



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

CITU Working Committee Reviews Activities

The Working Committee meeting of the CITU held in New Delhi on 10th and 11th July '76 reviewed the activities all over India since last meeting held at Madras in November 1975 and chalked out programme of forthcoming activities. 25 members attended the meeting. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury, Vice-President CITU presided over the meeting.

The meeting expressed its deep felt condolences at the passing away of Comrade Chu Teh, one of the topmost leaders of the Chinese revolution. By another resolution the meeting expressed its sorrow at the sad demise of Comrade Chou-en Lai, Prime Minister of People's Republic of China.

The meeting passed resolutions expressing its condolences at the passing away of Comrade Paul Robeson, noted revolutionary Negro singer, Comrade Gerald Pereira, member of Working Committee and Secretary Goa State Committee of CITU, Comrade S. Krishnamurti, a veteran trade union leader of Madras and Comrade Ramkrishna Bharolian, wellknown freedom fighter and TU and Kisan leader of Punjab. Members stood in silence for one minute each for these departed leaders and paid homage to their revered memory.

A resolution paying homage to the martyrs, Comrade A. Raghavan, Comrade Rajbhar and Comrade Kumar Dorjee, who died as a result of

gangster attacks was also passed by members standing in silence.

P. Ramamurti, General Secretary CITU while presenting a General Report at the outset reviewed the general condition of the economy. He pointed out how the recession has been taking more and more serious turn and how the country's dependence on the West has been increasing.

He observed that the helpless dependence on foreign loans despite slogan of self-reliance was rendered inevitable by the ruination of Indian economy, its internal crisis was aggravated by the biggest post world war crisis of the world capitalist system. Though spectacular fall in wholesale prices have been claimed it had not affected the retail prices and now the wholesale prices have also started gradually rising. The failure of the prices to drop commensurately at retail level had intensified the crisis of the market and added to the intensification and prolongation of recession. There could be no surprise if the rate of industrial growth goes down to less than 4 per cent in 1976-77 compared to 4-5 percent in the last year, he said. While elaborating the phenomenon of shrinkage of domestic market Ramamurti observed, "One million tonnes of steel and 10 million tonnes of coal had piled up with no internal demand. There is also accumulation of 15 million tonnes of food-grains, but it cannot be said that the mass of agricultural workers and poor peasants, the city and urban poor are able to have two square meals a day. In fact overall rate of consumption is falling. The jute, the cotton textile industry, the handlooms employing lakhs and a number of other

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industries like mini-steel plants, engineering factories are in doldrums. The number of sick cotton mills exceeds 100 and is now followed by sick tea gardens, sick jute mills and sick engineering concerns. The terrible shrinkage of the internal market is a fact which ensures under-utilisation of industrial capacity and stagnation of the economy”.

He stated that the capitalist economy can survive only if you produce cloth, sugar, fish in huge quantities etc. for foreign markets, if you utilise your skills, engineering technique in electronics in the service of foreign paymasters rather than your own people. The exports are a witness to the country's inability to consume the products of its own labour. “They are not triumphs of a flourishing economy selling abroad to enrich its own mass, its economic life. They represent deprivation and denial to the mass to keep the capitalist economy going,” he noted.

While noting certain important changes in the policy and status of Indian big capitalists Ramamurti explained, “It is in the first place leading to further dependence on the West, a greater integration with the capitalist market. Secondly this is already leading to the demand for further concessions from foreign multinational companies and private foreign capital and their acceptance by the Government. Thirdly, it is leading to releasing of controls over Indian big capital, further concessions to the private sector, the collapse of the antimonopoly Acts, opening of new avenues to the monopolists and big houses, export subsidies to the export houses and so on”.

In the desperate effort to capture foreign markets, he noted, this is leading to joint ventures abroad, export of capital, sub-contracting with foreign monopoly firms in third countries. This is creating new economic interests, new economic allies. The content of the entire process of exports imports, of offering concessions at home and seeking them abroad, is the striving for collaboration and partnership with foreign monopoly capital. This is the trend that is being established though it is also accompanied by similar measures and concessions in relation to socialist countries and new relations with third world countries. A new phenomenon of joint

ventures with socialist countries in third world countries is arising.

Elucidating how common man had to bear the burden of this export promotion, Ramamurti stated, “In 1969-70 grants and export promotion schemes including cash subsidies together with reductions and drawbacks for export promotion are estimated to have been Rs. 65 crores. The revised estimates of 1975-76 budget show this amount at Rs. 274 crores. Under the 1976-77 budget proposals the amount is likely to reach Rs. 290 crores. The announcements and concessions made since then have gifted many more crores to the exporting capitalists. A subsidy of more than Rs. 300 crores for exporting to the capitalists accompanied by impounding of Rs. 1000 crores belonging to the toiling workers sums up official policy”.

During the course of wooing of foreign capital, he stressed that, the earlier accepted norms of national bourgeois policy of not allowing foreign capital in core sector industries has been given up. It was then accepted that it would endanger the security of the country and give veto to the multi-national corporations on the development of national economy. But now the policy of the capitalists is to attract foreign capital into the core sector and make special concessions to it to invade it. If it enters the core sector, it would be allowed 75 per cent equity capital, no or less export obligation and so on—only on condition that there would be a 25 per cent share reserved for Indian capitalists.

Ramamurti emphasised that the multinational corporations are making a bid to capture the alliance of the local bourgeoisie of a number of countries by giving them a share of their subsidiaries in the developing countries, by helping traditional industrialisation by sometimes accepting minority equity share or even handing over to them concerns built by them after a time. These concessions on their part do not affect their control of the industries concerned for a majority equity share by local capitalists in one country is not in a position to control or restrict the activities of the huge multinational machine—a machine which cannot be controlled even by a powerful USA Government. They only mean a sop to the national feelings in the underdeveloped countries and a bait to the local capitalists.

He further observed that in the background of these economic developments it was inevitable that the working class and the employees had to carry the burden of the crisis. The wage freeze, the bonus ordinance, the proposal to impound D. A. to finance the workers sector, the extension of CDS Act have all adversely affected the standard of living of the working class.

The suffering of the workers have become much worse due to continued closures, retrenchment and lay-off depriving tens of thousands of their source of livelihood and forcing starvation on their families. According to information given in Lok Sabha during the later half of 1975, over a half million workers are thus affected in the organised sector alone. These lay-offs are often passed off as being due to power shortage—a handy excuse to curtail production under the stress of the recession.

Lock-out has been another measure of starving the workers and depriving them of their jobs. The Union Labour Minister told Rajya Sabha in May last that private sector manufacturing industries accounted for a loss of 47 lakh mandays due to lockouts during June 1975 to April 1976. After this the Government enacted a measure to restrict the lockouts, the real content of which is lockout in consultation with the Government. According to Labour Minister, during the same period 51,000 workers lost their jobs due to closures. He could not however tell about any Government action against the management.

Referring to the Apex bodies, workers participation in management and several other schemes, Ramamurti said that they remained on paper only. Every weapon, including the legislative framework was made to subserve the drive against the workers. Right or wrong or decision of the Court does not matter. He gave the glaring example of Katihar jute mills in Bihar which refused to implement the award of the High Court to reinstate a worker. In the Bihar Legislative Assembly when the matter was raised the Labour Minister only stated that the Government filed a suit against the employers which only carries a small fine. It was also stated in Lok Sabha that the Central Government did nothing against the management of Statesman which victimised union leaders because they brought to light several malpractices.

Ramamurti mentioned the characterisation by the Planning Commission that the Bank employees belong to the pocket of high wage group which underlined the need to bring down their earnings. A differential wage structure is being proposed for the rural banks. As pointed out by The Economic Times, "A differential pay structure as between urban and rural areas for regional rural bank is being worked out, it is learnt. This has become necessary in view of the growing 'social tension' created by the high pay scales of bank employees who are posted in the rural areas".

Coming to the Life Insurance Corporation (Modification of Settlement) Act which annuls the 1974 agreement under which class III and IV employees were entitled to bonus of 15% without any maximum limit, Ramamurti said the action takes away all fruits of collective bargaining and amounts to virtually policing the wages of workers and employees.

As a result of big drive for modernisation, jobs of several lakhs of workers are being affected. The Government had all along been urging industrialists to meet the cost of modernisation but now it has decided to finance it through the Industrial Development Bank of India. The soft loan wing of the IDBI is expected to disburse about Rs. 80 crores this year for modernisation of engineering, cement, jute, sugar and textile units. The Finance Ministry has prepared a programme which had worked out an outlay of Rs. 35 crores spread over 3 years, Ramamurti pointed out.

Criticising the policy of the leadership of AITUC towards the crisis, Ramamurti stated that their pet explanation of the crisis is that it is due to the sabotage of the official policies by the bureaucracy and the monopolists. In effect they plead that the present economy is free from crisis and would function smoothly if only a few monopolists were not to act selfishly.

He therefore stressed the urgent need of educating the nature of the capitalist crisis and the inevitable suffering of workers under it unless tables are turned against the capitalist. Criticising the confusion spread by a section of the trade union movement that if one accept the existence of the crisis then one is forced to accept retrenchment, wage cuts as a matter of logic "while resisting the exaggera-

ted picture which individual capitalists draw about fall in demand in order to get concessions from the Government, while exposing their lust for maintenance of high profits, admission of crisis conditions does not in the least oblige the workers to accept attacks on their living conditions", he asserted.

Ramamurti clarified in his speech that while it is absolutely essential to elevate trade union propaganda and agitation, it is to be remembered that its basis depends on economic demands. It is these that constitute the immediate lever to draw in huge masses. As Lenin pointed out, even in times of revolutionary crisis the economic demands continue to draw huge sections into revolutionary struggles. The struggle to combine one's own condition is the starting point of the awakening which leads to class consciousness, he concluded.

M. K. Pandhe, Secretary read out a report on the activities of the CITU since the last Working Committee meeting and also a review of the struggles that had taken place since then.

Comrades who spoke on the Report narrated their experiences of CITU activities in states. Among those who spoke were Monoranjan Roy, V. Viswanatha Menon (Kerala), A. Nallasivam (Tamilnadu), P. K. Kurane (Maharashtra), C. Kannan (Kerala), Ramachandra Rao (Karnataka), Biren Roy (W. Bengal), Ghanashyam Sinha (Delhi Region).

Md. Ismail, Vice-President gave a report on the activities in M.P., U.P. and Rajasthan, while S. Y. Kolhatkar spoke on the T.U. movement in Goa.

Jyoti Basu, in his speech elaborated the immediate tasks of the CITU and emphasised the need to organise a countrywide campaign to rouse the working class on the proposed constitutional amendments. He observed the growing urge for unity among all sections of workers despite the opposition of INTUC and AITUC leaders. He further explained the need to chalk out suitable methods of activities to meet the requirements of the situation.

Monoranjan Roy, Treasurer CITU submitted a statement of account for the year 1975 which was adopted unanimously.

The meeting approved the applications of new affiliations from unions. It was decided to grant them subject to the fulfilment of the requirement within a period of one month.

The meeting adopted several resolutions on national and international issues (being published separately).

While summing up the deliberations of the meeting, P. Ramamurti expressed his confidence that despite difficulties CITU would be able to emerge stronger in this period. He called upon the CITU unions to keep close contact with the mass of workers and build widest possible unity on immediate issues facing the working class.

Condition Of Black Workers In South Africa

According to a report published by the International Labour Office, Geneva the wage-gap between white and black workers have been continuously widening in South Africa. The per capita income of 'White' South Africans averaged about 14 times more than that of 'Blacks' in 1973. The absolute gap in average annual per capita incomes [was 2050 rand-2207 rands for white and 157 rands for Blacks. One rand equalled 1.50 US dollars.

The two averages remained far apart despite a propor-

tionately higher rates of increase in African (black) wages, compared with white wages, between 1962 and 1973. This brought the increase in household income to 261 rand a month for Whites but to only 30 rands for Africans.

According to the report, despite pay improvements over the past two years "the absolute level of minimum wages of unskilled workers remains low and, on average, the Black/White wage-gap expressed in monetary terms continues to widen in nearly all sectors of the economy."

Although there has been an increase in the number of workers covered by minimum wage regulations, these still do not apply to major categories of workers such as miners, farm workers, domestic workers and state employees.

There has been no significant improvement for women workers over the past year, the report adds, "Employees and Workers' associations continue to conclude collective agreements which maintain wage differentials between men and women".

—Source : ILO Press Release, June 3, 1976.

Exploitation Of Mica Workers

The mica workers are one among the most exploited sections of the mine workers. Mica mines are mainly concentrated in Giridih belt of Bihar ; though there are some in Gudur (Andhra Pradesh) and Rajasthan. Overwhelming majority of the workers belong to Adivasis. Mica's share in the total export trade of India is less than one percent ; but its impact on the economy of the areas predominantly inhabited by Adivasis is considered to be great. Mica is a highly labour intensive industry and in most cases the whole family is engaged in some work connected with Mica industry. It is estimated that in Bihar alone 1.5 million people are dependent on this industry. Crude Mica comes from the mines in rough crystal form called "books" in various sizes and shapes. The initial splitting job is done by home splitters and later the processing is done in "factories". Here in small or big factories the workers do the job until the semi-finished goods are sorted out and packed as per the buyer's requirements. From the stage of mining to the stage for shipment, it is a sad story of multi-point exploitation ; though the home-splitters are the worst sufferers.

According to an official estimate, 50,000 workers are engaged in Mica mines in Bihar. Labour laws have no meaning for most of them. It is the physical power of the dealers that determines their fate. The Bihar Government has fixed Rs.

5.80 as daily minimum wage for all unskilled workers. But out of 50,000 only 2000 workers employed in factories get this minimum wage notified by the Bihar Government. The rest of the workers are employed on contract basis by the dealers for Mica splitting work and the minimum wages of these workers are on the average as low as Rs. 2.50 per day.

There are 608 big and small dealers in the Mica belt of Bihar and many of them openly refuse to pay the minimum wage fixed by the Government. On the other hand, there is such fear psychosis among the workers that they would not tell anything about their wages for fear that they might loose their jobs and they parrot-like repeat what they have been tutored by their employers. Though the workers are paid much below the statutory minimum, records are kept in accordance with statutory requirements. These workers are not employed on permanent basis. In order to circumvent the legal barriers, the names of the workers will be changed; "father will become son or nephew his uncle". The workers are accustomed to it and they will blindly put their thumb impression when they are asked to do so.

At the apex of the Mica trade is the local buyer. They meet their requirement of shipment to meet overseas orders (there being hardly any domestic demand) by either purchases from dealers or procuring from other sources.

CITU Demands Scrapping Of Compulsory Deposit Scheme

P. Ramamurti, General Secretary CITU has issued the following statement to the press on June 25 last.

“The Centre of Indian Trade Unions considers the recent amendment to the Additional Emoluments (Compulsory Deposit) Act providing for extension by one year the impounding of half the rise in dearness allowance to the workers and employees, as an attack on the workers.

The entire measure becomes ridiculous when the DA of the workers is already falling sharply due to...decline in the Consumer Price Index Numbers.....

The Act has already hit hard the working class which has suffered a reduction in their living standards. The Government would be tempted to perpetuate it, if the trade union movement fails unitedly to resist these attempts.

.....
The CITU demands that the CDS should be scrapped and the workers should be paid back all their money with interest without any delay.

The trade union movement has therefore to rally their forces and take suitable steps unitedly so that Government is prevailed upon to stop impounding DA of workers forthwith.”

These 'local buyers' or exporters may be Mica Trading Corporation or private exporters. The dealers who supply Mica to these exporters exploit the workers in an unchallenged manner. In such sad plight, the Mica workers —mostly Adivasis— carry on their existence at the mercy of the dealers.

Termination and Retrenchment

A recent judgement of the Supreme Court in *State Bank v. N. S. Money* (1) has widened the meaning of the concept of termination. The present position in law is now that all termination amounts to retrenchment except those which are specifically exempted by the definition in Section 2(00) of the Industrial Disputes Act.

The facts in the Supreme Court case are as follows. The State Bank of India appointed Shri N. S. Money for the short period of nine months and, in the very letter of appointment, it was stated that "the employment, unless terminated earlier, will automatically cease at the expiry of the period, i.e. 18.11.72".

It was contended that the termination, though provided for in the very order of appointment and embodied therein, amounted to retrenchment and, therefore, the employee was entitled to compensation under section 25F(b) of the Act. It was further contended that the termination was invalid because compensation was not offered along with the termination of service. This contention was founded on the decision by Gajendragadkar, J., in the *Hospital Mazdoor Sabha* case (2), "The section provides that no workman shall be retrenched until the condition in question has been satisfied. It is difficult to accede to the argument that when the section imposes in mandatory terms a condition precedent non compliance with

the said condition would not render the impugned retrenchment invalid...failure to comply with the said provision renders the impugned orders invalid and inoperative".

Mr. Justice Krishna Iyer who delivered the judgement in the aforesaid case (1) accepted the last contention relying on the judgement of Gajendragadkar, J.

The question was, however, whether the impugned termination was retrenchment or not. If it was, the employee "cannot be retrenched without payment at the time of retrenchment, compensation computed as prescribed therein read with section 25B(2)".

The learned Judge analysed section 2(00) which provides that retrenchment means "termination for any reason whatsoever other-wise than as a punishment inflicted by way of disciplinary action, but does not include (a) voluntary retirement of the workman; or (b) retirement of the workman on reaching the age of superannuation if the contract of employment between the employer and the workman concerned contains a stipulation in that behalf; or (c) termination of the service of a workman on the ground of continued ill-health".

Mr. Justice Iyer held that "termination...for any reason whatsoever" are the key words. He said, "whatever the reason, every termination spells retrenchment". It did not matter that termination was automatic accor-

ding to the terms of appointment at the expiry of a period. "A termination takes place where a term expires either by the active step of the master or the running out of the stipulated termTermination embraces not merely the act of termination by the employer but the the fact of termination howsoever produced."

Quoting Mr. Justice Buckley in *R. V. Secretary of State* (3) that "the verb 'terminate' can be used either transitively or intransitively" the learned judge said "...we hold that the transitive and intransitive senses are covered in the current context...an employer terminates employment not merely by passing an order as the service runs, He can do so by writing a composite order, one giving employment and the other ending or terminating it. A separate, subsequent determination is not the sole magnetic pull of the provision. A pre-emptive provision to terminate is struck by the same vice as the post-appointment termination. Dexterity of diction cannot defeat the articulated conscience of the provision".

According to the Judge, this comprehensive definition of the word retrenchment was effectuated "to protect the weak against the strong".

In the instant case, the court held that termination of service of Shri Money though it was by effluxion of time according to the terms of appointment themselves was illegal because the termination was not accompanied by offer of compensation under section 25F. Admittedly, it

became a hard case for the Bank because "had the Bank known the law and acted on it, half a month's pay would have concluded the story". Now some years had passed and as the termination was invalid, the employee would be deemed to be in service and the Bank would have to pay for no service rendered. Reinstatement was the necessary relief. It could not be helped because hard cases do not make bad law.

It would be logical to presume that this judgement of Mr. Justice Krishna Iyer (1) overrules the earlier judgement of the Supreme Court in Haripasad Shivsankar v. A.D. Divelkar (4). There the meaning of the word 'retrenchment' in section 2(00) of the Industrial Disputes Act came up for determination in the context of the closure of a business, whether termination of services of all workmen as a result of the closure of business can be described as retrenchment. The Supreme Court opted for the ordinary meaning of retrenchment which is that the business itself is being continued but that a portion of the staff or the labour force is discharged as surplusage, and held that the language of

CITU wins election

In the elections to the Co-operative Credit Society of the Standard Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Serampore Factory (W. Bengal), two candidates of the Workers' Union (CITU) were elected. The only other seat went to the Labour Association.

Railwaymen

A. I. R. F. Convention

The annual convention of the All India Railwaymen's Federation was held at Gauhati on July 2-7, 1976. Due to a court case arising out of internal dispute, delegation from S. E. Rly. (both the sides went with their delegates) was admitted as visitors. About 400 delegates

attended. The convention adopted a resolution appreciating the services of Comrade George Fernandes.

In the main resolution, the convention while congratulating the railwaymen for their services during emergency, assured continued co-operation for all progressive moves of the Government. At the same time it pointed out that there were still 761 permanent and about 6000 temporary and casual labour who are still to be taken back to service and various other attacks on them. It complained of non-functioning of departmental council of J. G. M. and piling up of grievances. The convention therefore urged upon the Government to reinstate all workers, withdraw all penal measures and ameliorate the grievances, so that the workers could contribute much to the smooth functioning of the railway system.

The convention elected Comrade Priya Gupta as President and re-elected Comrade J. P. Chowbey as the General Secretary of the AIRF.

CLW Labour Union wins S.B.F. Elections.

In the recent Staff Benefit Fund elections held in the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, 8 nominees of CLW Labour Union were elected out of 14 seats. They secured about 6500 votes out of about 11000 votes cast in the election.

section 2(00) of the Industrial Disputes Act fits in with this ordinary meaning of the word 'retrenchment', though they admitted that such an interpretation gives a somewhat narrower meaning to the expression "for any reason whatsoever". Evidently this decision ceased to be valid law in view of the decision of Mr. Justice Iyer (1).

Further the judgement of Mr. Justice Iyer opens a new frontier for, even though period of service is stipulated in the order of appointment and termination automatically results on the expiry of such stipulated period, it would be regarded as retrenchment and would be invalid unless simultaneously accompanied by retrenchment compensation in terms of section 25F of the Industrial Disputes Act.

- (1) AIR 1976 SC 1111
- (2) AIR 1960 SC 610(613)=(1960) 2SCR 866 (871-72)
- (3) (1973) 2 All E.R. 103
- (4) AIR 1957 SC 121=1957 SCR 121

Arun Prokas Chatterjee

An interesting study on the finances of 1650 selected medium and large non-financial, public companies in the private sector, has been published in the September 1975 issue of the Reserver Bank of India Bulletin. The Study covers companies with paid-up capital of Rs. 5 lakhs and above. Although the study leaves out a large number of companies, mostly in the small-size group, it reveals some significant facts some of which are analysed below. In most cases comments and analysis are quoted from the Bulletin itself.

(1) **Distribution of companies according to size groups (1973-74)**

Size of paid-up capital in Rs.	No. of Companies	Paid-up capital (in Rs.)	Paid-up capital as percentage of total paid-up capital of all 1650 companies
5-10 lakhs	160	11	0.7
10- 25 „	415	68	4.0
25- 50 „	408	143	8.4
50-100 „	298	210	12.2
1- 2 crores	172	237	13.9
2- 5 „	150	440	25.7
5 crores			
& above „	57	602	35.2
Total	1650	1711	100.00

The above table shows that, 369 companies in the top capital bracket (with paid up capital above Rs. 1 crore) constituted only 22.4 per cent of the total number of companies, but they controlled nearly 75 per cent of the total paid-up capital of all the selected companies. Another 706 companies in the medium sized group (with paid-up capital between Rs. 25 lakhs and 1 crore) constituting 43 per cent of the total number, controlled 21 per cent of the total paid up capital.

Thus, large and medium sized companies constituting 65.4 per cent of the total number, controlled about 96 per cent of the total paid-up capital, whereas medium size companies in the lowest bracket (paid-up capital Rs. 5 to Rs. 25 lakhs) which constitute about 35 per cent of the total number, controlled only a little more than 4 per cent of the total paid-up capital of the selected companies.

Finances And Working Of Big

Growth and working of companies

The salient features of the performance of private sector companies during 1973-74, shown by the study, are an increase in the rate of growth in both value of production and total income, a slowing down of the rate of growth of sales, a *substantial increase in profits after tax* and a decline in the dividend distribution due to Government restrictions resulting in a *steep rise in retained profits*.

(II) **Growth and working of medium and large companies (1973-74)**

(Percentage increase or decrease)

	70'-71	71'-72	72'-73	73'-74
1. Net worth (paid-up capital + forfeited shares + reserves and surplus)	—	6.6	6.7	8.9
2. Gross assets plus inventories	—	9.2	7.7	10.8
3. Net assets plus inventories	—	8.0	5.8	10.7
4. Sales	—	12.1	11.0	8.7
5. Total Income	—	11.8	9.1	11.0
6. Value of production	—	11.7	9.0	11.0
7. Profits after tax	—	-0.2	5.1	25.0
8. Profits retained as percentage of profits after tax	51.1	48.4	47.1	61.3
9. Profits after tax as percentage of net worth	11.2	10.5	10.3	11.9
10. Sales as percentage of total net assets	100.2	104.1	108.8	105.5
11. Gross profits as percentage of sales	10.3	10.0	9.5	10.5

The Table shows that, whereas the growth rate of value of production increased from 9.0 per cent in 1972-73 to 11.0 per cent in 1973-74, during the same period the growth rate of sales declined from 11.0 per cent to 8.7 per cent. The percentage of sales to total net assets also declined from 108.8 to 105.5 during this period. On the other hand, total net assets, total income and profits after tax showed sizeable increase in the same period. In fact, the growth rate of Profits after tax jumped from 5.1

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per cent in 1972-73 to 25.0 per cent in 1973-74. The profit margin on sales (as measured by the ratio of gross profits to sales) also shows a rise from 9.5 per cent in 1972-73 to 10.5 per cent in 1973-74.

The significant point is that the growth rate of profits and profitability of large and medium companies showed a substantial increase in 1973-74 over the past year, despite the fact that growth rate of sales was showing a sizeable decline. This only goes to emphasise the fact that while the fall in demand and purchasing power of the people during this period brought about a decline in the growth rate of sales, the companies managed to reap the benefits of high prices and inflationary conditions to increase their profitability.

The companies in the top capital bracket (369 large and medium companies with paid up capital above Rs. 1 crore) played dominant role and enjoyed the major share of this prosperity. The companies in this group accounted for 70.2 per cent of the total net assets, 65.3 per cent of the total value of production, 65.6 per cent of the sales, 73.3 per cent of the profits after tax and 69.8 per cent of the retained profits of all companies, covered by the Study.

Growth in Assets formation

The growth of assets formation of large and medium companies covered by the Study, during the period 1971-72, to 1973-74, may be seen from the following Table :

(III) **Growth of Assets formation**

Total for 1650 companies	(Crores of Rupees)		
	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
Gross fixed assets	378.08	469.50	526.26
Inventories	302.21	149.76	411.83
Loans, Advances, etc.	118.10	84.19	202.23
Investments	7.53	14.66	8.80
Cash & Bank balances	13.24	15.21	120.68
Total Assets	818.68	735.03	1265.32

The table shows that gross assets formation of the selected companies which had declined from Rs. 819 crores in 1971-72 to Rs. 732 crores in

1972-73, rose to Rs. 1265 crores in 1973-74—a rise of about Rs. 533 crores in one year.

The growth in gross fixed assets at Rs. 526 crores constituted 41.6 per cent of gross assets formation during the year 1973-74 and was mostly in the shape of plant and machinery (Rs. 381 crores). The growth in inventories at Rs. 412 crores accounted for 32.5 per cent of the gross assets formation with raw materials, components, etc. (Rs. 144 crores) and finished goods (Rs. 110 crores) as the main inventory items. The lower rate of growth in sales (noted earlier) was reflected in the substantial accumulation of inventory in the form of finished goods.

The industries/industry groups in which the rates of both gross and net assets formation were higher than 10 per cent were—tobacco, silk and rayon textiles, woollen textiles, glass and glassware and shipping. Both the rates were less than 5 per cent in coffee and rubber plantations, basic non-ferrous metals, matches, mineral oils, cement and printing and publishing industries.

The industries which were most affected by the decline in growth rates of sales during the year, and consequently, showed a substantial increase in the rate of inventory accumulation compared with 1972-73, were—coffee plantations (81%), rubber plantations (25%), jute textiles (29%), sugar (29%), Woollen textiles (52%), iron and steel (27%) and shipping (45%).

Sources of finance

The following figures show the sources of funds of the 1650 large and medium companies covered by the Study :

Sources of funds	(In crores of Rupees)		
	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
Internal sources—			
(paid-up capital, Reserves and surplus, provisions)	482	529	647
External sources—			
(paid up capital, borrowings, current liabilities, etc.)	337	203	618
Total	819	732	1265

The contribution of Internal sources of finance in the gross assets formation of these companies was Rs. 647 crores (51%) in 1973-74, as against Rs. 618 crores (49%) contributed by the External sources. But the most significant fact is that, although funds

Parliament has no right to amend the Constitution in the manner it is suggested as it is beyond its scope and jurisdictions and moreover the existing Parliament has already lost its mandate. Therefore, the proposed amendments should not be brought before this Parliament.

The Working Committee of CITU calls upon the working class and the people of India and all trade unions irrespective of their affiliations to actively campaign against the proposed constitutional amendments in whatever form it is possible and demand that Emergency be withdrawn to permit free expression of opinion on these amendments.

On Recent Measure Against Closure

The Working Committee of the CITU expresses its serious concern at the continued closures of hundreds of factories and establishments and lay-offs of thousands of workers throughout the country, and considers that the recent amendment to Industrial Disputes Act providing for 90 days notice prior to the closure of the factory will not in any way improve the position.

Despite official propaganda that the recent amendment will prevent all closures in future the closures of factories and establishments continue unabated. The extension of notice period from 60 to 90 days had not acted as a deterrent against the employers. The Provision to obtain prior permission of the Labour Department

before declaring lay-offs also has not altered the position. The Labour Departments have been prompt in granting permission to declare lay-off and connive at when the employers refuse to pay lay-off compensation payable under the Act.

The employers can evade the provision for giving of notice by resort to partial closure of factories.

The meeting of the Working Committee therefore demands a comprehensive legal enactment against closures providing, among others, the following provisions.

- 1) Ban against closures and partial closures, lay offs and retrenchments.
- 2) Stringent action against employers who closed down the factory due to mismanagement or embezzlement.
- 3) Take over by the Government of all closed concerns.
- 4) Full protection to workers regarding their jobs and benefits as well as earned wages.

On Fraudulent Compilation of Consumer Price Index Numbers

The Working Committee of CITU expresses its serious concern at the anomaly in entire compilation of Consumer Price Index Numbers, robbing the workers and employees all over the country to the tune of crores of rupees every month in the interest of

the employers, and strongly condemns this machination.

The Working Committee further notes with grave concern that since the proclamation of Emergency, the Consumer Price Index Numbers of 1960 series have been considerably depressed on the plea of falling prices, although in actual fact retail prices do not reflect this position and in some cases have shown further rise. Taking advantage of this manipulated Index the employers have imposed considerable cuts in the Dearness Allowance of workers and employees, thus further depressing their wages and living standard.

The new 1970 series, which has been finalised on the basis of faulty Family Budget survey, will perpetuate this anomaly unless the existing series is rectified immediately.

The Working Committee, therefore, demands immediate rectification of the anomaly in compilation of Consumer Price Index Numbers and calls upon trade unions irrespective of affiliations to launch a united campaign for the rectification of the Index.

On Unification Of Vietnam

This meeting of Working Committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions hails with great joy the declaration on June 24 by the Vietnamese unified National Assembly of the unification of Vietnam. Shamelessly violated and disrupted for a century by imperialism, the unity of Vietnam is once again restored and from now on Viet-

nam will remain united for ever.

This Vietnamese unity is the termination of a long process of arduous and dedicated struggle waged by the heroic people of Vietnam against French, Japanese and particularly American imperialism, the most perfidious and blood thirsty imperialism of them all, after struggle of epic dimensions, the like of which the world has perhaps never before witnessed. The victory and unification of Vietnam is a most convincing testimony of the all-conquering power of Marxism-Leninism as correctly applied in Vietnam by the Lao Dong Party.

This meeting, as well as the working class of India, firmly believes that a glorious future is unfolding before the people of Vietnam who have already embarked on socialist construction on all fronts with the same dedication as was displayed by them on the war fronts in the past.

Vietnam's military victory over American imperialism radically changed the co-relation of class forces against capitalism, imperialism and war and in favour of Socialism, democracy and peace.

This meeting is confident that the unified people of Vietnam will always remain in the front ranks in world people's fight for freedom, socialism, peace and progress.

On Repression in South Africa

This meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU strongly

condemns the racial blood-bath perpetuated by the Vorster regime in South Africa in the past few days. These dastardly killings have left the previous black records of Sharpeville in the year 1960 far behind. The main targets of massacre of the Vorster regime in the South Africa this time were mostly the young and the school-going children, many of whom have been shot dead in cold blood.

This meeting sends its comradely greetings to the fighters who have braved the atrocities of the fascist Vorster Govt. and raised the banner of revolt of the African people on a level higher than ever before. In fact, the death-defying agitation conducted by the people of South Africa has now engulfed the entire land.

This meeting wants to emphasise that the brutalities of the South African white fascists are a reflection of the desperation and panic they are up against following the victory of the freedom fighters in Angola and the expanding of the armed struggle in Zimbabwe.

Notwithstanding the naked and shameless support expanded to the Vorster Government by the NATO powers and particularly by American imperialists, the meeting as well as the working people of India are confident that no power on earth can save this fascist regime from total destruction and collapse in no distant future.

This meeting appeals to U.N.O., the socialist countries, the non-aligned world and the free states of Africa to extend all

possible help to the freedom fighters of South Africa so that this last powerful bastion of imperialism in the African Continent can be liquidated and finished off.

This meeting calls upon the working class of India to develop strong solidarity movement in support of the fighting people of South Africa.

This meeting further appeals to all Central Trade Unions to build powerful united campaign in support of the freedom fighters of South Africa

On Victimisation In H.M.T., I.D.P.L And E.C.I.L

The Working Committee of the CITU strongly condemns the actions of the Andhra Pradesh Government and the Managements of HMT and I.D.P.L. in Hyderabad in victimising the leadership of the workers of three public sector factories. 4 of the HMT and 3 of the I.D.P.L. workers were discharged from service by the managements. The several representations made by various organisations to the Central Government proved ineffective.

The Working Committee of the CITU considers this as an attempt to hit the workers and the organised Trade Union movement and demands that all the workers and their leaders in these concerns should be reinstated without any delay and that all criminal cases pending against nearly 70 I.D.P.L workers be withdrawn.

Administration And Vested Interests

The role of administration in the struggle against vested interests is widely discussed in newspapers these days. Various views have been expressed on this subject and the trade unions cannot be aloof from this debate.

The lack of seriousness on the part of those who are in the helm of affairs is being brought to the forefront by even the pro-Government organisations like the INTUC. For instance, The West Bengal Gramin Sramik Congress (INTUC) sought intervention of the Prime Minister and Chief Minister West Bengal "to save the land reforms programme from becoming total flop". The organisation has demanded, "a thorough and immediate probe into the activities of those in the Government from the ministerial level down to the lowest level of the administration who were protecting the vested interests". The INTUC demanded the removal of the responsible persons when the charges would be proved, "as it will certainly be, we have no doubt". It talks of "bureaucracy taking the upper hand, and the consequence would be that the entire land reforms programme would be reduced to a farce".

Referring to Sundarbans the INTUC says "the jotedar in the area were shrewd enough to enlist support from a section of Congress Party itself. The result was that the fight against jotedars had been very difficult and complicated"—(Indian Worker 21 June 1976).

The above facts were stated on the eve of the INTUC call to observe 26 June to 1 July as the "Dawn of the New Era Week" just to publicize the achievements of one year of emergency and 20-point programme. The barrage of propaganda however cannot prevent the peeping of realities through the state patronised journals.

In a recent study by Kripa Shankar, Director, Economic Research Centre Allahabad on "Twenty points and Indian Economy" published in Mainstream some facts have been given to emphasise the inadequacy of the programme. The following passages are self-explanatory.

"In our country, the top 4 percent of the cultivating households own 31 per cent of the cultivated area, notwithstanding the ceiling laws. According to latest figures, about 16.7 lakh acres of land had been found surplus out of which four lakh acres have been distributed to 1.8 lakh persons. Thus only 0.4 percent of the landless population has been benefitted with the land distribution programme".

Regarding house-sites for landless, Kripa Shankar states, "The landless have been provided with house-sites and it is claimed that 65 lakh families have been provided with house sites. But only 2.5 lakh houses have been constructed. Obviously, those who have been provided with house sites do not have the

wherewithal to construct even the thatched houses".

Regarding the claim of the Govt. that 47000 bonded labourers have been freed, Kripa Shankar notes, "This writer conducted a survey of 60 bonded labourer households in Banda district of Uttar Pradesh. It was surprising to find that all such labourers were working for their old masters and under the old arrangement".

The author further says, "Even the debt relief measures have been of little advantage as the indebted agricultural labourers have to fall back on the same persons for their consumption loans. So they have agreed to pay all the old debts although the Act has put a moratorium."

And now about the bank credit what is the reality? "Less than 2 percent of the borrowed accounts of the banks claim more than 30 percent of the bank advances", Kripa Shankar notes.

How the inequality in the country is now being reduced? "The latest Reserve Bank of India survey on Debt, and Investment has revealed that top 1 per cent of the population owns 14 percent of the assets, which is equal to the assets owned by the bottom 60 percent of the household".

Therefore it is not enough to have programmes. What is necessary is the popular movement to end the power of the vested interests who obstruct the growth of people's well-being...

Struggles in Capitalist Countries

Consumer Price Index Numbers (Industrial Workers/Base 1960=100)

General Strike in Australia

Twenty lakhs workers in Australia participated in a countrywide general strike to protest against the Government decision to change the Medibank (health cum-Medical benefit) scheme for workers introduced by the former Labour Govt. The first ever General Strike, called by the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), started at midnight of July 11 and paralysed shipping, airways, general transport, post and telegraph and all industries.

Earlier, on June 16 last, six lakh workers in Victoria and New South Wales organised protest strikes on the same demands.

Railway strike in Sri Lanka

Protesting against the attack on railway workers in Galle by the protection Force, in which three workers were injured, railway workers all over Sri Lanka went on an indefinite strike on July 4 last.

Strike Struggles in Italy

About 1.5 million farm workers went on a 24-hour strike on June 25 last demanding higher wages and on other demands. About 8 lakh employees of mercantile offices also observed a strike on the same day on the same demands. The pilots of civil airlines all over Italy also observed work-stoppage on June 24-25, on their demands.

State/Centre	1976			State/Centre	1976		
	Mar.	Apr.	May		Mar.	Apr.	May
Andhra Pradesh				Punjab			
Gudur	257	274	266	Amritsar	310	309	310
Guntur	303	310	319	Rajasthan			
Hyderabad	289	289	293	Ajmer	278	286	284
Assam				Jaipur	288	295	296
Digboi	303	304	308	Tamilnadu			
Doom Dooma	238	237	243	Coimbatore	289	281	283
Labac	237	245	247	Coonoor	288	286	288
Mariani	238	242	241	Madras	272	272	273
Rangapara	229	231	235	Madurai	280	280	284
Bihar				U. P.			
Jamshedpur	275	275	274	Kanpur	271	279	280
Jharia	275	272	272	Saharanpur	293	304	300
Kodarma	299	297	291	Varanasi	311	308	310
Monghyr	299	290	289	West Bengal			
Noamundi	276	272	277	Asansol	302	306	306
Gujarat				Calcutta	276	286	288
Ahmedabad	268	273	269	Darjeeling	235	239	243
Bhavnagar	290	292	291	Howrah	277	283	286
Haryana				Jalpaiguri	236	248	251
Yamunanagar	310	313	307	Raniganj	286	293	295
J & K				Delhi	324	323	320
Srinagar	274	306	302	Other Centres*			
Karnataka				Berhampur ('49)	391	386	393
Ammathi	286	286	289	Cuttack ('49)	350	353	348
Bangalore	304	302	299	Jabalpur (1949)	377	381	391
Chikmagalur	293	301	304	Beawar ('51-52)	293	297	308
Kolar G.F.	289	292	292	Tripura (1961)	276	275	273
Kerala				H. P. (1965)	217	217	215
Alleppey	339	341	337	Goa (1966)	200	198	200
Alwaye	322	325	313	Bhilai (1966)	187	190	187
Mundakayam	311	312	301	Bhilwara ('66)	172	173	175
Madhya Pradesh				Chhindwara			
Balaghat	287	296	302	('66)	156	158	163
Bhopal	270	278	281	Kothagudam			
Gwalior	293	301	305	('66)	182	183	184
Indore	301	308	313	Rourkella ('66)	201	202	200
Maharashtra				All India ('49)	348	351	352
Bombay	286	291	290	—do—('60)	286	289	290
Nagpur	277	281	293				
Sholapur	291	300	303				
Orissa							
Barbil	278	291	300				
Sambalpur	290	292	292				

* Figures in bracket indicate base year.

(Labour Bureau, Simla)

Women Workers Of India

by Vimal Ranadive

In this booklet of about 100 pages, the author has studied the problems of women workers of India in the back-ground of the age-old social and class oppression faced by Indian woman-hood in general. Herself an active participant in the movement for women's liberation, the author has confined herself to only one aspect of women's problem in India—the problem of employment, wages, working and living conditions of women as 'working' women. Supporting her views with abundant statistical data, the author has shown how the women workers in India are subjected to a dual oppression—oppression as a worker and oppression as a woman. While drawing a revealing comparison between the status of women workers in socialist and capitalist countries, the author pleads with the militant and conscious trade union movement to play their part in rousing women workers, which will pave the way for a strong trade union and democratic movement of men and women workers under their leadership, leading towards socialism which will ultimately emancipate women workers from the feudal bonds.

In the words of Com. E.M.S. Namboodiripad, who has written the Foreword, "this will help not only the trade union and women's movements in particular, but the general democratic movement in the country, to project the problem of working women as an important part of the

(From Page Eleven)

The Working Committee of CITU calls upon the affiliated unions to protest against these attacks and demand immediate reinstatement of all the leaders of HMT, IDPL, and ECIL

On Friendly Relations With Neighbours.

This meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU welcomes the good neighbourly relations that are in the process of being restored and developed between India and her neighbours.

The restoration of normal diplomatic relations between India and China—a step for which the CITU has often in the past raised its voice, is a very welcome development, because it will help to bring closer almost the half of the world's population. The restoration and strengthening of the all round normal ties including those of transport and communications between India and Pakistan are steps in the right direction. This meeting hopes that the negotiation for democracy and social progress culminating in the establishment of socialist society".

Published by the National Book Agency (P) Ltd., the booklet is priced at Rs. 4'00 and is available with—

- (1) National Book Agency (private) Ltd. 12, Bankim Chatterjee Street, Calcutta-700012
- (2) Centre of Indian Trade Unions, 172, Lenin Sarani, Cal-700013

tions that are being conducted from time to time between India and Bangladesh will help in resolving complicated knots that are still plaguing the relations between the two countries. This meeting also welcomes the improvement of relations with Ceylon and Nepal.

This meeting particularly expresses its satisfaction at these developments because they help the forces of peace in a wide and vital area of Asia and of the entire world and thwart the permanent imperialist plots of developing war psychosis and creating destabilisation in order to further their nefarious ends.

The Working Committee is specially happy at these developments as it has in the past repeatedly raised its voice for establishing friendly relations with the neighbours-

CITU PUBLICATIONS

New arrivals.

- 1) WOMEN WORKERS OF INDIA by Vimal Ranadive Rs. 4/-*
- 2) Bonded Labour in India—a Indian School of Social Sciences, Calcutta publication. Rs. 25/-* (Less Rs. 7/- so long stock exists) * Postage extra (Limited Stocks—Rush for Copies)

CITU Publications (Bound Volume)

English	Rs. 8/-**
Hindi	Rs. 3/-**
Bengali	Rs. 3/-**

** Postage will be borne by CITU if money is remitted in advance. Centre of Indian Trade Unions 172 Lenin Sarani, Calcutta-13.

Will Tomorrow Bring Them Freedom ?

(Despite abolition by law of the system of bonded labour, it still exists in several parts of the country. We give below a study of the system in a village in Andhra Pradesh named M-K-. Vetti chakari is the local name for bonded labour. The study was published in the National Labour Institute Bulletin, sponsored by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India and it gives an authentic picture of the rural India to day—Editor).

Stealthily they emerged from the shadow. They came there in twos and threes. Their voice was hushed. There was terror in their eyes. Still they came in, perhaps to unburden themselves to a few sympathetic listeners from afar.

It was the village M-K. By the roadside a former Collector had built a few pucca tenements for the Harijans. He had also constructed a separate room for the school. That was the assembly point. We went there without any prior notice on the evening of February 18, 1976. A friend of ours who had visited the Harijan colony earlier was with us. They knew that he had no evil intentions. So when we sent word around that a few friends of his had come from Delhi to talk to them, they mustered courage and assembled there in small groups. Darkness

had started setting in on that moonless evening. It was 7.45 p. m.

The school was a simple set-up. It had a table, a stool, a wooden box and a blackboard. Our interpreter friend procured a lantern and placed it on the table. He sat on the stool and two of us made ourselves comfortable on the wooden box. About 35 to 40 Harijans stood round us with fear and expectancy writ large on their faces.

As our friend started conversation in Telugu, a small chit was handed over to him. It was written hurriedly in a shaky hand. It started "when you visited us last time, we narrated to you our woeful tale of hard labour without remuneration. The sarpanch's wife came to know about it and she threatened us with dire consequences."

We were in a dilemma. Perhaps, to satisfy the curiosity of a few transitory strangers, they were going to expose themselves to severe reprisal. We would be off within a few hours, to a place a thousand miles away from M-K and they would be left helpless to face the seething rage of their masters. Was it all worth it? But they had gathered and we too had come. The news would spread whether we talk or not. Chances of reprisal would be the same. So we

decided to go ahead with our conversation.

It started rather on a hesitant note. We directed our question to one or two elderly persons about the rate of their wages, days of employment, hours of work, quantity and quality of food and all that. Replies came from many as the questions were common to them. Chinnamgu Boddanna is aged about 50 years. (They were so emaciated and withered that it was difficult to guess their age). Boddanna told us that he got wages at the rate of Re. 1 per day for 8 to 9 hours of work. According to the local custom agricultural workers, on their days of employment, get a meal of sangati made of ragi or jowar. It is a fluffy ball of parboiled cereals. It soothes the belly when hunger gnaws at the guts. Though they work mainly in the paddy fields, a meal of rice is a luxury beyond their reach.

A Headload of Firewood

It is largely a single crop area. Chances of assured employment in the field are rather limited. Boddanna and his friends told us that they got employment as agricultural workers for not more than 60 days in a year. What they actually said was that they got employment for 20 days at a time thrice a year. This gave them an income of roughly Rs. 120 in cash. They did not get any other wages in kind. When we pressed that this could not be their only source of income, they informed us rather apprehensively that

many of them gathered firewood from the nearby forests and sold the same in the market. Since it was a reserve forest, gathering of minor forest produce was an offence. They had to take the risk and whenever they were caught, they were to shell out money to the forest guard to avoid prosecution. The minimum would not be less than Rs. 10 and for this they had to sell or mortgage their metal utensils.

They could not give us any firm indication about their income from this source. A headload of firewood sells at the rate of Re. 1 to 1.50. It takes almost a whole working day to collect a full headload of marketable firewood. Assuming that a worker spends on an average 60 days during the dry season of six months from December to May, the maximum income possible from this source would be Rs. 90. But there is no guarantee that each headload would fetch Rs. 1.50. Then there was dasturi to be given to the forest guard when caught. So a fair estimate of the total income from this source would be Rs. 50 to Rs. 60.

The other occupation of this group of Harijans was the skinning of carcasses of cattle. According to the standing practice if an animal of a man of upper caste of this village dies, it is the duty of the Harijans to skin it and to tan

the skin. This is done free of charge. Thereafter they have the right to purchase the skin for Rs. 30, Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 depending upon the size of the animal. They make a profit of Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 by making chappals from the skin. This is, however, a very irregular source of income and it is extremely difficult to make an estimate of their income from this source.

Assuming for the sake of argument that a Harijan family may skin two carcasses a year, make chappals out of the leather, total income at the outside would not exceed Rs. 50. Thus Vothanna and his friends had a yearly income of Rs. 120 (as agricultural workers), plus Rs. 50 (by selling firewood), Plus Rs. 50 (by making chappals), adding upto Rs. 220. Assuming an average family unit of three, per unit earning per annum will be Rs. 73.33 which means a daily earning of 20 paise. With this income an ever deepening debt burden is the inexorable consequence.

Bizarre Arithmetic

Vothanna had taken a loan of a little over Rs. 100 at the compound interest of Rs. 3 per month. He had been paying the interest for the past umpteen

number of years, yet according to his money lender, he still owed him Rs. 300. This bizarre arithmetic of usury was not known to Vothanna but he was fully aware of its disastrous consequences. The little piece of ancestral land measuring approximately 75 cents had been taken over by the money lender. Deprived of his land, he earns his living by selling his labour and stealing from the Government reserve forest. Hunger made theft an unavoidable means of livelihood for him.

This is not the story of Vothanna alone. Sixty Harijan families had, among themselves, about 70 to 80 acres of land in this village. By 1972 the process of alienation due to usury was completed. They work as farm hands quite often on the land that was theirs only till the recent past. Dispossessed and deprived of their independent and legitimate means of livelihood, they had to enter into debt contracts for sheer survival which denied them their basic human rights of free movement and offering their labour to the highest bidder. By the queer logic of compulsion of living, they sacrificed their right to live as free men.

(To be continued)