janakiraman, the General Secretary, reported that in Tamilnadu, the CITU union was the main force of the electricity workers and they were carrying forward the united struggle despite repressive measures by the managements particularly against CITU.

The meeting also discussed organisational matters and steps to be taken to strengthen the EEFI in several other states like Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, etc. The next meeting was decided to be held at Delhi on August 12 after the rally to assess the success of the programme and take further decisions.

West Bengal All Party Delegation Meets Union Ministers

AN all-party delegation of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly met the Union Minister of Industry, N.D. Tiwari on 25th June, 1986 and the Union Minister of State for Textiles, Khurshid Alam Khan on 27th June, 1986 at New Delhi.

The delegation was led by Nirmal Bose, Minister for Commerce & Industries of the State Government, and it consisted of Santi Chatak, Minister of State in charge for Labour, Patit Paban Pathak, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, and Kamal Sarkar, Dinesh Chandra Dakua and Sadhan Chattopdhyay (CPI (M)); Ambika Banerjee and Asok Ghosh (Congress); Saral Deb and Rabindra Ghosh (Forward Bloc); Amalendra Roy and Debsaran Ghosh (R.S.P.); Kamakshya Ghosh (C.P.I.); Probodh Chandra Sinha (D.S.P.); Debasprasad Sarkar (S.U.C.); Bankim Behari Maity (W.B.S.P.) and Umakanta Roy (R.C.P.I.), all M.L.A.s. Indrajit Gupta and Pijush Tirkey, M.P.s, were present during the discussion.

Paper Industry

In the memorandum submitted to the Union Minister for Industry, the delegation brought to his notice the serious crisis the paper industry in West Bengal was passing through. The paper industry of the State which is more than hundred years old is suffering mainly because of shortage of raw materials, like bamboo and hard wood the main source of which were the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa and also M.P. and Andhra Pradesh. The delegation urged upon the Minister to ensure supply of these raw materials at the same price for the paper industry everywhere. The delegation emphasised that raw materials for industrial processing should be freely available throughout the country and urged that in the national interest the Government of India should devise an appropriate mechanism in consultation with the concerned states whereby the old and expired forest basis of these units in other states can be revived and leases granted so that non-availability of raw materials should not cripple the paper industry in West Bengal. The Minister was also requested to ensure the supply of funds for modernisation of paper industry. The particular problems of the Bengal Paper Mills (Raniganj), the Titagarh Paper Mills and the Paper Pulp (Naihati), mainly in relation to Bank finance, were also discussed. In case of Bengal Paper Mills, the delegation urged that the agreed package of assistance should be implemented by the concerned banks, so that the unit can reopen without further delay. In case of Titagarh Paper Mills the delegation pointed out that

the Unit 1 of the mill has been under closure since September, 1985 and Unit 2 of the mill is also under notice of closure. In view of the financial and management problems of the mill, the delegation demanded that the mill should be nationalised. Regarding the India Paper and Pulp to the Minister's attention was brought to the fact that due to an appeal filed by the United Bank of India contesting the reserve price at which the Government of West Bengal had purchased the company through auction in 1981 and due to the Union Finance Ministry's approval of this step, the company was unable to secure any help from the Financial Institutions by hypothecation, as by the High Court's ruling no asset of the company could be hypothecated pending the disposal of the appeal. The memorandum urged upon the Government of India, Ministry of Finance to take up the matter with the UBI so that it withdraws the case enabling the company to take help of institutional finance and modernise it and make it viable.

The Minister assured the delegation that he would take up the issue of supply of adequate quantity of raw materials at reasonable prices with the Chief Ministers of Assam, Bihar and Orissa very soon. He assured the delegation that his ministry would take up with the appropriate banks the problems of three big paper mills in the State.

Jute Industry

In the memorandum submitted to the Union Minister of State for Textiles, the delegation brought to his notice the imminent danger of the collapse of entire jute industry, earning about Rs. 300 crores of foreign exchange annually, and affecting the lives of 2.5 lakh workers and 25 lakh jute growers in West Bengal. The delegation discussed at length the crisis faced by the jute industry because of the competition from synthetic goods. It also criticised the policy of the Union Government for substituting jute bags by gradually increasing the use of synthetic bags by Union Public Sector undertakings and the insistence of the Railways that for carrying salt by the Railways, only polythene bags and not jute bags would be used. The delegation urged upon the Minister to take immediate steps to ban the import of synthetic goods to save jute industry. It also demanded that the jute industry should be nationalised without any further delay. By pointing out the pitiable condition of jute growers for not getting a reasonable price for raw jute, the delegation demanded that the Centre should ensure a reasonable price for raw jute and

arrange for monopoly procurement of jute by the J.C.I.

Textile Industry

The delegation also brought to the notice of the Minister the problems of Cotton Textile Industry in the State. Referring to the recent order of the Union Government that the composite textile mills and powerlooms would not be allowed to produce dhoties and sarees any more, and the production of these items would be reserved for handlooms only the delegation stated that, the policy should be rationalised in such a manner that no existing mill is closed and there is no retrenchment. The Minister was requested to streamline the management of N.T.C. Mills in West Bengal, and to ensure regular supply of finance and cotton for these mills. While demanding again for the phasing out of freight equalisation policy, the delegation demanded that cotton should be made available for the textile units in West Bengal at the same price it is now available for units in other cotton growing States. The attention of the Minister was also drawn to the unsatisfactory role of the I.R.B.I. in making efforts for reviving the sick units like Mayurakshi Cotton Mills and Sri Durga Cotton Mills.

Khurshid Alam Khan told the delegation very categorically that it would not be possible for the Centre to nationalise jute industry. He however, agreed that the import of synthetics was creating problem for the jute industry, and as such they had already taken steps to control this import. But it appeared that a total ban on import of synthetics would not be possible. He also ruled out the possibility of monopoly procurement of jute by the J.C.I. He said that the Union Government had already declared the support prices for different varieties of jute for the current year. But the delegation told him that these prices would not be sufficient at all. In relation to the recent order for ban of production of dhoties and sarees by the composite mills and powerlooms, the Minister said that a clarification of the earlier order had been issued, according to which the existing mills and powerlooms could produce dhoties and sarees without putting extra wharf or border on them. He also assured the delegation that necessary steps were being taken to strengthen the management of N.T.C. mills, and he would also take up with the Finance Ministry the issue of the IRBI in relation to its performance in reviving sick textile units in the State.

Apart from the memorandum submitted to the two aforesaid Ministers, Santi Ghatak, Minister of State for Labour, West Bengal also met the Union Labour, Minister, P.A. Sangma and submitted a note to him drawing his attention to the following urgent tasks:

Beedi Workers: Construction of hospitals for beedi workers at Dhulian and Aurangabad and issuing of identity cards to them for which he urged

upon the Government of India to issue notification authorising the Panchayats and the Municipal Corporation to issue the identity cards instead of the employers.

Contract Labour: (a) Abolition of Contract Labour engaged in perennial nature of jobs for years together in Durgapur Steel, Alloy Steel Project, Fertiliser factories at Durgapur and Haldia and other Central Government units in the state. (b) Alternative employment to Coal and Ash handling workers who have lost their jobs due to diesalisation of railway engines, though technically they were engaged by contractors. (c) The extension of the jurisdiction of the Central Government in matters of industrial relations to the Central Government units, Undertakings and Corporations particularly on the question of contract labour, has created serious problems in maintaining smooth industrial relations. Delay in resolving industrial disputes is creating law and order problems. As such the Government of India must take immediate steps to revert the industrial relations and other allied issues to the State Government.

On Sick Units

Santi Ghatak also submitted a list of some sick units to the Union Labour Minister urging upon the Central Government to take immediate steps for their reviva! or nationalisation. The list included National Tannery, India Rubber, Bengal National Textile, Motor Machinery, etc.

A similar joint memorandum was submitted to the Prime Minister at Calcutta on July 1 by CITU, AITUC, UTUC and TUCC.

(Contd. from page 17)

Office at Delhi in June and submit a Charter of Demands. It elected a 19 member Executive Committee with Nirmal Roy, Benoy Mukherjee and Dilip Bhattacharya as the President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Memorandum Submitted: As per decision of the conference, a delegation from different units of the union met two Directors of NPCC Ltd at New Delhi on June 27 under the leadership of M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU, and submitted a Charter of Demands for 1987-1990 and a memorandum containing various other problems and grievances of the workers.

Editorial Board

P. Ramamurti (*Chairman*)

Manoranjan Roy, Niren Ghosh,

M.M. Lawrence, P.K. Ganguly

M.K. Pandhe

Secretariat Decisions

THE Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions met at New Delhi on July 15, 1986 under the Presidentship of Com. B. T. Ranadive. The meeting was attended by Comrades Samar Mukherjee, E. Balanandan, Sushila Gopalan, Nrisingha Chakrabarty and P. K. Ganguly. At the outset the meeting adopted a condolence resolution paying homage to Com. Le Duan, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam who died at Hanoi on July 10.

Delhi Textile Workers' Strike: The Secretariat condemned the Govt of India for remaining transfixed before the textile tycoons and refusing to intervene in the struggle of Delhi Textile Workers thus lending support to the unreasonable proposals of the management. It welcomed the coming together of all opposition parties in support of the struggling textile workers, as this was likely to facilitate the working class at Delhi to unite and come into a massive solidarity action, preferably a strike action.

Strike of U.P. Electricity Workers: The meeting extended full support to the U.P. Electricity workers who have been forced to resort to strike in order to win their just demands. The Secretariat condemned the Govt of U.P. for bringing in military engineers in labour dispute instead of settling the issues through negotiation. It also expressed support to the electricity workers' struggle under EEFU, who have decided to stage a dharna at Boat Club on August 12 to demand a national wage structure for the electricity employees.

Struggle of Bank Employees: The Secretariat extended full support to the bank employees all over the country who under the leadership of BEFI unitedly observed Dharna on 15th July against ban on recruitment and the policy of indiscriminate computerisation, squeezing employment potential. The meeting also extended support to the struggle of the Gramin Bank Employees who have decided to stage a demonstration at Boat Club on July 29.

Highhandedness of IDPL Management: The Secretariat condemned the IDPL authorities who instead of solving the justified demands of the medical representatives about promotional policy and other demands had taken recourse to unfair labour practice of calling for an interview for promotion to disrupt the struggle of the medical representatives in pursuance of the demands. In order to terrorise the medical representatives who are fighting against this policy under FMRAI, they have instituted false cases against a number of the trade union functionaries with the help of police.

HSCL Employee's Struggle: The Hindustan Steel Construction employees and workers will hold a Dharna at the Boat Club on 11th August '86 against the conspiracy of closing down the HSCL Ltd. The Secretariat extended full support to their struggle.

Peerless Employee's Struggle: The meeting heard the report of the struggle of Peerless employees all over India demanding nationalisation of the company. It extended full support to the struggle and

welcomed their decision to hold an All India Convention at Delhi on August 7 in order to further step up the struggle. The meeting decided that Com. Samar Mukherjee would inaugurate the convention.

Unfair Labour Practice by Managements: The Secretariat heard reports that the owners of Orient Power Cables of Cablenagar Kota, Rajasthan are not functioning the factory for the last six months and the workers are not being paid their wages. In the Sri Sajjan Textile Mill, Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh the owners have defalcated crores of rupees and decamped abandoning the factory. In Haryana a state owned factory, Haryana Concast Ltd has stopped production from 19.5.86 without either declaring a closure or a lock-out and the workers are not being paid their wages. All these are unlawful and illegal, which indicate that the Government machinery has virtually broken down. The Secretariat condemned the Govt to its failure to protect the workers. The Secretariat called upon all State Committees to issue protest letters and telegrams to the Union Labour Minister requesting him to intervene in the matter.

Verification: The Secretariat noted that the Central Trade Unions have come to the conclusion that the next verification of membership should be conducted on 1985 membership and called upon the State Committees to ensure submission of annual returns of 1985 by the affiliated unions.

Standing Labour Committee: Nrisingha Chakrabarty reported that the Government had called the meeting of Standing Labour Committee on July 11 without consulting the trade unions on the agenda. The CITU had opposed it and AITUC and INTUC had also expressed similar views. The Government now postponed the meeting and asked for suggesting the agenda items. The Secretariat discussed the agenda items, which should be sent to the Government.

On Unemployment: In the light of the discussions held in the Calcutta General Council meeting, the Secretariat discussed the necessity of organising the unemployed workforce and directed all the State Committees to draw up programmes for the unemployed and hold conventions and send reports to the Central office.

Sugar Industry: P. K. Ganguly reported that the Wage Board in Sugar Industry had sent a questionnaire regarding wage structure and suggested to convene a meeting of the Co-ordination Committee to finalise the reply and also to finalise the Charter Demands formulated by the Calcutta meeting of the Co-ordination Committee. It was decided to hold the meeting at Delhi on August 10 and 11.

Working Committee Meeting: The Secretariat decided to hold the Working Committee meeting of CITU at Delhi in September.

(Continued on page 22)

Demand For Decasualisation of Cargo Workers

IN a meeting between the Secretary, Department of Surface Transport and the four National Federations of the Port and Dock Workers held at New Delhi on 8.7.86, the Water Transport Workers' Federation of India (CITU) strongly urged upon the Government of India for decasualisation of the Cargo handling workers at Tuticorin, New Mangalore, Paradip and Haldia under the respective Port Trusts.

The Federation argued that the Cargo handling workers in the Major Ports having Dock Labour Boards are already under the direct employment of either Port Trusts or Dock Labour Boards and following the terms of settlement dated 14.7.77, the Chairmen of the respective Ports were supposed to ensure the benefits of the settlements reached at the National level to those Cargo handling workers also, who have not yet been brought under the control of the Port Trust Dock Labour Boards. The concerned Cargo handling workers in other ports are already under the control of either Port Trust and Dock Labour Boards. Different committees and commissions appointed by the Government of India have condemned the system of private stevedoring and recommended for uniform Cargo handling agencies. Hence the proper institutions for decasualisation of these workers should be the Port Trusts.

The Federation strongly criticised the recommendation of the Abraham Committee which proposed to reduce the strength of the workers before bringing them under the Port Trusts on the pretext of under-employment. While strongly protesting the move taken by the authority of the Tuticorin port trust resulting retrenchment of 195 Coal handling workers, the Federation argued that the level of employment can be raised by undertaking all sorts of Cargo handling operation within the port and inland container depot under Port Trust.

The proposal for reduction of strength was opposed by all the Federations. The All India Port & Dock Workers Federation, the Indian National Federation of Port and Dock workers, and Port, Dock and Waterfront Workers Federation of India demanded for installation of Dock Labour Boards in these ports for decasualisation of the Cargo handling workers. But when asked for their preference between the Dock Labour Board and Port Trust as an institution for decasualisation of these workers, the Indian National Federation of Port and Dock workers and the Port, Dock and Water Front Workers Federation of India preferred Port Trust to Dock Labour Board. The Govt of India has been urged to take a decision in the matter before the next meeting to be held on 26.7.86.

Meeting of Women Workers in Coffee Curing

A meeting of women workers in Coffee Curing Works and Plantations was held at Raitha Bhavan, Hassan (Karnataka) on 19.5.86. Com. Saroja, member of Karnataka State Committee of CITU presided over the meeting. About 300 women workers from Planters Coffee Curing Works, Hassan Coffee Curing Works, Bharathi Coffee Curing Works and some Coffee Plantations (Meena Estate and Biccodu Estate) attended the meeting. Vimala Ranadive, Working Committee member of CITU, Secretary of the All India Coordination Committee of Working Women and General Secretary of All India Plantation Workers Federation addressed the meeting. In her speech, she dealt at length with heroic fights put up by thousands of women workers in beedi, coir, tobacco and coal mines in various parts of the country for equal wages and other benefits, against police atrocities. She expressed solidarity with the struggle of women workers in coffee curing establishments and advised them to continue their struggle for higher wages, job security and statutory benefits. She explained the anti-workers policies of the government with respect to computerisation, automations and mechanisations which would render thousands of workers jobless. She called upon the workers to wage powerful movements to demand right to work to be enshrined as a fundamental right in the constitution.

V. Sukumar, General Secretary of Coffee Curing Saw Mills and General Worker's Union and Karnataka State Committee member of CITU, in his address expressed serious concern over the threat of hundreds women workers losing their jobs as a result of introduction of electronic sorters in coffee curing works. Vijaya from Bharathi Coffee Works, Ahalya and Indira from Hassan Coffee Works and Saroja from Planters Coffee Curing Works also spoke in the meeting narrating their experience in the coffee curing works.

(Continued from page 21)

CITU Nominations: The Secretariat nominated P. Sanzgiri to attend the Seminar on "Indian Textile Futures — Towards an Inter-Sectoral Perspective" to be held at Ahmedabad from August 1-3. It nominated Nrisingha Chakrabarty to attend the Inter-Regional Seminar by ILO on "Work Related Welfare Facilities and Services" to be held at Baku, USSR from September 30 to October 10. It also nominated A. K. Padmanabhan to attend a seminar on "Fundamentals of Political Economy, Relations between State, Political Parties and Trade Unions," to be held at Moscow from November 15 to December 15.

CITU's Fraternal Bond with Nicaraguan Workers

CITU has received fraternal greetings from the National Executive Secretariat of the Central Sandinista Workers, Nicaragua. The letter and CITU's reply are being published below.

Managua, Free Nicaragua
June 5th, 1986

1986: 25 years...All Arms Against Aggression

Dear Comrades,

Receive fraternal greetings from all the workers of Nicaragua organised under the banner of Central Sandinista Workers.

Very cordially we hope that our communication finds your leadership in the best of health and spirits.

Our Central Sandinista has great interest in opening and deepening relations with your Trade Union Centre in a framework of friendship and fraternity amongst our workers and yours.

We would like to state that it is of interest to us to know the problems and advance of workers as also know better your reality for the sake of fuller information. We, on our part, also want to let you know the situation of Nicaraguan workers.

Without more to mention and awaiting your reply to the present letter, we reiterate our greetings.

Fraternally,
Judith Silva Jaenz
Incharge of Asia and Africa.

CITU's Reply

14th July, 1986

Dear Comrade,

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions thanks the National Executive Secretariat, Central Sandinista Workers for the message of fraternal greetings sent through your letter dated June 5th, 1986.

The CITU is happy to know the keen interest of Central Sandinista workers in opening and deepening fraternal relations with us. We reciprocate the desire in true spirit of proletarian internationalism.

The CITU is aware of the travails and sacrifice which the Sandinista people have suffered in securing freedom and what struggles they have to forge every day to fight back the contras who are openly and shamelessly being armed and funded by the U.S. imperialism. We express our firm solidarity with the Central Sandinista Workers.

We agree with your proposal of exchange of information about the problems, the struggles and advances of the workers of our two countries. We would be sending you our monthly journal, "The Working Class" which will help in explaining the situation. We are sure that the bonds of friendship between our two organisations and the peoples would continue to be strengthened every passing day.

With warm greetings,
Nrisingha Chakrabarty
Secretary

CITU's Solidarity with Sandinista Workers

On June 19, the Central Office of CITU received an open letter to the workers of the world, released by the National Executive Secretariat of the Central Sandinista Workers on May 23, requesting for solidarity with Nicaragua and for peace in Central America, in the struggle of the Sandinista Workers against the aggression by the U.S. imperialists. The CITU Secretariat in its meeting held on June 20 directed the State Committees and the affiliated unions to send message of solidarity to the Sandinista workers through the Nicaraguan Embassy at New Delhi.

Till July 24, the CITU Central Office has received copies of such messages from 64 unions in Tamilnadu and 13 unions in Karnataka. Apart from the messages of solidarity, Tamilnadu State Committee of CITU has contributed Rs. 10,000/-, besides Rs. 30/- by one union, and 36 unions; from Kerala have contributed Rs. 1978/- towards the Nicaraguan Struggle Fund. The above contributions have been received by the Central Office till July 24.

CITU's Support to BATA Workers Acknowledged

[The CITU Secretariat in its meeting of May 31, responding to the appeal of WFTU extended support to the struggle of BATA workers in South Africa. The Coordinating Committee of BATA trade unions in Africa has sent the following letter of acknowledgement].

Coordinating Committee of BATA Trade Unions in Africa

The Secretary, CITU
6 Talkatora Road
New Delhi, India

Harare (Zimbabwe)
26th June, 1986

Dear Comrades,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dt. 6th June, 1986, concerning our 4th day of Action for Bata workers in Africa.

I would like to thank you very much for the message of solidarity which will go a long way towards motivating Bata workers in Africa in their just struggle for better working conditions and living standards. We are determined to fight until Bata himself agrees to negotiate with the respective national union representatives.

We therefore appeal to your centre to continue supporting us and the struggling masses of South Africa who are under the rule of apartheid, but nothing on this planet earth shall stop the progressive forces from overthrowing exploitation of man by man. Wishing you all the best.

Yours fraternally,
I.M. Zindoga
Secretary for Co-ordinating Committee of
Bata Workers In Africa

August 6, The Hiroshima Day

IT was on August 6, 1945 that the USA dropped the Uranium Bomb ("Little Boy") on Hiroshima. Again, three days later, on August 9 it dropped the Plutonium Bomb ("Fat Man") on Nagasaki. In a matter of seconds the two cities were turned into hot ash in the 300,000 degree celsius flames. Everything in the epicentre of the explosions was atomised. Even stones and concrete melted and got fused. There remained only some ferro-concrete skeletons of a few buildings. Within 0.2 to 3 seconds of the two blasts, two lakh people were killed instantaneously. Another one lakh people died in the subsequent years due to radiation and people are still dying in Japan at the rate of about 2000 a year. About five millions were maimed and many thousands suffered serious physical and psychological damage permanently. The injuries have not been healed even today after 41 years. The injuries include large number of Leukemia cases and various type of cancer and many went blind slowly. Keloid scars in the burned areas spread over the entire body have become permanent. Severe psychological shock has led to incurable psycho-somatic diseases. The psychological damage gave rise to conditions which have been termed "Keloid of the heart" and "Leukemia of the spirit". The genetic damages caused are still lasting and may last indefinitely.

Data on the Atom Bomb damage in Japan however remained incomplete due to restrictions imposed by the occupying American forces. On September 19, 1945 pre-censorship was imposed on all branches of media. The GHQ however welcomed articles publishing the power of the bombs. A group of American reporters who visited Hiroshima on September 3 expressed satisfaction with the complete destruction of the city. In the press conference, W.H. Lawrence, the New York Times reporter extolled the qualities of the bomb. He was accorded the Pulitzer prize for the coverage of the bomb devastations.

Prologue to New War

Today 41 years after the Atom Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the burning question still stands out as to what was the real reason behind the bombing at a time when the war had virtually ended. The fascist Hitlerite force had already surrendered in May and the main force of the militarist Japan, the Kwangtung Army had also capitulated after its rout by the Soviet Union. The Potsdam conference from July 17 to August 2 had also finalised the post war settlements. Takeshi Ito, a Japanese historian and publicist had rightly stated the reason that, "with regard to the question of the use of the Atom Bombs, the United States proceeded from what was most important — its post war policy towards the Soviet Union. The Atom Bomb was the most effective means of pressurising the Soviet Union". The atomic bombing was a prologue for preparing a new war and a declaration to the Soviet Union

and other countries — either accept US diktat, agree to its global ambitions or burn in atomic hell! Documents from the Pentagon which have since been made public bear witness to the US plan to attack the Soviet Union — to drop Atom bombs on twenty industrial centres of the USSR and on the Trans-Siberian Railway. The US plans underlined its main military doctrine — reliance on a first strike. But America had to retrace from its path, because the Soviet Union took appropriate measures to defend itself. It had also produced its own Atom bombs. But in its militarist fever, the USA went on developing more and more nuclear weapons of mass destruction. Only the prompt counter measures taken by the Soviet Union to build up its defence capabilities to match the American offensive have now stood up as a deterrent to a nuclear war. The spiralling of the arms race by the USA is now threatening the world with a nuclear holocaust. Today, the combined explosive power of the nuclear weapons in the world exceeds the equivalence of two millions of the bomb dropped at Hiroshima. The United States is now embarking on the most dangerous stage in the arms race — the militarisation of the space, the Star Wars.

Revival of Japanese Militarism

But the Hiroshima Day which is now being observed by the trade unions in the world has also to point out the most paradoxical fact that Japan, which has known the horrors of the Atom bomb, has become completely drawn into the USA's strategy of preparing for a nuclear war. It is the result of the alliance of the imperialist-militarist ruling cliques. The US-Japanese Security Treaty, which was concluded in 1960, and still remains valid, obliges Japan to participate in the implementation of US military strategy in the region, including in Star War programmes, and reviving Japanese militarism. There are more than hundred US military bases in Japan. The USA has also taken the move to build a space communication centre at the Iwo Jima volcanic island, considered by the Pentagon as vital in the event of a star war.

The Hiroshima Day must remind the trade unions, the working class and the people the horrors perpetrated by the imperialists — the USA at the head, and its further plans of nuclear devastations. At the same time it must lend unequalled support to the peace efforts by the Soviet Union and the Socialist countries. The town clock at Hiroshima strikes the warning bell everyday in the morning at 8.15 AM when the bomb was dropped. A memorial to the victims bears the inscription, "Rest in peace, the mistake will not be repeated". But the bombing was not a mistake. It was a deliberate crime, and crimes must be opposed. The forces of peace must win over the imperialist forces of war and destruction. The working class must take the lead in the struggle.