

**CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS**

**SECOND CONFERENCE**

**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES  
AND  
ORGANISATION**

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# Draft Report On Activities Of The CITU

*(To be submitted to the Second Session of the CITU,  
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Dear Comrades,

The period that followed the foundation Conference of the CITU in May 1970 has been a period full of multifarious activities by the CITU at all levels. Our unions gained rich experience while conducting several strike struggles, many of which were prolonged and bitter. The emphasis given at every stage for building united actions has yielded good results. We have been able to successfully emerge as the real builder of united struggles against all attacks on the working class.

During this period, we have launched several campaigns on issues agitating the minds of the workers.

A review of our activities has already been done by the meetings of the General Council and the Working Committee from time to time. It is however necessary to place before the representatives of all the unions, a brief outline of our activities which enable us to understand our achievements in this field and consider appropriate steps to carry forward our activities more effectively in future.

## **Decisions Of The First General Council**

Immediately after the Calcutta Conference, the newly elected General Council met on May 31, 1970 in the Conference Pandal itself to chalk out the urgent tasks following the decisions of the Conference. 96 members attended the meeting. The meeting decided to observe "Unity of Action Week" from July 13 to 19, 1970 during which July 15, should be observed as "Communal Harmony Day" and July 18 as

“Cambodia Vietnam Solidarity Day”. The office bearers later on decided to observe July 17, as Bengal Kerala Day to express solidarity with the fighting working class and democratic movements in these states.

The General Council decided to print CITU flags in large numbers and organise mass sales during the week.

The General Council also discussed the question of constituting State Committees to carry out the activities of the CITU. In West Bengal, U. P., Karnataka and Goa majority of the former State Committee members of AITUC were with the CITU. Hence it was decided to reorganise these committees and constitute them as CITU State units. In Kerala, the Committee elected in a State Conference, held at Calicut on May 9 and 10, 1970 was authorised to function as the Kerala State Committee of the CITU. In Tamilnadu, the General Council members together with some leading Comrades from the state would form an interim committee and Comrade Umanath was entrusted with the responsibility to constitute such a committee within a month. Comrade N. Parsada Rao, S. Y. Kolhatkar and Mohan Punamia were similarly authorised to constitute Committees in Andhra, Maharashtra and Rajasthan respectively. In case of other states it was felt that the method of co-ordination and centralised guidance would vary from state to state and hence it was decided to evolve appropriate machinery at a meeting of leading Comrades in respective states. This was considered only as a preliminary arrangement. It was decided that new Committee should be properly elected in State Conference to be held by the of December 1970.

The General Council constituted a Committee of office-bearers to redraft the Constitution of the CITU as per decision of the Calcutta Conference. The Council authorised the Working Committee to finalise the draft.

The General Council further decided that the Central Office should be in Calcutta. To begin with, the office was

functioning from the office of West Bengal State Committee till a suitable place was found.

The General Council further authorised the office-bearers to finalise the resolutions and take steps to publish the documents of the Conference.

### **The CITU Centre Established**

The CITU Centre started functioning immediately after the General Council meeting. The resolutions of the Conference were finalised and the documents of the Conference were published in a book "Forward to unity and Struggle". With the help of West Bengal State Committee, it was possible to get independent premises and some staff to run the office. The Central office began to function from 172 Lenin Sarani from the middle of August 1970.

### **Unity of Action Week**

In all major industrial centres where CITU unions function, the week was observed by holding rallies, issuing leaflets containing the main resolutions of the foundation conference and organising sale of CITU flags among the workers. The week enabled the CITU unions to take the message of unity and struggle to the mass of workers and popularise the CITU. The slanderous campaign of the AITUC leadership that the CITU was a disruptive force was replied to during the course of the week. In West Bengal, the CITU and other organisations took initiative in organising Bengal Bandh on July 14 demanding mid-term poll, withdrawal of CRP, protection of rights won during the UF regime etc. The CITU unions organised numerous meetings throughout West Bengal which culminated in a big rally on July 17 by Rashtriya Sangram Samity before the Writers' Buildings.

In Kerala, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Andhra, Punjab, Rajasthan, the week was observed on a wide scale while in the remaining states it was confined to certain towns.

The campaign for sale of CITU flags was however not

conducted properly by the State Committees. Except this aspect, the Unity of Action Week was successfully observed throughout the country.

### **Formation of State Committees**

The decisions of the General Council on formation of State Committees and holding of State Conferences were implemented in different States as follows :

**Andhra :** Delegates attending the Calcutta Conference held a meeting in their camp on June 1, 1970 and decided to form an Andhra Pradesh State Committee of 9 Comrades with N. Prasada Rao as the Convener. It was further decided to set up the office of the State Committee at Vijayawada. The first State Conference was held at Rajamundry on December 12 and 13 at Andhra which elected a new Committee consisting of Comrade P. Satyanarayana as President and Comrade N. Prasada Rao as the General Secretary. Comrade B. T. Ranadive attended the meeting on behalf of the Centre.

**Rajasthan :** A provisional State Committee of 11 members was constituted on June 10, 1970 with Comrade Prem Kishan as the convener and the first meeting of the Committee was held on June 29, 1970 at Jaipur. The Committee established its Head Office at Jaipur and a new Committee with Comrade Mohan Punamia as President and Comrade Prem Kishan as the General Secretary was elected in a State Conference held at Kota on October 17 and 18, 1970. Comrade B. T. Ranadive guided the deliberations of this Conference.

**Kerala :** A meeting of the State Committee elected at Calicut Conference was held at Trivandrum on June 15, 1970 and decided to function as per General Council decision. The Committee has 44 members with Comrade C. Kannan as the President and E. Balanandan as the General Secretary. Since the State Conference was held just prior to the CITU foundation Conference it was thought not necessary to hold another State Conference. The Central office was established at Trivandrum.

**Maharashtra :** An ad-hoc State Committee of 2 members was constituted on June 23, 1970 with Comrade P. K. Kurane and B. N. Khopkar as joint conveners. The office of the Committee was established in Bombay. The State Conference was held in Bombay on November 19, 20 and 21 which elected a new State Committee with Comrades S. Y. Kolhatkar and P. K. Kurane as President and General Secretary. Comrade B. T. Ranadive inaugurated the Conference.

**West Bengal :** A meeting of the West Bengal Committee of the AITUC was held on June 12, 1970. The decided to reorganise the committee and function as the West Bengal State Committee of CITU with Comrade Md. Ismail as the President and Comrade Monoranjan Roy as the General Secretary. A State Conference was held at Asansol on September 17-19, 1971 which was attended by 2326 delegates representing 5,86,000 membership. Comrade B. T. Ranadive President CITU inaugurated the Conference.

**Punjab and Himachal Pradesh :** A meeting of over 80 representatives from 17 unions from Punjab was held at Jullundur on June 19, 1970 in which Com. B.T. Ranadive explained the significance of the formation of the CITU. A five member organising Committee was formed with Com. Kishori Lal as the Convener. Since the number of unions in Himachal Pradesh was small, it was felt that only one Conference for both the states should be organised. Accordingly Conference was held in Ludhiana on October 30-31, 1972. Comrade Pandhe, Secretary inaugurated the Conference. The State headquarters were shifted from Jullundur to Ludhiana.

**Tamilnadu :** A meeting of representatives of affiliated unions in the State was held at Madras on August 3, 1970 in which an ad-hoc Committee with Comrade R. Umanath as Secretary was elected. A State Conference was held at Madurai in July 1971 which was inaugurated by Comrade P. Ramamurti, General Secretary CITU. The Conference

elected a new State Committee with Comrade K. Ramani as the President and Comrade R. Umanath as the Secretary. The Headquarter was first situated at Madras which was shifted to Madurai.

**Assam :** A meeting of representatives of the CITU unions in the State was convened at Gauhati on August 22-23, 1970 which was attended by Com. Monoranjan Roy, Secretary CITU. A 15 member State Organising Committee was elected with Comrades H. Deka and Amal Ghosh Dastidar as Jt. Secretaries. A State Conference was held on June 26-28,, 1971 at Gauhati which elected a new Committee with Dr. D. P. Barua as President and Comrade Amal Ghosh Dastidar as General Secretary. From the CITU Centre, Comrade Kamal Sarkar, Treasurer CITU inaugurated the Conference and the public rally was addressed among others by Comrade Jyoti Basu.

**Bihar :** A meeting of representatives of CITU unions in the State was held at Patna on July 27, 1970 which elected an organising Committee with Comrade Chandi Prasad as the Convener. The State Headquarter was established at Ranchi. A State Conference was held at Ranchi in December 11-13, 1970 which was inaugurated by Comrade B. T. Ranadive, President CITU. A new 26 member Committee was elected with Comrade Chandi Prasad as the General Secretary.

**Goa :** A meeting of all the members of Goa State Council of AITUC was held at Vasco-da-Gama on July 19-20, 1970 and unanimously decided to function as the Goa State Council of the CITU. A State Conference was held on October 17 and 18, 1970 at Vasco-da-Gama which elected a new State Council which included Comrade George Vaz as the President and Comrade Gerald Pereira as the General Secretary. Comrade B. T. Ranadive inaugurated the Conference.

**U. P.** Former U. P. State Committee of AITUC decided to function as the unit of CITU after the Calcutta Conference. A State Conference was held at Saharanpur on November 28 and 29 which was inaugurated by Comrade B. T. Ranadive.

The Conference elected a State Committee with Comrade S. N. Tewari as the President and Comrade Ravi Sinha as the General Secretary.

**Karnataka :** Parallel AITUC Committees existed in Karnataka prior to the foundation of the CITU. After including some new members from areas which were unrepresented in the earlier committee, a new Committee was constituted with Comrade Suryanarayana Rao as the General Secretary. A State Conference was held at Bangalore on December 26-27 1970 which was inaugurated by Comrade P. Ramamurti, General Secretary. The Conference elected a new State Committee which included Comrade Suryanarayana Rao as the President and Comrade B. N. Kutappa as the General Secretary. The State Committee office was established at Bangalore in the former office of the AITUC State Committee itself.

**Delhi :** In a meeting of representatives of CITU unions, a co-ordination Committee of 7 with Comrade Nagarajan and Sriram as Joint Conveners was formed. A State Conference was held on December 19, 1971, which was inaugurated by Comrade P. Ramamurti, General Secretary. The Conference elected 21 member State Committee with Comrade Chacha Shadiram as President and Comrade T. M. Nagarajan as General Secretary.

**Tripura :** A State Committee had been formed with Comrade Biren Datta as the Secretary. The State Conference was held on 14th and 15th November 1970 which was attended from the Centre by Comrade Monoranjan Roy. A new State Council was elected with Comrade Shaktiprasanna Bhattacharya as President and Biren Dutta as the General Secretary.

So far no State Committee or co-ordination committee could be formed in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat and Haryana.

### **New Draft of the CITU Constitution :**

As per decision of the General Council meeting, the office-bearers considered the old draft of the Constitution circulated during the Calcutta Conference. Since it was

found to be highly inadequate, it was decided that a new draft should be prepared. Accordingly, the office-bearers prepared a new draft and a meeting of the Working Committee was convened at Jaipur to finalise it.

### **First Meeting Of The Working Committee**

A meeting of the Working Committee was held at Jaipur on October 2-4, 1970. Thirtysix members and 2 invitees attended the meeting. The main agenda of the meeting was to finalise and adopt the CITU Constitution. Comrade B. T. Ranadive in his written speech circulated to the members of the Working Committee explained at length the significance of the new Constitution and emphasised the need for democratic functioning at all levels. The Constitution was adopted unanimously after clause by clause consideration. The Centre published the Constitution in English and Hindi languages.

It was not possible to submit a written Report of the General Secretary. Com. P. Ramamurti, however, orally gave a brief review of the situation in the country and the working class struggles since the foundation Conference. The glorious struggle of Durgapur workers against police repression in August 1970 was however discussed in detail. A written Report was submitted by the West Bengal State Committee of CITU. The meeting noted the need to organise solidarity of workers all over the contry in support of Durgapur workers and decided to observe November 30, 1970 as Durgapur Day and collect solidarity fund in support of fighting Durgapur workers. It was also decided to bring out leaflet in different languages to popularise the struggle of Durgapur.

The meeting could not discuss the question of industrywise functioning of CITU unions. It was therefore decided to allot one day during the next meeting of the General Council for such meetings and proper decisions should be taken after going through the reports.

The proceedings and the Resolutions of the Working Committee meeting were published in a booklet "Fight against Repression and Disruption".

### Solidarity campaign for Durgapur :

The Durgapur Day was observed all over India by the CITU unions on November 30, 1970 by holding rallies, demonstrations and issuing leaflets. Resolutions were passed in the meetings condemning brutal repression of Durgapur workers and demanding withdrawal of CRP and other armed personnel. Five State Committees took steps in bringing out pamphlets depicting the heroic struggle of Durgapur workers. The West Bengal State Committee brought out booklets in English (3000) Bengali (20,000) and Hindi (5000). Booklets were also published in other regional languages by State Committees like Kerala (5000), Tamilnadu (3000), Andhra Pradesh (1000) and U. P. (2000).

On a rough estimate nearly 700 affiliated unions contributed to the Durgapur Fund and the total collections reached Rs. 33,783.80. Four non-CITU unions also contributed to the fund.

The following statement gives the idea of the efforts made by various State Committee for the Durgapur Fund:

Name of the State	Total amount
Kerala	Rs. 1,017.15p
Andhra	Rs. 1,507.65p
Rajasthan	Rs. 300.00p
Karnatak	Rs. 631.35p
Tamilnadu	Rs. 291.65p
Haryana	Rs. 30.00p
Assam	Rs. 925.00p
Bihar	Rs. 307.44p
Punjab	Rs. 353.00p
Tripura	Rs. 200.00p
Maharashtra	Rs. 980.00p
U.P.	Rs. 290.00p
M.P.	Rs. 151.00p
Goa	Rs. 1,126.00p
Orissa	Rs. 79.60p
W. Bengal (directly paid)	Rs. 24,643.96p
J & K	Rs. 50.00p
The amount directly paid to Durgapur Co-ordination Committee by Bhilai Steel workers	Rs. 900.00p
	<hr/> Rs. 33,783.80p

As the table explains, some State Committees and unions have done their best in collecting funds for Durgapur, it must be said here that not all State Committees have taken up this work seriously. In Tamilnadu, for instance, most of the unions contributed only Rs. 5.00 towards the fund. Many unions failed to understand what the Working Committee meeting at Jaipur observed, "This fascist type of repression on Durgapur workers is a part and parcel of the widespread repression carried on in West Bengal. The peasants, the State Government employees, the students, the workers and other democratic sections in West Bengal are facing the CRP and Police brutalities. At the same time special vindictiveness was shown in Durgapur, because the workers here have been in the vanguard of the democratic movement fighting the Congress rule."

It has however been the experience that those who explained the significance of the Durgapur struggle to the mass of workers could find enthusiastic response from them and collect funds.

### **Fight Against Repression and Terror in West Bengal**

The Durgapur repression was just a forerunner of repression and terror in West Bengal and CITU unions had to fight a long drawn battle against it. After toppling down of the Second U. F. Government, the working class and other democratic sections of the people in West Bengal braved courageously the attacks of the ruling classes and gave verdict against the ruling party in Assembly and Parliamentary poll in 1971. Large number of CITU activists were also elected in these elections. Among the office-bearers and the General Council members, 5 were elected to Parliament and 21 to the State Assembly. Several other CITU activists were also elected.

Frightened at the result of the mid-term poll in West Bengal, a new offensive was launched against the CITU

unions and other democratic organisations. Warrants of arrests were issued against more than a lakh persons. Arrests, tortures in the name of combing operations, curfews had become a regular feature. Use of Army, CRP, CISF, State Police and other armed forces in industrial disputes were of common occurrence. MISA, PVA, Suppression of terrorist activities Act etc. had become a handy weapon in the hands of the ruling party. CITU unions fought bravely and refused to be cowed down by these repressive measures. Hundreds of CITU activists lost their lives in this struggle but the CITU flag was kept flying high in West Bengal.

### **Second Meeting of the General Council**

The Second Meeting of the General Council was held at Coimbatore on June 11-14, 1971. 125 members and 25 invitees attended the meeting. One day before the Second meeting of the Working Committee was held which was attended by 37 members. It mainly discussed the issues coming up before the General Council meeting that dealt with some organisational problems. Com. B.T. Ranadive, President could not attend the meeting due to his ill health.

As per decision of the last Working Committee meeting some leading Comrades working in certain industries were invited to participate in the industry-wise discussion.

The General Council after reviewing the struggles conducted during the last one year adopted several resolutions on national and international questions. It took following decisions to campaign on an all India basis.

1. To popularise the 8 point programme adopted by the meeting of representatives of central trade unions and national federations held in New Delhi on May 18 and 19, 1971 and build local, State-wise and all-India united actions on the basis of the programme.

2. To collect solidarity fund for Bangladesh and send contributions to Bangladesh Solidarity Committee, Calcutta,

with Comrade Jyoti Basu as President and Comrade Krishnapada Ghosh as the Treasurer.

3. To organise an all India campaign against repression and terror in West Bengal and exposing the anti-democratic character of Smt. Indira Gandhi's Government.

4. To publish a monthly journal of the CITU "The Working Class" as soon as possible.

5. To launch a campaign against the Family Pension Scheme and calling upon the workers to boycott it.

6. To form a sub-Committee to study the working of the ESI with Comrade Dinen Bhattacharyya as the Convener and Comrades S. Y. Kolhatkar, Bishweshwar Ganguly, A. Nallasivan, and P. Balachandran. The Committee should submit a report to the next meeting of the Working Committee.

7. To co-ordinate the activities of the CITU on the basis of industry-wise functioning as per decisions of the General Council on the Reports of the industry-wise meetings held during the General Council meeting.

Reports regarding buliding united actions, the CITU journals and industry-wise are given seperately in the report. On the other decisions of the General Council, the following is the position regarding implementation of the decisions.

### **Bangladesh Solidarity**

In a meeting of representatives of INTUC, CITU, AITUC, HMS, and UTUC (both groups) held at Delhi on 21st May, 1971 a national committee of Indian Trade Unions for solidarity with Bangladesh was formed with Dr. Mrs. Maitreyi Bose as President. This Committee gave a call to observe June 19, 1971 as Bangladesh Solidarity Day. The CITU Centre in its circular asked all the unions to observe the Day unitedly wherever possible, otherwise unions were called upon to organise independent rallies to express solidarity with working class and people of Bangladesh and to demand recognition of Government of Bangladesh.

Some dispute arose in the Committee on the question of

collection of funds for Bangladesh. CITU was already committed to contribute funds to the Bangladesh Solidarity Committee while other trade unions were in favour of paying the amount to the Bangladesh Mission. The CITU unions however paid contributions to the Solidarity Committee.

Efforts were made to hold a regional and national convention in support of Bangladesh. CITU fully supported the proposal and offered every co-operation. However Dr. Maitreyi Bose had to say that except CITU nobody gave a prompt response. The idea of the Convention therefore had to be shelved.

At CITU's initiative the recognition of Bangladesh was included as one of the demands of one day Bangla Bandh on August 27, 1971.

Though some meetings and demonstrations were organised and Solidarity fund collected we have not been able to rouse the consciousness of the working class on an all-India scale on the issue. This failure of the T. U. movement in India was noted by Com. B.T Ranadive in his article "Indian working class and Bangladesh" in *The Working Class* when he stated, "It must be admitted to our great shame that with the solitary exception of West Bengal working class, which raised financial contributions and offered political help to this struggle, working class and the trade union movement in the rest of the country have virtually done nothing to help their fighting class brethren. Barring some anemic conventions, there has hardly been any response to this great struggle".

### **Solidarity Campaign for West Bengal**

Unions in their agitations and day to day propaganda were campaigning against the growing semi-fascist repression and terror in West Bengal. The office-bearers' meeting on January 13, 1972 reviewed the campaign and decided to observe an anti-repression day between January 31 and February 6, 1972. According to reports received by the Centre, unions in several centres issued leaflets, organised demonstrations and rallies and

adopted resolutions demanding immediate end to atrocities in West Bengal during the week. On February 5, a memorandum was submitted to the President of India by a deputation of the CITU consisting of Comrades P. Ramamurti, General Secretary, Md. Ismail, S.Y. Kolhatkar, E. Balanadan, Vice-Presidents and M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, drawing his attention to the grave situation in West Bengal and demanding immediate stop to the repression and terror prevalent throughout the State.

Some state units responded to the appeal of the CITU for the solidarity fund in aid of the evicted workers in West Bengal. The centre received Rs. 20,850.76 from different centres. Maharashtra State Committee collected over Rs. 13000 while Tamilnadu remitted Rs. 6507.76. Some unions sent their contributions directly to West Bengal State Committee of CITU in response to its appeal for funds. Unions which were not severely affected by the terror in West Bengal also contributed funds for the relief of the evicted workess.

### **Campaign against the Family Pension Scheme**

The Coimbatore General Council which reviewed the schemes, came to the conclusion that it was highly unfavourable to the workers. It therefore gave a call to the working class to boycott the scheme which was well received by workers of all affiliations. As per decision of the General Council, a campaign was launched all over the country by the CITU unions to explain the detrimental features of the Scheme.

Com. Pandhe's booklet "Employees Family Pension Scheme : A Hoax" based on a note submitted to the General Council meeting was printed in several languages. The total number of copies brought out by the State Committees was as follows : English 5000, Malayalam-15000, Tamil—7000, Telegu 2000, Marathi-5000, Hindi-2000, Gujrathi 1000, Total 37,000. The booklet was also reproduced in several other journals brought out by trade unions.

Though the AITUC and HMS leadership earlier suppo-

rted the scheme, they had to come out against it soon after we launched our campaign against it. Even the INTUC leadership was ultimately forced to change its position and demand that the scheme should be voluntary in character, even for those who join the service after introduction of the scheme. The impact made by our campaign was such that within six months after its launching the Government had to talk of modifying it.

It however appears that the Government now proposes to slightly increase the pensionary benefits and the quantum of lumpsum payment without modifying its basic character. The CITU unions will have to expose this new game of the Government and continue to fight for its modification in the light of the resolutions adopted by the last General Council meeting.

### **The ESI Sub-Committee**

The Committee as a whole did not function and make any headway towards preparation of a Report. It was not possible for all the members to meet and consider the problem even after 18 months had passed. Meanwhile, in some states at local initiative, movements were developed against the present operation of the Scheme. In Bombay a Convention on ESI was organised by the Maharashtra, State Committee on April 9, 1972 which condemned the restrictions and curbs imposed on the ESI benefits. The West Bengal and Rajasthan State Committees have also taken up this question in their campaign. This question, however, cannot be tackled effectively without an effective all India movement.

The General Council meeting held at Bombay in December 1972 considered this state of affairs and decided to discontinue the Committee and the Centre was given the responsibility to prepare a detailed Report before the Second Session of CITU for final decision.

### **The Third Meeting Of The Working Committee**

According to the Constitution of the CITU, the Working Committee should meet at least twice a year. However, during

1971, there was only one meeting of the Working Committee, that too on the eve of the Coimbatore General Council meeting. The meeting was therefore scheduled to be held in December 1971 but due to Bangladesh war it has to be postponed. The office-bearers therefore decided to refer the matters to the working Committee members through a circular letter.

Members responded to the circular, out of whom agreed to the postponement.

The Third meeting of the Working Committee was held in New Delhi on April 24-26, 1972. Thirtysix members and 11 invitees attended the meeting. The meeting was held immediately after rigging elections in West Bengal by the Congress Party and suppression of trade union and democratic rights in the state. The entire deliberations of the meeting was therefore overshadowed by the situation in West Bengal. As Com. Ranadive during his speech in the meeting noted, "The entire bourgeois press is concealing the barbarities and cruelties perpetrated in West Bengal and obstructing the fight against them. It is for the working class of India to carry on campaign in defence of our West Bengal Comrades, in defence of West Bengal trade union movement and in defence of the democratic movement in the whole of India." Leading West Bengal Comrades gave a report on the offensive against the working class and how the CITU unions had been resisting it. The meeting decided to redouble the CITU campaign in defence of West Bengal. It also passed several resolutions on issues facing the working class and also accepted invitation of Kerala State Committee to hold the Second Session of the CITU in Kerala in the month of December 1972.

#### **Fourth Meeting Of The Working Committee**

The fourth meeting of the Working Committee was held in Bombay on December 27, 1972 which was attended by 38 members. Since the meeting was held on the eve of the General Council meeting, it mainly considered the agenda of the meeting and finalised its programme.

### **Third Meeting of the General Council**

The Third meeting of the General Council was held in Bombay on December 27-30, 1972. 130 members and observers attended the meeting. This was the first meeting after the formation of the UCTU. After reviewing the struggles all over the country, the meeting felt the need to redouble our efforts to build united actions on common issues. The question of working of the ESI scheme was discussed at some length and Comrades felt that a country wide movement could be launched on the question. On the question of unemployment it was decided to observe a common day all over India in the month of March and Council authorise the Secretaries to fix a suitable date in consultation with other national T.U. organisations.

The session of the CITU was due in 1972. The Working Committee meeting at Delhi decided to hold it in Kerala in December. However, the Kerala Committee wanted postponement till April 1973. Since this was an important issue, it was decided by the office-bearers to refer the matter to the Working Committee members. After obtaining the consent of the members it was decided that the session should be postponed. The General Council, while approving this step of postponement decided to hold the Second Session of the CITU at Ernakulam on April 18-22, 1973

The General Council passed several resolutions on national and international issues. In the end while concluding the session Com. B.T. Ranadive emphasised the need for payment of affiliation fee regularly by all the unions and observing democratic norms of T. U. functioning.

A big rally and colourful procession marked the end of the General Council meeting. The working class of Maharashtra contributed about Rs. 25,000 to make the Council meeting a success.

### **The Working Class and other CITU Journals**

The question of bringing out a journal of the CITU was raised by several Comrades in the first meeting of the

General Council as well as in the Working Committee meeting at Jaipur. However, due to technical difficulties no steps could be taken to bring out the journal till the Coimbatore General Council meeting. As soon as the technical facilities were available the office-bearers constituted an Editorial Board with Com. B. T. Ranadive as the Chairman and the first issue was brought out in September 1971. Since then the journal is being published regularly and 20 issues have been brought out so far.

The Editorial Board has been holding monthly meetings to discuss the contents of the forthcoming issue and the methods of improving the quality of the journal. To facilitate the work, Comrades who are associated with the journal, are also invited to participate in these meetings. Com. Ranadive has been regularly writing in the journal and elucidating CITU's viewpoints on major current issues facing the working class and the T. U. movement.

Though more and more reports are coming from the State Committees and affiliated unions for publication in the journal it must be admitted that not all the State Committees are showing promptness in sending reports. Several important struggles conducted by our Comrades are thus not reported to the Centre and the experience of the local movement is not made available to the entire T.U. movement. State Committees and unions do not send regular criticism of the journal and suggest ways of its improvement.

Despite several shortcomings during the short period of its existence THE WORKING CLASS has made substantial contributions in popularising the CITU line of unity and struggle. Recently even non CITU unions have started sending reports to the journal and we should make efforts to make THE WORKING CLASS the forum of the entire militant T. U. movement in India.

It must be said here that our State Committees and unions have not fully utilised THE WORKING CLASS Journal as an instrument propagating CITU understanding. Since it is

published in a language not generally understood by the workers, it cannot be a mass journal. Yet there is much scope to increase its circulation among the TU activists and English knowing salaried employees.

During the first year of its existance, the journal was self sufficient. However, due to repression and terror in West Bengal, the circulation came down considerably. The Office-bearers have decided to pay the salary of the Manager of the journal from the CITU funds.

Statements enclosed to this Report explain the latest position of circulation in different States and with regard to arrears etc.

Several State Committees have also brought out CITU journals in regional languages. The Andhra State Committee has been publishing a Telagu monthly "Karmika Lokam" since November 1971 and the circulation is about 2000. The Maharashtra State Committee has also commence a publication of a Marathi monthly "Warg Yudha" from May 1972 and its circulation is 2000. The West Bengal State Committee has been publishing Bengal monthly "Shramik Andolan" since October 1972 and about 5000 copies are being sold.

The Kerala State Committee, despite its decision to publish a journal in Malayalam has not been able to bring it out so far.

The demand for Hindi journal has been repeatedly raised by unions and readers in Hindi speaking region. However, no State Committee is in a position to bring it out on its own. The Centre has not yet been able to undertake the responsibility due to technical difficulty. However, if all the State Committees in Hindi speaking region help the Centre, some effort can be made in this regard.

### **Verification of CITU Membership :**

The Government of India in September 1971 asked the CITU to submit a list of our membership for the year 1970 for preliminary verification. The CITU Centre submitted a

list on october 30, 1971 containing 1851 unions with a total membership of 8,92,049. The industry-wise classification showed the major strength of membership of the CITU in following industries : Textile (including Jute) 196,436 ; Metal trades—28,194; Engineering—122,436; Transport (including Railways)—67,841; Plantations—93,039; Mining & Quarring—38,789; Chemicals—33,816; Food & Drinks—32,120; Tobacco—31,709; Port, Dock & Maritime—25,428.

The Government after preliminary verification accepted CITU membership as 7,20,759. This comes to over 15 per cent of the total registered membership in the country. Despite these results, the Government refused to nominate CITU representative on the tripartite and other Committees while continues to give patronage to INTUC, HMS, and AITUC.

#### **CITU And Tripartite Committee :**

The Government, however, was forced to invite the CITU for certain meetings. Thus CITU was invited to a Conference of Central T.U. Organisation convened by the Union Labour Ministry in New Delhi on May 20 and 21, 1971 in which CITU resolutely opposed the Governments proposals of wage freeze, strike-free period and linking wages with productivity. All the other Central trade union organisations including the INTUC opposed the Government move. Com. P. Ramamurti represented the CITU in this meeting.

The CITU was invited to participate in a tripartite meeting held in Bombay on September 20, 1972 on the question of Bonus. In this meeting also it was possible to confront the Government and the employees with the unanimous demand by 8.33 per cent minimum bonus. Com. P. Ramamurti attended on our behalf.

The Government at first did not invite the CITU to participate in the 22nd Session of the Indian Labour Conference held at New Delhi on October 22 and 23, 1971. when CITU strongly protested against it, the Government invited

the CITU only as an observer. However, in this meeting also the Government was confronted with the united position on bonus, gratuity, over of closed units etc. Com. P. Ramamurti attended this Conference on behalf of the CITU.

When the united T.U. movement including the INTUG gave a call for Bengal Bundh on August 27, 1971 on several pressing issues of workers, Union Labour Minister hurriedly convened a meeting in New Delhi on August 22 and gave vague assurances without any concrete commitment. Though other Central trade unions vacillated, the CITU representatives stood firm. However, due to the pressure of the masses the former had to change their stand except the INTUC, all supported the Bundh. In Delhi meeting, CITU Centre was represented by Coms. Sudhin Kumar and M. K. Pandhe and the West Bengal State Committee by Coms. Niren Ghosh and Monoranjan Roy. During the meeting, the CITU representatives circulated a statement explaining CITU's position.

The Union Labour Minister convened tripartite meeting in New Delhi on December 16, 1971 to discuss the situation arising out of war over Bangladesh. CITU was represented in the meeting by Coms. P. Ramamurti, General Secretary, Md. Ismail, Vice-President and M.K. Pandhe, Secretary. In the meeting, CITU refused to accept blanket ban on strike and circulated a note explaining CITU's position. Earlier in a meeting convened by the Union Labour Minister on December 5, 1971, Com. Md. Ismail refused to be a party to a declaration forgoing the right to strike.

In tripartite meetings on Coal Mines, the Government invited CITU on July 5, 1972. Com. Monoranjan Roy, Secretary and Com. Robin Chatterjee participated in the meeting. On the eve of one day strike on January 15, 1973, Union Labour Ministry convened another meeting in New Delhi and CITU was invited to it. Com. M.K. Pandhe, Secretary represented the CITU in the meeting. Though other Central T.U.s were trying to exclude CITU from the

joint committee, it was possible after the meeting to issue a joint statement of INTUC, AITUC, HMS and CITU after the meeting reiterating the earlier decision on strike.

After take-over of non-coking coal mines the Union Steel Ministry excluded CITU from a meeting of T.U. representatives held in Delhi on February 1, 1973. A decision was also taken to take the representatives of only 3 Central T.U. organisations. The CITU Centre protested against this and the Government clarified that no final decision has been taken in the matter. On February 3, 1973, Union Steel Minister invited all the Central T.U.s including the CITU. Com. Niren Ghosh and Com. M.K. Pandhe represented the CITU in the meeting.

In Cement negotiating committee, the Government earlier excluded CITU. Thereon, Com. P. Ramamurti issued a statement clarifying that the decisions of the Committee would not be binding on the CITU. The Government then agreed to include the CITU representative and Com. K. Ramani was nominated on it. He remained firm in the negotiations and condemned the betrayal of the INTUC leaders in withdrawing the strike unitedly.

The Hindusthan Steel proposed a meeting in the Bhilai on February 23, 1973 on safety in Steel plants. It was earlier proposed that representatives of only 3 trade unions would be taken on the Committee. However, they had to agree ultimately to take CITU nominee on the Committee.

The Bureau of Public Sector Undertakings under the Finance Ministry organised two Seminars in New Delhi on Industrial Relations in Public Undertakings. In Seminar on December 16-17, 1972, CITU was represented by Comrade P. Ramamurti, Comrade Dinen Bhattacharyya, while in concluding Seminar on February 6-7, 1973, Comrade P. Ramamurti and Comrade Jiban Roy (Durgapur) participated on behalf of CITU. In both the Seminars, the CITU representatives along with other T.U. representatives

except INTUC emphasised the question of recognition of trade unions on the basis of secret ballot.

In a Seminar organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Planning in New Delhi on February 22, CITU was represented by Coms. Sudhin Kumar and M.K. Pandhe.

Comrade P. Ramamurti General Secretary was invited to participate in the Seminar on "Multiplicity of Trade Unions and Productivity" held at Bangalore on June 15, 1972. The Seminar was inaugurated by President V.V. Giri. CITU Centre has published a booklet "Productivity and Industrial Relations" giving extracts from Comrade Ramamurti's speech

In a meeting convened by the Union Minister for Steel and Mines on 14th March 1973 at New Delhi on question of Gorakhpur Labour, Comrade Monoranjan Roy Participated.

The Government has been scrupulously avoiding taking CITU nominees on tripartite Committees like those on ESI, PF etc. In West Bengal Comrade Hrishi Banerjee who was a member of the West Bengal P.F. Committee was removed by the Government at the instance of the AITUC.

The Government has not convened the Indian Labour Conference or the Standing Labour Committee during 1972 only to suit the convenience of the AITUC, INTUC and HMS, the existing recognised bodies who are having parleys about the future set up of industrial relations. The Government has also been trying to substitute the Indian Labour Conference by the National Council of Trade Unions. This attempt must be foiled with the help of united strength of the workers.

### **New Affiliations :**

At the Calcutta Conference, as per Credential Committee's Report 1759 union with 8, 04,637 membership participated. Subsequently, several new unions applied for affiliation which were considered by the Working Committee and the General Council meeting. The details regarding the new affiliations are as follows :

Meeting	No. of Unions	Membership
1) Jaipur Working Committee Meeting	12	5,503
2) Coimbatore General Council Meeting	71	15,568
3) Delhi Working Committee Meeting	299	73,581
4) Bombay General Council Meeting	138	36,984
Total :	520	1,31,636

Some applications have been received even after Bombay General Council meeting. They will be considered by the General Council meeting that will be held on the eve of the Session.

Some unions which joined the CITU in the foundation Conference, have become defunct. It is necessary to disaffiliate these unions.

In West Bengal, more than 200 unions have either been forcibly occupied by the Congress goondas or have been evicted from their offices with armed might. Officials of the unions whose names appear in the annual return are intimidated with the result that in many places trade unions find it difficult to submit the annual return to the Registrar of Trade Unions. This is likely to affect the CITU membership in West Bengal though to what extent it would affect is difficult to judge at the moment. Meanwhile many new unions have also applied for affiliation from West Bengal which will partially compensate for the loss as a result of forcible eviction.

### **May Day and CITU Foundation Day**

The CITU Centre issued May Day Manifesto during 1971 and 1972 and were translated in several languages, The

contents of the Manifesto were explained to the workers in May Day rallies organised throughout the country. A May Day Manifesto has also been issued for the year 1973. By and large, our unions are observing the May Day but not all unions are sending reports to the Centre. Attempts were made to observe the Day in co-operation with other central organisations but they were not always successful. During 1972, the AITUC, INTUC, and HMS planned united rallies all over India which also prevented this. In West Bengal in 1971 as well as 1972, joint rallies were possible despite terror and repression and they were well attended.

The Centre issued circulars during 1971 and 1972 calling upon all unions to observe May 30 as the CITU Foundation Day to popularise the CITU policy of unity and struggle. From the Reports received by the centres, it appears that more unions observe the day in 1972 than in 1971. It is, however, necessary that State Committees should take more interest in ensuring that the Day is planfully arranged and that all unions observe the day.

### **Rumanian T. U. Conference :**

The President, Central Trade Union Confederation of Rumania extended invitation to the CITU to send representative as a fraternal delegate to attend the Sixth Congress to be held at Bucharest on March 23-27, 1971. The office-bearers nominated Comrade Kamal Sarkar, Treasurer to participate in the Congress after consulting the Working Committee members. It was possible to use this occasion to explain the position of the CITU in the T. U. movement in India. The Coimbatore General Council meeting after listening the Report of Comrade Kamal Sarkar, recorded its appreciation of the work done by him during this tour.

Comrade Niren Ghosh, Secretary, when went to Italy in October 1972 in connection with a Parliamentary Conference met the representative of the CGIL, Rome and an ILO official at Geneva. He briefed the ILO official about the reign of

terror in West Bengal and elaborated the memorandum submitted by the West Bengal State Committee of CITU.

### **Vietnam Solidarity Campaign**

The Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions in a special cable to CITU on 7th January 1973 appealed for solidarity action in protest against barbarous bombing over the entire North Vietnam. President and General Secretary of the CITU immediately replied telegraphically assuring efforts to build a United movement in India on the question of Vietnam. CITU accordingly wrote to all the Central Trade Unions in this matter. However, INTUC, AITUC and HMS failed to reply and the CITU, therefore, had no other alternative but to go ahead on its own and collect solidarity funds in support of Vietnam.

In West Bengal a United Committee of General Mass organisations was convened and Vietnam solidarity Committee was formed with Comrade Jyoti Basu as the President and Comrade Bimal Chatterjee as the General Secretary. According to the latest report the Committee collected Rs. 10,000 till the first week of April 1973 and the total collection is likely to exceed Rs. 25,000/-. In Tamil Nadu the State Committee has taken up the campaign and a week observed in March to collect solidarity fund. The Assam State Committee of CITU has collected some funds. The Reports from other state committees have are still being awaited.

### **Industries-wise Co-ordination**

During the Calcutta session at the initiative of some leading Comrades, separate meetings of Comrades working in Plantations, Tyre and Rubber, Bidi, Tobacco and Cigar, Paper, Road Transport, Rayon and Engineering industries were held. These meetings were not properly planned but the delegates expressed a strong desire for industry-wise co-ordination of CITU unions. The question was to be discussed in the Working Committee meeting at Jaipur but could not be done for

want of time. It was however decided that detailed discussion should take place on industry-wise functioning during the General Council meeting. Accordingly, meetings were held at Coimbatore.

The CITU has always considered the all-India industry-wise action of the working class as an important step in the direction of developing the national solidarity of the entire working class. The co-ordination of CITU unions on industry-wise basis therefore assumes crucial importance. However, we have to take care to ensure that the industry-wise movement does not remain aloof from the all-India movement.

The Coimbatore General Council took some decisions regarding industry-wise functioning after considering the reports of group meetings. A brief review about the steps taken in this regard will enable us to understand the present position.

### **Plantations**

The Coimbatore General Council decided that an all-India Plantation Workers' Conference should be called in the month of January 1972. A Preparatory Committee was formed and a Conference was fixed at Vandiperiyar (Kerala) in consultation with unions in Kerala and Kerala State Committee of CITU. The CITU Centre took steps to prepare the General Report, resolutions and other documents of the Conference. The Kerala State Committee however sent a telegram requesting the Centre to postpone the Conference in view of rains in high ranges.

Meanwhile, unions in North Bengal expressed their readiness to hold the Conference at Darjeeling in November 1972. The proposal was approved by the leading unions in plantations. Accordingly, the Conference was held on November 17-19, 1972 in which 214 delegates representing unions from West Bengal, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Assam and Tripura participated. Comrade B. T. Ranadive inaugurated the Conference and guided its deliberations. Though the climate was inconvenient to delegates from South, Darjeeling Chia

Kaman Mazdur Union did its best to make their stay comfortable. The Conference received messages from foreign T. U. organisations in Vietnam, Rumania, Spain, South Africa, UAR, Italy, France, Cuba and Ceylon as well as from some unions in India. Despite several limitations, the Conference paved the way for all-India solidarity actions of the plantation Workers. The formation of All-India Plantation Worker's Federation should be used to further consolidate the CITU unions for industry-wise activity. The first step was taken by the Federation was to give a call for observation of a Demands Day during the week, December 18-24, 1972. The Federation office-bearers met at Bombay on December 31, 1972 and considered steps to implement the earlier decisions.

### JUTE

The office-bearers of the CITU authorised Comrade Kamal Sarkar to co-ordinate the activities of the unions in Jute Industry and a circular to that effect was issued to all the CITU unions. The prestige of Bengal Chatkal Mazdur Unions and its great traditions of struggle helped in developing contacts with even the non-CITU unions. The initiative taken by the BCMU in giving strike notices all over the country on the eve of indefinite strike call from May 7, by all the unions in West Bengal, received enthusiastic support from unions irrespective of their affiliations. As a result of this, after the West Bengal settlement awarding Rs. 235 as a minimum wage, strikes took place in U.P., Bihar, Assam, M.P. and Andhra Pradesh demanding settlement at par with West Bengal. BCMU expressed solidarity with all these struggles which brought together several organisations of different affiliations in common action.

The office-bearers of the CITU reviewing these developments in Jute decided to convene a meeting of representatives of different States to consider the possibility of holding an all-India Convention. The CITU Centre therefore convened a meeting of representatives working in unions in Jute on 25th

August 1972 but Comrades did not come due to several reasons. However, unions in different regions informed the Centre, their desire to come together in a convention or a Conference. The CITU office-bearers once again discussed the question in September 1972 and decided to call a Convention of unions in Jute industry along with the annual Conference of BCMU. Comrade Kamal Sarkar was nominated as the Convener. Messages were received by the Convention from Trade Union International of Textile clothing and Footwear as well as from textile unions in France, Italy and Rumania.

The All india Convention of unions in Jute industry was held on 29th October at Rajgunge, Howrah, West Bengal under the Presidentship of Comrade B. T. Ranadive. Delegates from Andhra and U.P. joined along with several delegates from West Bengal. INTUC unions from Andhra sent representatives who also welcomed the idea of formation of the All India Federation of unions in Jute Industry. The Convention formed a co-ordination Committee with Comrade Kamal Sarkar as the Convener, and appealed to other Central T.U.'s to join together to build a powerful organisation of Jute workers in India. It has also been decided to hold an all-India Conference within 6 months.

### **Rubber and Tyre :**

The formation of a Federation in Rubber and Tyre industry was being discussed for a long time. It was first decided in Jaipur meeting of the Working Committee but not much progress was made till the Coimbatore meeting of the General Council. A Preparatory Committee was later on formed with Comrade S.F.X. Pereira of Mumbai Shramik Sangha as the convener. However, the attendance in the first meeting held at New Delhi was very poor. The matter was again taken up at the Working Committee meeting held at Delhi in April, 1972. The functioning of the unions in this respect was strongly criticised and another meeting of the Preparatory Committee was convened at Bombay on 2nd October 1972

which was attended by representatives of West Bengal, Kerala, Tamilnadu and Maharashtra. The meeting decided to hold a Conference in Bombay. Accordingly it was held on 31st December 1972 and 1st January 1973.

The Conference decided to form all India Rubber and Tyre Workers Federation with Comrade Dinen Bhattacharyya as the President and Comrade Prabhakar Sanzgiri as General Secretary. The Headquarter of the Federation is at Bombay.

### **Bidi :**

During the Coimbatore General Council, a demand was raised for the formation of an all-India Federation. However, it was found that immediately formation of such a Federation was not possible. The Delhi meeting of the Working Committee therefore felt that unions should hold region-wise Conference in the beginning. The unions in South, organised a Conference in Mangalore in September 24-25, 1972 in which delegates from Kerala, Tamilnadu and Karnataka participated. The Conference decided to form Zonal Federation to co-ordinate and guide the activities of unions in Bidi industry.

### **Engineering**

The meeting of Comrades working in the engineering industry constituted the largest gathering of all the industry-wise meetings during the Coimbatore General Council meeting. The engineering industry also constitutes the largest single groups with the CITU. After considering the Report of the Group discussion, the General Council decided to form a sub-Committee with Comrade Robin Mukherjee as the Convener to prepare a report and convene a broader meeting to discuss the way of co-ordinating the activities of CITU unions. Comrade Robin Mukherjee prepared a questionnaire which was circulated to all the unions in the industry. The response from the unions was highly unsatisfactory. During the General Council meeting in Bombay, another meeting of Comrades working in the industry was held, in which it was

decided to prepare a report on the industry without any delay. Another question has been issued by the Centre asking information.

### **Port And Dock**

In the Delhi meeting of the Working Committee, the responsibility of co-ordinating the activities of CITU unions in Port, Dock and waterfront workers was given to Comrade Gerald Pereira. Later on in consultation with unions in Port and Docks co-ordination Committee was also formed with Comrade Pereira as Convener. Despite Comrade Pereira's efforts, it was not been possible to evolve a proper machinery of co-ordination. Some of the unions do not reply to circulars etc. and send regular reports. It is therefore necessary to pay more attention to this industry and take steps to ensure that the lethargy shown by some union is put to an end forthwith. A meeting of the Comrades working in this industry was held during General Council meeting on the eve of the CITU Conference to chalk out programme of activities.

### **Steel**

A Report on steel industry was placed in the Coimbatore meeting of the General Council. A meeting of the Comrades working in the steel industry also discussed the situation and decided to form a CITU Committee to guide the activities in this industry. At the initiative of Hindusthan Steel employees Union, Durgapur, a Convention was held in Bhilai on 27th July 1971 in which 500 representatives from most of the Steel plants, coal washeries and sales offices participated. The Convention formed a Twenty Seventh July Committee to co-ordinate and guide the activities of Steel unions. From CITU Centre, full timers were sent to Rourkela and Bhilai to build up T.U. movement in these centres. Comrade B. T. Ranadive has been personally in touch with unions and guiding their activities.

A Convention was held in Jamshedpur on 3rd October 1972 which was a representative gathering from

all the steel plants and their captive units. Despite severe repression and reign of terror in Durgapur, the CITU unions led many united struggles. This has highlighted the need for further efforts to give concerted guidance to our activities in all the Steel plants. A meeting of Comrades in this industry was held during the last General Council which considered steps to give more concerted guidance to the industry.

### **Road Transport :**

CITU has more than 30,000 members in this industry. In the last General Council meeting it was decided that detailed reports about the conditions of workers in different centres should be collected and a meeting of the Comrades working in this industry should be convened at a suitable date. It was later on agreed that an all India meeting should be arranged on the eve of the Annual Conference of Road Transport Union at Rajamahendry (Andhra). However, the meeting has not been convened so far, the main difficulty in this regard is the non-availability of any Comrade in the industry who would take the responsibility of co-ordination of the activity under the guidance of the Centre.

The CITU unions in Road Transport industry observed August 27, 1972 as West Bengal Solidarity Day all over India. A common draft of leaflet was prepared which was printed and circulated in different languages and meetings were organised in different centres condemning repression on Road Transport workers in West Bengal. In meeting, resolutions were passed in support of West Bengal Road Transport workers. A Convention held in Calcutta was inaugurated by Comrade B. T. Ranadive.

### **Paper :**

The Coimbatore General Council decided to give responsibility of co-ordinating the activity in this industry to Comrade Robin Sen who was also entrusted with the

responsibility of convening a meeting of Comrades working in the<sup>mining</sup> industry. However, the Centre does not have any reports about the progress made in this regard.

### **Mining :**

A meeting of the Comrades working in mining industry suggested that the Centre should convene a broader meeting of all the unions. However, due to lack of availability of a Comrade to take up the responsibility under the guidance of the Centre, it was not possible to take further steps in the matter. After the take-over of non-coking Coal mines, the Centre has been able to keep all the information about the developments and take the grievances of the workers with the appropriate authorities.

### **Railways**

The Working Committee meeting at Jalpur decided to give special importance to work among the Railway employees. Accordingly a detailed report was submitted to the General Council at Coimbatore explaining the conditions in different railways. The Council co-opted Com. Nrisingha Chakravarty as a member and he was entrusted with the work of organising railwaymen. Since then he has been functioning from the CITU Centre and keeping contacts with railway workers movement.

The CITU Centre is already giving adequate emphasis on strengthening its activities among the Railways. The most pressing question agitating in the minds of Railwaymen was that of wages during this period. The appointment of the Third Pay Commission created some hopes among the section of workers. To clarify the position of CITU, a booklet on "Railwaymen and the Third Pay Commission" by Com. Chakravarty was published (English 2000, Bengali 8000, Hindi 5000, Assamese 2000). The earlier 10000 copies of CITU publication, "Indian Railwaymen forge ahead" were sold in English, Hindi & Bengali, while this time the total circulation

was 17,000 which is an indicator of growing influence of CITU among the Railway employees. A booklet on Miabhoy Tribunal Award was published and sold among the Railway employees (1000 copies).

Meanwhile, Dakshin Railway Employees' Union was affiliated to CITU while South Central Railway Employees Union has decided to join the CITU.

Reports of Railway workers struggles are published regularly in The Working Class. Com. P. Ramamurti participated in the Convention on Bonus convened by All India Railwaymen's Federation held in Delhi on 8th October 1972 and supported the demands of the Railwaymen.

### **Role of the Centre :**

The Centre has found that the demand for setting up machinery for co-ordination and guidance for different industries is raised by several Comrades. Comrades should however realise that the Centre as it is situated to-day, is unable to take up further responsibilities for more and more industries unless some Comrades working in the industry come forward to take up certain responsibilities and fulfil them properly. There is a tendency to put entire responsibility on the Centre.

With growing all-India united action on an industry wise basis the importance of further co-ordination of activities of CITU unions will continue to increase. However, the delegates to this Conference who are leading Comrades in unions in specific industry should express their readiness to shoulder responsibilities in this regard which alone will enable the Centre to take effective steps in the matter.

### **Functioning of the CITU Centre :**

The office-bearers of the CITU have been able to establish a functioning CITU Centre which is discharging to role of coordinating the activities of the CITU unions in different states.

To supervise the work of the Centre and to take policy

decisions the office-bearers have been meeting from time to time. Since the last Session 28 such meetings have been held. Normally Comrades available in Calcutta attended these meetings while those who function from other States are consulted through correspondence. Whenever any issue which needs wider consultation arises, generally extended meeting of the office bearers is convened and the available members of the Working Committee are also invited. Five such meetings were convened after the last Session.

The CITU Centre is manned by 4 full time Comrades. Services of 6-7 part time Comrades are also available to carry out the work of the office and the monthly journal.

During the recent past there has been increase in the representation work undertaken by the Centre. Particularly the cases to be taken up with the Ministeries of Labour, Railway, Steel and Mines, Transport and Shipping, Petroleum and Chemicals etc. have increased during the last one year. The cases are also represented through CITU M.P.s. It has been possible on some occasions to settle the matters through these representations. However, the question of pursuing these cases in Delhi is not being done properly with the result they are delayed or not attended to by officials. Through there are severe limitations in getting justice through representations still some glaring irregularities can be rectified by bringing pressure on the Government.

The Centre submitted several memoranda to the official Committees criticising the anti-working class policies on the Government and putting forward alternative policy.

The CITU Memorandum to the expert Committee on unemployment went deep into the basic causes of unemployment and categorically asserted that so long the capitalist society exists the unemployment problem can never be solved. It also suggested some measures which would reduce the intensity of unemployment. The Memorandum also stressed the need for subsistence allowance to the unemployed.

The Centre submitted a Memorandum to the Parlia-

mentary Joint Committee on the Mines (Amendment) Act which pointed out the gross irregularities indulged in by the Mine-owners to evade the provisions of the Act. It further suggested modifications in the Act in the interests of the miners. Comrade P. Ramamurti and Comrade Robin Chatterjee appeared before the Committee on February 5 to explain the memorandum.

The Memorandum on Industrial Relations in Public Sector Undertakings submitted to the Bureau of Public Sector Undertakings highlighted the havoc played by the top heavy bureaucrats in playing with the public sector plants. It gave facts to point out the huge losses incurred by the Public Sector due to the policies pursued by the authorities. Comrades P. Ramamurti, M. K. Pandhe and Jibon Roy submitted oral evidence before the Committee on October 18, 1972.

In its interim Memorandum to the Bonus Review Committee CITU advocated  $8\frac{1}{3}$  per cent minimum and demanded that it should be paid to all the workers irrespective of the size of the employment including Central, State and local self Government employees. Comrade P. Ramamurti, K.T. Sule and P.K. Kurane submitted oral evidence on the question of interim recommendations on July 27, 1971 at Bombay. The final memorandum has also been submitted by the Centre. Comrade M.K. Pandhe, Comrade Sudhin Kumar, Com. Monoranjan Roy and Comrade Niren Ghosh appeared before the Committee on January 24, 1973 to explain the Memorandum.

The CITU submitted a memorandum to the Sugar Industry Enquiry Commission explaining the working of the sugar industry and demanding its nationalisation without compensation. Comrades M. K. Pandhe, K. N. Bhatt and G. S. Sinha appeared before the Commission on 13th March 1973 and answered the questions raised by the members of the Commission.

The Centre has been giving assistance to different State Committees and CITU Unions as well as unions outside the

CITU relating to various issues facing the the working class and the TU movement.

Yet it must be said that with growing movement and responsibilities and needs of the movement, the Centre to-day is unable to cope up with the work. Many jobs are getting delayed and at times they are carried out in a haphazard manner. Some jobs even go by default. Main difficulty is lack of adequate personale to work in the office and the inability of some of the office-bearers to spare time to take responsibilities in the Centre.

It is necessary to consider what steps should be taken to improve the functioning of the Centre so that it can play its role more efficiently and effectively.

The present inadequateness of the Centre could have been seen in more glaringly if the State Committee would have been functioning properly. Except West Bengal and to some extent Kerala and Tamilnadu, other State Committees do not have day to day activities. Not all State Committee act on the circulars issued by the Centre and ensure that unions in the State, implement the directives of the Centre. They do not send regular reports of their activities to the Centre. Some of the State Committees do not react immediately even if some notable struggle take place in their state.

The Constitutional provision that the State Committee should meet at least once in three months is not strictly followed by all the States. The attendance to these meetings is always not good. The meetings are not well prepared and things are done at eleventh hour. This only shows that we have not given up the old habits of functioning.

## **WORKING OF THE STATE COMMITTEES**

### **West Bengal**

First State Conference (1785 delegates from 715 unions) was held in Septemqer, 1971. In elected a Working Committee of 116 members. The Working Committee held regular meetings :

9 (between May 1970 and September 1971); since then, 1(1971); 4(1972) and one in January, 1973.

Office-bearers (13 members) of the State Committee met 6 times in 1971, 10 times in 1972 and once so far in 1973, on an average, 10 members attended each meeting.

The Secretariat met (since September 71) 18 times in 1972 and 7 times upto March 1973. It meets every Wednesday now.

The 488 member State Council (formed in September 71) has held 2 meetings so far, in June and December 1972, attended by 252 and 212 members respectively.

The State Committee has brought out 6 booklets (in English, Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, and Oriya) and 12 leaflets so far. It also sold more than 850,000 May Day/CITU badges. The State Committee also issued regular circulars : 6(1970), 7(1971), 8(1972) and 3 (upto March 1973).

Since the State Committees are direct links between the Union and the Centre, we should give some consideration to this question so that our functioning is improved considerably without which we will not be able to advance in days to come.

Comrades, the lacuna in our functioning is just mentioned in general here. Comrades are expected to give their experience in this regard and suggest ways and means to streamline our organisation without any further delay.

Comrades, the situation in the country today is extremely favourable to us, with growing united struggles and mass influence of the CITU, the expectation of the working class are rising and we have to think collectively in what manner we can shoulder our responsibility in days to come.

The State Committee office is run by 6 full-timers and 3 parttimers. Several office-bearers are available on all days of the week.

The State Committee conducted numerous movements. It sponsored general strikes between July 1970 and October 1971. It has organised along with 26 other mass organisations, a movement against unemployment. A Convention against

unemployment was held in February, 1973, in Calcutta and was attended by 1600 delegates from the districts.

The State Committee has given a call for fund of Rs. 1 lakh.

### **Kerala**

The State Committee was formed in May, 1970. It consisted of 45 elected members; 7 others were co-opted. It formed a State General Council with 750 members as well as District General Council with members of the State Council in each district.

Eleven District Committee were formed.

The State Committee held regular meetings : 1970 (3), 1971 (8), 1972 (10) and one in January, 1973. Between 20 and 30 of its members attended each meetings.

The General Council met at Eloor for 3 days in April, 72.

The State Committee brought out 16 publications during this period ; almost 90% of copies were sold out. 25 circulars were also issued covering decisions of meetings.

The State Committee has one full-time worker and 5 part-timers in its office. One office-bearer is also usually present.

The State Committee conducted a number of struggles apart from organising 4 general strikes during this period. It has formed 13 industry-wise federations.

### **Tamilnadu**

The first State Conference was held in July 1971 after which a State Committee was formed. It held 2 meetings in 1971, 2 in 1972 and one upto March 1973.

The State Committee has led or been associated with a number of movements. It has formed district Council in all districts except Madurai and Salem.

The State Committee's offices are situated in Madurai. A sub-office at Madras is also functioning now, run by V.P. Chintan, Asstt. Secretary, Members of the State Committee are under instructions to send regular reports to the Central office from their respective districts.

Industry-wise movements have been initiated in plantation, tannery, Municipal & local Board Employees' Beedi, Sugar, Cement, Electricity and Handloom industries.

The State Committee sent circulars to its unions : 3 in 1972 and 4 uptill now in 1973. 8 press statements were also issued.

### **Maharashtra :**

The Ad-hoc State Committee formed immediately after the foundation Conference met 5 times prior to the Conference. Since then, the new State Committee (33 members) met once towards the end of December, 1970 ; 4 times in 1971, 6 times in 1972 and 3 times till March 1973.

The office-bearers have met regularly and issued circulars to the unions : 2 (1970), 14 (1971), 12 (1972) and 3 upto March 1973. The State Committee brought out 3 booklets (Family Pension Scheme, Bonus and the American Imperialist Threat) and most copies were sold out.

The State Committee office has two full-time workers, including the General Secretary. One Vice-President, the Secretary and the treasurer attend regularly.

The State Committee has conducted 15 major campaigns so far. It has held demonstrations on various issues : 6 (1971) 9 (1972) and one in January 1973.

For better co-ordination, organisational work has been distributed region-wise between office-bearers. The State Committee has already formed a federation for Engineering unions ; unions in the rubber, plastic and powerloom industries are being formed.

### **Andhra**

The Ad-hoc State Committee was formed after the Foundation Conference with 9 members. It now has 46 members.

The first Conference of the State Committee held at Rajahmundry in December, 1970. The State Committee held regular meetings: 4(1970) 4(1971), 3 (1972) and one so far in 1973.

The State Committee has so far brought out 10 pamphlets apart from several leaflets and issued regulars to unions : 6(1971), 2(1972) and 2 so far in 1973. It published 3 bulletins in October, November and December, 1971 ; then in January 1972.

The State Committee's offices are run by the President and General Secretary. Office-bearers keep in touch. The State Committee has already formed two industry-wise federations, for the Municipal and Panchayat Raj employees and the Rickshaw workers. It is also leading the Motor Transport workers Federation.

The State Committee conducted several State-wide campaigns. Since the Second State Conference, it has been holding a series of General body meetings. It also held schools for trade union workers at different centres and for railways employees at 2 places.

### **Punjab & Himachal Pradesh :**

A Co-ordination Committee was formed in June 1970 with 5 members. After the first State Conference in October, 1971, a full-fledged Committee was formed. Three meetings were held prior to the Conference ; Since then, 5 meetings have been held all in 1972.

The State Committee has no publications. It, however, has issued 7 circulars so far to its unions. It also issued 12 press statements in 1972.

The State Committee's offices are run by its General Secretary alone. The Committee has so far been unable to conduct big movements. Some of its affiliated unions have, however, led movements in different industries. The one by the hosiery and Hydel Worker can be mentioned in this respect.

### **Bihar**

Since the last State Conference the State Committee meeting was held 3 times. Two meetings were held

in 1971 and one in 1972. Though many struggles are developing in the State, the movement could not be crystallised. The State Centre is weak and unable to cope up with the task. The State Headquarter at Ranchi is manned by one comrade who is also connected with several other unions.

### **Goa**

The State Council has a functioning office which also is an office of several unions. State Committee meetings are held regularly and reports are sent to the Centre promptly. The State Centre also issues circulars to the unions on pressing issues and has shown alertness in expressing solidarity with the struggles of workers both in India and abroad.

### **U.P.**

The State Centre has not been able to function as a co-ordinating and guiding Centre of union activities in the State. The State Committee meetings are not held regularly—Comrade B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU attended the State Committee meeting on 29th April 1972 and explained the need of building a functioning State Centre. The matters however, have not improved much since then.

### **Rajasthan :**

The State Committee meetings are being held from time to time though not regularly. The Second Conference of the State Committee was held in Jaipur on 11-12 November 1972 after which there has been more regularity in the functioning of the State Centre.

### **Karnataka**

Though in the early part after the first State Conference the State Committee was active, in a later period it has shown less activity. The earlier AITUC State Committee office has come into the possession of our State Committee. One

comrade is attending the office work. The State Committee brought out some documents of the last Conference in Kanada language and took initiative in organising some statewise programmes.

In Assam, Tripura and Delhi there are State Committee but they do not have day to day activities. In Delhi under the CITU leadership several struggles have been conducted but still organisationally we are weak. In Assam, the Committee has made advance in building united front of various sections of workers and employees. In Tripura, the Second State Conference was held in Agartala on 17th and 18th March 1973 in which more than one hundred delegates participated. Comrade Monoranjan Roy guided the Conference on behalf of the Centre. The Conference elected Shaktiprasanna Bhattacharya as President and Biren Dutta as General Secretary.

### *Annexure 1*

#### *Donations Received to*

#### **West Bengal Relief Fund For Evicted Workers**

##### Amount received by the Centre :

Tamilnadu	Rs.	6507.76
Karnataka	Rs.	986.00
Uttar Pradesh	Rs.	121.00
Orissa	Rs.	50.00
Andhra Pradesh	Rs.	228.00
Maharashtra	Rs.	12786.00
Rajasthan	Rs.	51.00
West Bengal	Rs.	75.00
Kerala	Rs.	500.00
Madhya Pradesh	Rs.	236.00
Total :	Rs.	21540.76

##### Amount directly paid to

West Bengal State Committee of CITU	Rs.	1907.00
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	Rs.	23447.76

## Annexure 2

**Statement Showing Circulation and arrears of  
The Working Class as in March 1973**

States	No. of Subscribers	No. of Agencies	Copies Supplied	Arrears of Agencies
1) Kerala	81	2	38	X
2) W. Bengal	76	15	655	Rs. 114.00
3) Tamilnadu	75	10	216	Rs. 230.80
4) Andhra Pradesh	39	3	80	Rs. 3.00
5) Maharashtra	59	4	157	Rs. 56.50
6) Mysore	29	8	129	Rs. 54.10
7) Madhya Pradesh	28	4	118	Rs. 53.00
8) Uttar Pradesh	25	3	37	Rs. 24.40
9) Punjab	17	4	80	Rs. 94.50
10) Bihar	18	16	194	Rs. 177.50
11) New Delhi	15	3	95	Rs. 45.00
12) Goa	15	X	X	X
13) Rajasthan	13	1	12	Rs. 3.20
14) Orissa	14	2	45	Rs. 12.00
15) Assam	12	4	47	Rs. 48.00
16) Gujarat	5	X	X	X
17) Haryana	7	1	10	Rs. 6.00
18) Himachal Pradesh	3	X	X	X
19) Jammu & Kashmir	1	X	X	X
20) Meghalaya	1	X	X	X
21) Pondicherry	1	X	X	X
22) Andaman	1	X	X	X
23) Tripura	1	X	X	X

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Total :            536            80            1913            Rs. 922.00

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Cash Sale            153

Complementary    104

Total copies sup-  
plied to foreign  
countries inclu-  
ding comple-  
mentary copies    35

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Total :            804 + 1913 = 2741

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