



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

July 8—Another Eventful Day



A View of the Workers' March to Parliament

UNITED movement of the working class in India recorded yet another eventful day on July 8, the opening day of the Parliament, when tens of thousands of workers rallied in the states demanding forthwith withdrawal of the four anti-labour black bills. The four bills, viz. Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, Trade Union (Amendment) Bill, Hospitals and Other Institutions (Settlement of Disputes) Bill and Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill were introduced by the Government in the last session of the Parliament and were directed to set at nought all trade union rights of the workers, having already armed itself with ESMA and NSA. Apart from this the amendments totally negated the Supreme Court verdict expanding the definition of "industry" by taking out the workers of hospitals and other institutions from the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act.

CITU and all other Central Trade Unions, save and except the INTUC, denounced the Government and rejected the bills lock, stock and barrel. In all the states the workers demonstrated the massive show of unity at the call of the National Campaign Committee.

The INTUC which tried to utilise the erstwhile united platform of 1978 against the Janata Government to oppose the Industrial Relations Bill, stood as a watch dog to protect the interest of the bourgeois-landlord Government against the working class. True to their character, the hoodlums of INTUC acting as the "labour lieutenants of the capitalist class" tried to disrupt the demonstrations at various places. But the massive strength of the workers, angered by the ruthless suppression of all the struggles, put the hoodlums into straight jackets.

Delhi

Braving the blazing sun over twenty thousand workers from Delhi and the adjoining areas marched the 8 km route from Ferozeshah Kotla ground to the Boat Club to warn the Government against the black bills and its anti-labour policies.

Addressing the rally, M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU congratulated the workers for the massive response against the black bills. He called upon the workers to forge greater unity and launch relentless struggles against the anti-labour policies of the Government, since the Government was bent upon to take away the rights of workers achieved

through years of struggles and sacrifice. Indrajit Gupta, General Secretary of AITUC called upon the workers to fight the black bills in the same way as they fought against the Industrial Relations Bill, so that the Indira Government is forced to retreat as did the Janata Government. Among others who addressed the rally were Piyush Tirkey of UTUC, Amar Chakravarty of TUCC, D.D. Vashist of HMS, J.S. Dara of INTUC (Dara), R.V. Singh of BMS and Pritish Chandra of UTUC (LS).

Later a memorandum was submitted by the leaders of the Delhi Campaign Committee to the Speaker of Lok Sabha demanding withdrawal of the bills.

West Bengal

A massive rally was held in Calcutta in observance of the anti-labour black bills day. Presiding over the rally, Manoranjan Roy, General Secretary of West Bengal State Committee of CITU, said that the bills were introduced by the Indira Govt. at the dictates of IMF in the interest of the Indian and foreign monopolists.

Large number of workers from various unions marched through the streets of Calcutta and joined the rally. The rally was addressed among others by the leaders of AITUC, TUCC, UTUC, 12th July Committee, Bank Employees Federation, Federation of Mercantile Employees' Unions, etc. Rallies and demonstrations were held all over the state.

Tamilnadu

A huge procession started from Paris Corner in Madras and culminated in a mass meeting at Singanna Chetty Street. The meeting was organised by the Joint Council of Trade Unions and addressed by V.P. Chintan of CITU and among others by K.N. Sundaram, Ben Walter, K.S. Narayanan, etc.

Maharashtra

A one lakh strong rally was held at Shivaji Park, Bombay which was organised by the Trade Union Joint Action Committee. The rally was combined with the demands of the striking textile workers of Bombay. To strike terror amongst the workers the INTUC hoodlums murdered one textile activist of Girni Kamgar Sabha. Another CITU activist S.M. Dalvi was served with externment order. But these dastardly acts could not cow down the spirit of the workers who mustered in large numbers in the rally.

P.K. Kurane, General Secretary of Maharashtra State Committee of CITU condemned the actions of the Government and called upon the workers to carry forward the struggle till the bills are withdrawn. Others who addressed the rally included G.V. Chitnis (AITUC), Somnath Dubey (HMS), Pushpa Mehta (UTUC), Datta Samant (MGKU), Jayant Gokhale (BMS), R.G. Karnik (State Govt. Employees) and others.

Bihar

A massive procession of workers and employees belonging to the Central Trade Unions and service associations and federations was taken out from the union office of the Patna Divisional Insurance Employees and culminated at the Bailey Road Crossing near the Secretariat where it was stopped by the police. The procession was converted into a mass meeting which was presided over by Hari Krishna of CITU, Leaders of AITUC, BMS, UTUC (LS), Co-ordination Committee of Unions and Associations and other organisations addressed the meeting.

Similar rallies were organised also in other parts of the state.

Assam

Rallies demonstrations and meetings were held in Gauhati and all other parts of the state. The Dibrugarh District Campaign Committee organised a mass meeting attended by workers from wide range of activities which included representatives from Railways, Tea gardens, Banks, LIC, GIC, Tailor's Unions, Motor industry, Electricity Workers, Establishment Workers, Cook and Sweetmeat Makers' Unions, hospital and other establishments, etc. Resolutions demanding withdrawal of the black bills were sent to the Prime Minister. Similar resolutions were sent from Tinsukia, Doomsdooma and other places by various unions.

Meghalaya

The Meghalaya State Campaign Committee organised a mass rally at Shillong. The rally was addressed by leaders of various unions. Copies of the resolution demanding withdrawal of the bills were sent to the President of India, Prime Minister, Labour Minister, and the Governor of Meghalaya.

Karnataka

Mass meetings were held at Bangalore and other places in Karnataka. Telegrams and resolutions demanding withdrawal of the bills were sent to the Prime Minister.

U.P.

Rallies and meetings were organised by CITU in cooperation with other Central Trade Unions at Kanpur, Lucknow and other places. Various mass organisations joined the rallies demanding withdrawal of the Black Bills.

Madhya Pradesh

Rallies were organised in various parts of the state which were joined by various sections of workers and employees organised under different Central Trade Unions. The rallies acquired particular significance because of the Steel Workers of Bhilai and the Colliery Workers who participated in large numbers. Various branches of the Koyla

Shramik Sangh (CITU) sent telegrams to the Labour Minister demanding withdrawal of the black bills. The Hindustan Steel Employees' Union (CITU), Bhilai Steel Mazdoor Sabha (AITUC), Bhilai Shramik Sabha (HMS), and the HSCL Unions held a massive demonstration before the Ispat Bhawan against the black bills, ESMA, NSA and against the move for productivity—linked wages. The rally was addressed among others by P.K. Mukherjee(CITU), M.C. Soni (AITUC) and Markande Dubey(HMS).

All India Coal Workers' Federation representing six lakh workers sent telegram to the Prime Minister demanding withdrawal of the black bills.

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Scores of similar telegrams and copies of resolutions were sent to the Prime Minister and Labour Minister, from various parts of the country by a large number of unions and Federations.

CITU Congratulates the Working Class for Observing 'Anti-labour Black Bills Day'

B.T. Ranadive President and P. Ramamurti, M.P., General Secretary, Centre of Indian Trade Unions have issued the following Statement on July 8:

The CITU congratulates the working class of the country for their participation in massive demonstrations registering their protest against the Four retrograde anti-labour black bills viz. Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, Trade Union (Amendment) Bill, Hospitals and other Institutions (Settlement of Disputes) Bill and Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill which aim at taking away the fundamental rights of the working class — the Freedom of Association, Right to Organisation and Right to Collective Bargaining and Right to Strike. Warmly responding to the Call of the National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions, the Working Class have once again demonstrated their united will to fight back all attempts to curb their trade union rights.

The CITU warmly greets the working class of Delhi, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Panipat, Modinagar etc. who defying the scorching sun converged into the Boat Club lawns in thousands to register their anger and protest, many of them having struck work to join the rally.

The CITU also congratulates the textile workers of Maharashtra, who have struck work in solidarity with the struggle of Bombay Textile Workers which is continuing for over 170 days.

The CITU warns the Govt. of India that they would be solely responsible for the industrial strife which is bound to follow if they continue to pursue these anti-working class policies.

The CITU appeals to the entire working class of the country to preserve and strengthen the unity already achieved and prepare themselves for a long-drawn struggle in defence of their Freedom of Association, Right to Organise and Right to Collective Bargaining including Right to Strike.

Hospital and Other Employees Prepare for Movement

An All India Joint Action Committee of Organisations of employees working in Hospitals, Educational and Research Institutions, Khadi Industry and Co operatives was formed in a meeting held at New Delhi on June 25 to prepare for movement against the black bills. Hari Mohan and Nilambar Pandey were elected Convenor and Joint Convenor respectively. The following organisations participated in the meeting:

Federation of CSIR Employees' and Workers' Unions and Associations; All India University and College Employees' Federation; Joint Action Committee of Unions and Associations of Autonomous Research Institutions of West Bengal; Joint Action Council of Unions of AES, ATRIA, BMI, IIM, ISRO-SAC, NID, NDDDB and PRL (West Zone); Central Health Employees' Federation; Delhi University and College Karmachari Union and Wadia Institute of Himalayan Ecology Employees' Union. The Northern India Medical Colleges and Hospitals Employees' Federation; Khadi Gram Udyog Bhawan Karmachari Sangh and RDSO Karmachari Sangh, Lucknow also sent their consent to join the movement.

The meeting called upon the organisations to hold gate meetings at the respective premises, distribute leaflets and paste posters demanding withdrawal of the black bills. Protest demonstrations would also be launched when the bills come up for discussions in the Parliament. The meeting further decided to convene a National Convention to chalk out plans to step up the agitations. The meeting also decided to hold State Conventions before the National Convention.

In a statement issued to the press on June 26 Hari Mohan and Nilambar Pandey condemned the Government for introducing the black bills to snatch the trade union rights of the workers. They made a scathing criticism of the Indira regime for totally reversing the Supreme Court judgement which brought the Hospital and other institutional employees under the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act. They called upon the employees to launch vigorous movement against the retrograde bills and join the mainstream of the movement under the banner of the National Campaign Committee.

Large number of employees belonging to these categories joined the July 8 rally at Delhi.

No Progress in BHEL Wage Negotiations

THE joint Charter of Demands submitted to the B.H.E.L. management on 23 June after its adoption in the Bhopal Convention, came up for discussion in a Joint Committee meeting on 29 and 30 June held at Bangalore. The INTUC also submitted a Charter of Demands on 29 June almost on identical line submitted by other Central Trade Unions.

After the trade unions explained the justification of the demands the initial reaction of the management was that the existing position of wages and other benefits in BHEL was better compared to other Public Sector Undertakings. However, the management was prepared to offer some additional concessions if total quantum of "Kitty" was agreed to by the workers group. The concept of the "Kitty" was however not acceptable to the representatives of the trade unions. The workers group also did not agree with the proposal to form a small committee within the Joint Committee to finalise the main part of the agreement. The workers representatives demanded concrete proposals from the management to every point of the Charter of Demands. The management agreed to do so in the next meeting.

The meeting of the Joint Committee held in New Delhi on 11 and 12 July could not make any advance because the management did not come forward with any offer but placed forward some anti-working class counter pro-

posals which the workers group refused to accept. The proposals were nothing but the follow up action of the directive of the BPE to link wages with productivity.

The management tried to make out a point that average wages were the highest in public sector undertakings. The C.I.T.U., however, pointed out that in about 40 Public Sector Undertakings the average wages were higher than B.H.E.L.

The next meeting of the Joint Committee has been fixed at Madras on 29 and 30 July. It will again meet at Hardwar on 5 and 6 August and in Bhopal on 28 and 29 August. It is clear that unless the management changes its attitude the agreement may not be finalised by the end of August.

Meanwhile, BHEL Union observed All India Demands Day on 15 July by holding demonstrations in all the plants and establishments. The C.I.T.U. has appealed to all the trade unions to launch a bigger movement to press the management to give up its present stance in negotiations.

HSCI management cancels Joint Forum Meeting

A meeting of the Joint Forum of HSCL scheduled to be held on 28 June was unilaterally cancelled by the management without even giving adequate notice to the workers representatives. This action of the management was sought to be justified on the plea that the new Managing Director had not resumed duties till then.

Despite several meetings of the Joint Forum held so far no substantive progress could be made in the direction of finalisation of a new agreement since the issue of release of instalments of DA is being sought to be

adjusted by the management with the payment of interim relief.

The CITU has protested against the high handed action of the management and demanded immediate release of all the instalment of DA. It has also asked for early convening of the meeting of the Joint Forum.

Cement Workers Observe Demands Day

As per decision of the Joint meeting of Cement Unions affiliated to CITU, AITUC and BMS held in New Delhi on 30 May an All India Demands Day was observed on 12 July by the Cement Unions all over the country. The workers protested against the reference of the dispute to the Arbitration of Ramannujan - Nivetia. The workers demanded higher wages and other terms of service conditions in view of extremely high profits earned by the Cement barons.

The Joint meeting will again be held in the month of August to consider further course of action.

Nomination

M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU has been nominated in the Committee on Convention to represent CITU.

Editorial Board

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Special Issue

The September 1982 issue will be a special number. It will contain report and resolutions of the Working Committee and matters on W. Bengal and Tripura. Price will be Re 1/-. Book your orders in advance.

Beedi Workers' Cooperatives

TO improve the conditions of lakhs of Beedi workers the Government of India mooted a proposal to organise them under cooperatives. With this purpose in view the Ministry of Labour convened a meeting at New Delhi on July 2. Besides CITU, AITUC and INTUC representatives of Mahamantri Beedi Mazdoor Sangh (Maharashtra); All India Beedi Industry Federation, Bombay; the Labour Secretaries of the State Governments; all Regional Welfare Commissioners of Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund; Chairman of Kerala Dinesh Beedi Central Cooperative Society and representatives from trade unions were invited to attend the meeting.

Presiding over the meeting the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour admitted the deplorable conditions of the beedi workers who are exploited by the employers and the middlemen both and live below poverty line. He sought opinions of the participants for the proposal of Cooperatives to improve their conditions. He also said that the Central Government was prepared to finance such Cooperative Societies if they are formed by the State Governments.

The Labour Secretaries replied that there is no possibility and it is not a practicable idea to organise societies in states because cooperative societies cannot compete with the private owners in this field. They cited the example of Maharashtra where Rs. 53 lakhs were funded to three cooperative societies and despite this these societies do not function properly.

The CITU representative, C. Kannan and G.K. Panicker, Chairman, Kerala Dinesh Beedi Central Cooperative Society expressed that at least in 3 or 4 states these societies should be organised on experimental basis. G.K. Panicker submitted a report on the functioning and achievements of the Kerala Dinesh Beedi

Central Cooperative Society, where 27,000 workers are employed. Other trade union representatives agreed and supported this suggestion.

Additional Secretary concluded that the Central Government will prepare a centralised scheme and it will be implemented through State Governments. The Central Government will also consider whether the experience in organising Handloom Cooperative Societies already operating in the country, will be of any use in preparing the scheme.

In the meeting, another item also was discussed.

The Central Advisory Committee, Beedi Workers' Welfare

Fund, in the meeting of 10.2.1982, took a decision that within six months the work relating to registration of Beedi Workers and issuance of identity cards with photos should be completed on priority basis. But so far nothing has been done in any state in the regard.

CITU representative C. Kannan viewed that the inability expressed by the State Governments is contrary to the Act and in the absence of identity cards, the workers are not able to get the benefits from the Beedi Workers' Welfare Scheme.

The Additional Secretary said that within two months the State Governments should complete the work relating to registration of beedi workers and should arrange to issue the identity cards with photo to each worker.

All India Protest Day by Central Government Employees

The Confederation of Central Government Employees in its meeting on June 15 decided to observe July 20 as ALL INDIA PROTEST DAY. The Protest Day will be observed by holding demonstrations and rallies demanding cash payment of D.A. due since April, 1982; Bonus to all employees of all categories; withdrawal of penal measures from the employees in Kerala and other places; removal of all impediments on the day to day functions of the unions and Associations and constitution of one man tribunal to consider the demands of the Central Government employees for pay structures at par with those of the Public Sector Undertakings.

The decision of the Confederation to launch an all India movement came in the wake of the Government's enforcement of the D.A. 'agreement' on the employees arrived at with some leaders during January/February last, bypassing the Joint Consultative Committee. The militant

sections of the Central Government employees revolted against the anti-labour back-door deal all over India. CITU and other trade unions denounced the Government's wage-freeze policy and the attempt to divide the employees and supported the agitation of these employees. Through intense internal struggles, however, the Confederation frustrated the move of the Government to put a wedge in their united movement and took an unanimous decision to observe July 20 as a countrywide Protest Day.

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Coal Workers Prepare For All India Movement

AN industrywise confrontation between the labour and management in coal mines seems inevitable because of the deliberate policy of Coal India Ltd. and the Energy Ministry not to settle any of the vital pending issues like medical and educational facilities, compensation of injuries, standardisation of working conditions, incentive payments, construction of housing, payment of gratuity etc. which are pending since 1979. The National Coal Wage Agreement II directed the management to settle these issues within a few months through discussions in the Joint-Bi-partite Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI). But this direction and agreed decision has been sabotaged by the management in connivance with the INTUC. When the above issues were under discussions, suddenly in September, 1981, the INTUC representatives of the JBCCI walked out of the meeting and with the help of the Energy Ministry pressurised the CIL not to call any meeting of the JBCCI nor settle any issue. They suddenly put up a fantastic demand for more than 50% representations in the JBCCI and reconstitution of the body on this basis.

Patronising the INTUC, the CIL and various coal companies refused to convene production committee meetings while the discontent among the coal workers is mounting up and when the National Coal Wage Agreement II is expiring on 31st December 1982. Here too the INTUC has resorted to black-mail tactics and in connivance with the Union Energy and Labour Ministries is trying to secure more than 50% representations in the Wage Negotiating Committee or send it to Wage Board or a Tribunal. The Coal miners are bound to resist this move which is aimed at putting an end to collective bargaining and total reversal of bipartite wage negotiations which were carried out since 1974 in the coal industry.

The Non-INTUC miners' Federations have agreed to measure respective strength of trade unions through secret ballot even under the auspices of the Government.

In the meantime while the coal price has been increased without any justification, condition of coal miners is deteriorating and fatal accidents are increasing. In league with the mafia gangs in the mines, the Coal India has unleashed a reign of terror on the miners to suppress their just demands.

In a joint press conference held at Delhi on July 14, CITU, AITUC, HMS and BMS have warned Coal India that seven lakh coal workers may resort to strike actions if the management refuse to start wage negotiations. All Non-INTUC Unions are going to meet in an all India Convention at Dhanbad on August 21 and 22 to decide upon the future course of action.

Sixteen Miners Killed In Topa Colliery Accident

The death roll in accident of Topa colliery in Bihar on 16th July had reached 16 while condition of several others is reported to be serious.

The cause of the accident was the fall of roof measuring 50 feet by 35 feet weighing about 40 tonnes. The roof had no pillar support and despite unsafe conditions the officials ordered blasting operation. The Central Coal Field officials were extracting Coal in the mines violating mines safety rules.

Though a judicial enquiry has been appointed and two mine officers have been suspended the manner in which the mine was working has evoked strong reactions among all the trade unions.

When the Safety is thus being neglected in Coal mines the Government of India has not taken any step to implement the decisions of the Fifth Conference

on Safety in mines. The Labour Ministry has not yet allotted adequate funds even to inspect the mines once in a year.

In their anxiety to boost coal production somehow, the CIL officials have ignored safety. The Government have been utterly callous towards this question which has been responsible for the increasing loss of life in mining accidents.

Gangsterism In DGMS Office

The attempt of INTUC hoodlums in the office of the Director General of Mines Safety to capture the recognised union by force was foiled due to vigilance shown by the employees. About 5000 employees who work in this office remained firm with the Non-Gazetted Employees Association, DGMS, Dhanbad and the management had to accept this organisation as the only representative organisation of the DGMS employees.

The INTUC gangsters held a fake General Body meeting and started functioning in the name of the same organisation. They also put another lock on the Association office but it was broken by the demonstration of all the employees of the office.

The DGMS management taking advantage of the situation prevented the Association representatives from attending the Joint Staff Council meeting. The Association protested against this and the Union Labour Ministry had to accept that it is the only representative organisation.

The Association was prepared to hold a secret ballot of all the members but the INTUC gangsters were not prepared for it.

On 15 July M.K. Pandhe and G.K. Baksi met the DGMS and demanded that the management should desist from interfering in the activities of the Association. The DGMS assured that the management would deal only with the representative union.

Open Attempt to Depress Minimum Wages

THE Minimum Wages Advisory Board met at Delhi on July 15 to consider the proposals of the Central Govt. in Construction and Maintenance of Roads, Building and Runways, Stone Breaking, Agriculture and various types of mines.

In the earlier meeting held on March 25, it was unanimously decided that the proposed rates being very low the Govt. should notify adequate minimum wages within two months and with this stipulation the proposed rates were approved. It was also decided that the principle of granting variable D.A. to off set erosion in real wage due to rise in prices should be decided upon.

The Central Govt. however while complying with the decision had notified once again a paltry increase in the minimum wage rates.

For those employed in Construction and Maintenance of Roads, Buildings and Runways, Stone-Breaking and Agriculture the Central Govt. proposed the following rates of minimum wages dividing the cities and towns in five groups on the basis of population as applicable to the Central Govt. employees.

The CITU lodged their protest to this and demanded Rs. 500/-

Category	Area-A	Area-B1	Area-B2	Area-C	Area-D
Unskilled	10-00	9-00	8-25	7-50	6-75
Semi-skilled	12-50	11-50	10-25	9-50	8-50
Skilled	16-00	14-50	13-00	12-00	10-75
Highly Skilled	20-00	18-25	16-50	14-75	13-75
Clerical	16-00	14-50	13-00	12-00	10-75

For those employed in various types of mines, the Central Govt. notified the following rates.

	Above Ground	Below Ground
Unskilled (per day)	Rs. 8-75p.	Rs. 10.50p.
Semiskilled „	Rs. 11.00p.	Rs. 13.25p.
Skilled „	Rs. 13.50p.	Rs. 16.25p.
Clerical „	Rs. 13.50p.	

p.m. or Rs 17/- per day as minimum wages with proportionate wage differential for the semi-skilled, skilled, Highly skilled etc. as an interim measure pending fixation of wages on the basis of 15th Indian Labour Conference norms. It was pointed out that there is complete anarchy in as much as the very same Central Govt. has announced the rates of stipend of Trade Apprentices at Rs. 230/- for the first year and Rs. 400/- at the 4th year. Now after having passed the training their wages will be lowered when they are absorbed in semi-skilled or even skilled post.

In the meeting on July 15, Chandi Prasad, CITU nominee raised the issue and all except one were in favour of increasing the wages. The meeting was adjourned as the Chairman was feeling unwell. In the afternoon when the meeting resumed, it was found that almost all barring the CITU nominee were ready to approve the rates with the request that the Govt. should revise the minimum wages early in view of the low rates notified this time. Chandi Prasad submitted a note of dissent on this question in which he stated as follows :—

The notifications issued on various dates by the Government

of India in pursuance of the said decision was very low and did not take into account the revision of minimum wages that has been made in various states.

For example the State of Haryana has notified a minimum wage of Rs. 340/- per month for the Unskilled and Rs. 515/- per month for the Highly Skilled Category. Even a backward state like Madhya Pradesh has fixed a minimum wage of Rs. 210/- p.m. for Unskilled labour.

The CITU had raised objections to the proposed rates with valid grounds to which no answer has been given though circulated to all members of the Board.

Agreeing to these rates now proposed would tantamount to depressing wages in every field of employment and many State Government would be placed in a difficult position.

I, therefore, do not agree to the time serving procedure of paltry and meagre rise in minimum wages with a pious request to the Government to revise the rates in future, without any time-bound procedure.

He has suggested that in order to bring an end to the present anarchy, criteria for fixing minimum wages should be finalised as early as possible.

In regard to variable Dearness Allowance, the Govt. had proposed a rate of two paise per point per day and the CITU had demanded six paise per point per day. The Board, barring only one, decided that the rate of V.D.A should be five paise per point per day on 1960 C.P.I. numbers.

The deliberate attempt to depress the minimum wages is clearly seen. Only a determined struggle can improve the situation. Experience of our comrades in Faridabad substantiates the same. The CITU Centre has, therefore, decided to bring out a pamphlet on this issue as early as possible.

The Longest Textile Strike in India

JULY 8 was marked in India by recording the longest textile strike in the country. On this day the glorious strike of the Bombay textile workers entered the 172nd day and thus surpassed the previous record of the 171-day strike also by the Bombay textile workers in 1928.

The day was marked by the four lakhs textile workers in the entire state of Maharashtra by launching a successful one day strike expressing solidarity with the textile workers of Bombay.

July 8 became still more eventful in Bombay as it coincided with the observance of the Anti-labour Black Bills Day in response to the call given by the National Campaign Committee. A massive one lakh strong rally at Shivaji Park demonstrated the determination of the working class to fight the anti-labour policies of the Government, braving its ruthless repression and turning the ESMA into a bundle of papers.

The two and half lakhs striking workers rejected the ignominious offer of an adhoc payment of Rs. 30/- per month and a recoverable advance Rs. 650/- made by the Union Labour Minister; and decided to continue the strike till their demands are met with.

The One Day Strike

The Maharashtra Govt. released all its machineries to frustrate the one day solidarity strike by the 5 lakhs State textile workers outside Bombay. Large scale arrests were made, the police and the anti-socials were deployed, externment order was served on the CITU activist, S.M. Dalvi and another activist of the Girmi Kamgarh Sabha was murdered by the INTUC hoodlums. Even the prominent Congress(I) leaders and a former State Minister moved from gate to gate in the mills in a vain attempt to force the workers to go to work. But these mercenaries of the Government were driven out by the fury of the workers. The strike was a great success in all centres like Nagpur, Solapur, Hinganghat, Pulgaon (Wardha), Dhule, Jalgaon, Sangli and other places.

Before the strike, three batches of the leaders of the Trade Union Joint Action Committee toured all parts of the State and addressed public meetings. The massive attendance of ten to fifteen thousands of people in the meetings even in small towns bore the testimony that the Bombay textile workers' strike had become the burning question in the State. Among the CITU leaders who toured the state were K.L. Malabade, B.P. Kashyap, A.B. Savant, Dinkar Kadav and others.

Powerloom Workers

On July 8 over forty thousand powerloom workers of Ichalkaranji (Kolhapur District) went on com-

plete Strike at the call of the CITU led Powerloom Workers' Union. 352 workers including 62 women were arrested including the CITU leaders, K.L. Malabade and Suryaji Salunke. Massive demonstrations were held in support of the Bombay textile workers' strike and against the arrests.

Women's Demonstration

A five thousand strong women's morcha was held in Bombay on July 7, in support of the Bombay textile workers' strike. The morcha was organised by the Shramik Mahila Sangh and the Bharatiya Mahila Federation and led by Ahilya Rangnekar, Prabha Samant, Subhasini Ali, Tara Valanju, Tara Reddy, Manju Gandhi, Kusum Nadkarni and Geeta Mahajan among others. The women were drawn from all walks of life and included large sections of textile working women. The morcha started from Churchgate, wound its way through Hutatma Chowk and held a militant demonstration before the office of the Bombay Mill Owners' Association. It then proceeded to Mantralaya and held a public meeting which continued over two hours. A delegation led by Ahilya Rangnekar and Tara Reddy met the State Labour Minister and submitted a memorandum demanding immediate negotiations with the striking textile unions. Later, addressing the public meeting, Ahilya Rangnekar castigated the Govt. for becoming a captive of the Big Business and called upon the workers to further step up the united militant movement to force the authoritarian Congress (I) Government to accede to their demands.

Jail Bharo

The rally of July 8 which was combined with the call of the National Campaign Committee against the black bills was joined by tens of thousands of the textile workers who made common cause with the workers' struggle in the country against the black bills and the anti labour policies of the Govt. It gave a call for a "Jail Bharo" programme in support of the textile strike if the Government fails to start negotiations with the striking unions by July 18, the day when the strike completes six months. Among those who addressed the rally were P.K. Kurane (CITU), G.V. Chitins (AITUC), Somnath Dubey (HMS), Puspma Mehta (UTUC), Datta Samant (MGKU), Jayant Gokhale (BMS) and R.G. Karnik (State Govt. Employees).

Help to the Textile Workers

Material help to the textile workers continues unabated.

The Various CITU, DYFI and SFI Centres along with other organisations are conducting local collections and drives in support of the striking workers. Rs. 10,000 were collected apart from books, grains and other materials and distributed to the workers.

The morale of the workers are high and the strike entered its seventh month on July 19 with all its glory and sweep.

United Steel Convention Calls for Industrial Action

OVER 1000 delegates from all the Steel Plants who assembled in Cultural Centre (Sector 3) at Bakaro Steel City on 17 and 18 July enthusiastically cheered when the decision was taken to launch a joint movement to force the Steel managements to accept the Charter of Demands submitted by various trade unions. The All India Steel workers Convention was held as per decision of the National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions.

A presidium consisting of K.K. Tripathi (CITU), Nitish Seth (AITUC) and Samaresh Singh (BMS) conducted the deliberations of the Convention.

Samar Mukherjee while greeting the Convention on behalf of the CITU strongly condemned the BPE guidelines for wage negotiation in public sector undertakings and called upon the steel workers to oppose any linkage of wage rise with further increase in productivity. Explaining at length how the economic policies of the Government are leading to further attacks on the working class and the toiling masses he pointed out the dangerous consequences of the new IMF loan. Highlighting the significance of the remarkable unity achieved under the banner of National Campaign Committee he appealed for further strengthening of this unity to fight the danger of growing authoritarianism in the country.

N.K. Krishnan speaking on behalf of AITUC underlined the need for more and more struggles to defeat the anti-working class and anti-people policies of Smt. Gandhi's Govt.

Mitra speaking on behalf of BMS welcomed the growing unity among the Steel workers to fight the wage freeze policy and the BPE directives.

Then speakers from all the plantwise unions spoke on the problems faced by the steel workers. They criticised growing bureaucratism, favouritism shown to INTUC unions, prevailing malpractices and corruption, victimisation of T.U. activists on flimsy grounds, callousness towards ordinary grievances of workers etc. They also narrated the harrowing conditions of contract workers in Steel Plants and non-implementation of even the laws applicable to contract workers. They complained about the shocking conditions of work in captive mines of the Steel Plants.

Except some of the disruptive speeches made by the speakers from UTUC (Lenin Sarani) general tone of the discussion was on need for united struggles. The UTUC (LS) speakers criticised the functioning of the National Campaign Committee. One speaker who tried to criticise the West Bengal Government was silenced by the protests from the delegates.

The main resolution of the Convention, "The Present Wage Negotiations and Tasks of the Steel Workers" was moved by M.K. Pandhe, Secretary CITU. The resolution condemned the anti-labour guidelines issued by the BPE and the dilatory tactics adopted by the SAIL management.

The Resolution further stated, "The fact that the wage costs as percentage of total cost of production has come down from 18 to 13 per cent during the last 4 years clearly shows that the Steel managements are giving a raw deal to the Steel workers despite their best efforts for higher output. Over and above that they have been denied full neutralisation in the rise in cost of living even at the lowest level resulting in sharp decline in their living standards during the period of last agreement.

The Resolution proposed the following programme of action all over the country.

1. To hold unit level Conventions in all the Steel townships and establishments unitedly to popularise the decisions of this Convention by 15th August 1982.

2. To observe All India Protest Week from 25 to 31 August all over the country protesting against BPE guidelines and the dilatory tactics adopted by the managements in private and public sectors culminating in massive protest demonstrations in all the Steel plants on 31 August 1982.

In order to organise a sustained struggle the resolution proposed to constitute a small committee of Central Trade Unions to review the situation in the first week of September and chalk-out further programme of action including all-India Strike in Steel industry, if necessary.

The Convention adopted resolutions congratulating two and a half lakhs Bombay textile workers for their six month old strike, condemning 4 anti-labour Black Bills introduced in Parliament and demanding their withdrawal, condemning victimisation of 8 TISCO workers for leading the strike of 10,000 contract workers, opposing merger of SAIL Central Coal Washeries with the BCCL, supporting the HSCL workers' demand for job security and demanding draught relief to the affected people. By a resolution the Convention expressed its indignation at the continuation of contract labour system in Steel industry and demanded regularisation of the contract workers.

The Convention ended in a well attended rally in which workers came in processions. Democratic women's organisation and SFI units joined the rally through solidarity processions which overwhelmed the workers. The rally was addressed among others by Samar Mukherjee M.P., Ramavatar Shastri M.P., M.K. Pandhe., Ram Prakash Mishra, Gaya Singh and K.K. Tripathi.

AROUND THE STATES

WEST BENGAL

Jute Workers' Strike on August 10

Two and half lakhs jute workers of W. Bengal will go in for one day's strike on August 10, demanding unconditional opening of the seventeen closed mills, scrapping of the move to stop production for four hours or lay-off, Rs. 300/- per quintal of raw jute to the peasants and implementation of the 1979 agreement. The call for the strike was jointly given by all the unions in the jute industry in the state, viz. Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union, Rastriya Chatkal Mazdoor Union, Federation of Chatkal Mazdoor Union, National Union of Jute Workers, W. Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Federation, All India Jute Textile Workers' Federation and Bengal Provincial Chatkal Mazdoor Union. The call for the strike have been supported by CITU, AITUC, WBPNTUC, UTUC, TUCC and HMS.

The INTUC had hitherto pursued a separate line to go in for an indefinite strike. But CITU and other left unions had repeatedly impressed upon the point that the time was not opportune for an indefinite strike, which would have only benefitted the jute barons. INTUC, however, ultimately joined the mainstream of the movement and the call for the strike was unanimous.

Since the last one year the jute barons were trying to make block closure of the mills and keeping a number of mills under lock-out. The seventeen closed or locked out mills have affected sixty thousand workers. Now they are conspiring to stop production for four hours daily. The Govt. of India have been shamelessly backing the jute barons by giving financial aids inspite of their investing the amounts in other industries in other states. In spite of a continuous demand for nationalisation of the jute industry by all the unions and the question raised in the Parliament, the Government of India has rejected the demand. On the contrary, it is conspiring with the jute barons to create access fund for financing the mills, which means that the peasants will be further taxed to contribute to the fund. The Labour Minister of W. Bengal Government has reiterated that nationalisation of the entire jute industry including raw jute trade is the only solution to save the industry from the barons.

Niren Ghosh, M.P., President of Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union, in a statement issued to the press on July 16, called upon the jute workers to carry forward united struggles till the Government is forced to nationalise the industry.

Struggle of Reserve Bank Employees

A Convention of trade unions held at Calcutta on

July 6 condemned the management of the Reserve Bank of India for the anti-worker and anti-people steps taken by it and demanded to withdraw all punitive measures against the workers and open meaningful negotiations with the All India Reserve Bank Employees' Association to settle all the disputed issues. The convention appealed to all trade unions to make common cause with the struggle of the Reserve Bank employees against extra workload, introduction of fourth generation computers and victimisations.

The Bank Employees' Federation, W. Bengal instructed all its units to send telegrams to the Governor, Reserve Bank of India and the Union Finance Minister for restoration of normalcy and amicable settlement of the dispute.

BIHAR

Glorious Strike of University Teachers

The glorious strike of sixteen thousand University and College teachers which commenced on April 12 was called off on July 10. The Government which had to bow down before the NGO's strike a few months back, having given shoot-at-sight orders, had to bow down before the teachers also. The Joint Action Committee which conducted the indefinite strike snatched the assurance to talk on the 31 point demands from the arrogant Chief Minister, also an erstwhile teacher, before calling off the strike.

True to its anti-labour and authoritarian character, the Govt. unleashed all its resources to break the strike. Nearly two thousands were arrested including a large number of women teachers. Salaries were withheld for months together. It declared an early "summer vacation". But all the six Universities and the colleges in the state had to be closed down on reopening before the militant picketings everywhere. All the mass organisations and opposition parties came out with unstinted support to the teachers. On June 29 over ten thousand teachers from all parts of the State converged at Patna and held a massive demonstration before the Assembly. Groups of teachers marched about 100 Km. to join the demonstration. The assembly was rocked by the opposition parties and the speaker was forced to call the opposition leader and the Chief Minister in his chamber to constitute a three man Committee to negotiate with the Joint Action Committee.

The Strike got wide-spread support from outside the state also. At the call of the All India College and University Teachers' Federation a Convention was held at Calcutta on July 7. The Convention called upon its constituents to express solidarity in support of the Bihar teachers.

After the withdrawal of the strike the Universities and colleges opened on July 15.

RAJASTHAN

Electricity Workers' Strike Enters Third Month

The sixty five thousand indomitable workers of the Rajasthan Electricity Board completed two months of their strike undaunting the police repression, mass scale arrests and slanderous propaganda by the Government.

The strike in its sweep has won the support of all sections of workers throughout the state. The working class and the people of Rajasthan responded magnificently to the call of State Campaign Committee by observing successive protest days and strike, demonstrating their solidarity with the striking workers. As per reports, the statewide industrial strike on July 15 was a great success and boosted the morale of the electricity workers who are determined to carry forward the struggle till the demands are met with.

CITU Congratulates the Working Class of Rajasthan

B.T. Ranadive, President and P. Ramamurti, M.P., General Secretary, Centre of Indian Trade Unions have issued the following statement on July 15:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions warmly congratulates the working class of Rajasthan, who have demonstrated their solidarity and firm support to the struggle of Rajasthan State Electricity Board Workers who are fighting for their just demands. Reports so far received from different centres of Rajasthan indicate that the strike is total in Kota, Udaypur, Bhiwani and others centres and only a small section of workers have reported for duty in one or two industries in Jaipur.

The CITU condemns the Govt. of Rajasthan, who have so far refused to intervene in the struggle and bring about a negotiated settlement despite immense suffering on the people and the united move of the entire opposition. The callousness with which it treated the hunger strike of the opposition leaders shows that it is acting under the conditionalities of IMF loan which has forbidden any wage rise of the workers.

It is most unfortunate that a section of the Press had circulated a news today to the effect that the strike has since been settled and withdrawn which is contrary to the fact.

The CITU warns the Govt. that the working class of the country would not remain silent spectator if they continue with this policy.

The CITU appeals to the Rajasthan State Electricity Board workers not to fall a prey to any mischievous propaganda and to preserve and strengthen

their unity which alone can stand guarantee to their success. The CITU appeals to its Rajasthan State Committee and other Trade Union Centres to intensify their solidarity action in support of the struggling electricity workers.

MADHYA PRADESH

Police Firing Kills Verbeli Mines Workers

The Verbeli Manganese Ore Mines employing three thousand workers under the Public Sector Undertaking, Manganese Ore India has become a hot bed of repression at the behest of the management, patronising the INTUC union. Being disillusioned by the INTUC the workers formed a separate union. Immediately the management unveiled its real face and started harassing the workers with the help of the police. On June 27 the workers, including a large number of women workers went enmasse to the Mine Manager's office and staged a dharna demanding withdrawal of a show-cause notice served to one of the leading activists of the union. The manager telephoned the police who arrived promptly and without any provocation started lathi charging the women workers. The inevitable happened and the workers burst out in anger. The police inspector took out his revolver and started firing from point blank range killing three workers on the spot. One woman worker died in the hospital.

The M.P. State Committee of CITU has demanded a judicial enquiry in the incident. In a statement issued to the press on July 2, B.T. Ranadive, President CITU, condemned the shooting down of the workers and the repression let loose on them to suppress their struggles.

Two Days Successful Ujjain Bundh

The eight thousand workers of Vinode and Bimal textile mills are heroically stepping up their struggles for opening the mills which are lying closed since one year. At the initiative of CITU a Joint Trade Union Action Committee has been formed consisting of CITU, AITUC, BMS and a section of INTUC. Massive processions, dharnas and demonstrations were held along with a successful Ujjain bundh on September 15 last year. All assurances of the Government to open the mills proved fake. A massive dharna was staged before the Assembly on April 15, when one thousand workers were arrested. Besides the trade unions, all opposition parties, viz. CPI(M), CPI, Janata, Lok Dal, Congress(S), BJP and DSP combined and formed a Committee — "Mill Chalao Sanghars Samity" The Samity took out a five thousand strong procession on May 24, demanding opening of the mills. The Government assured again to open the mill by June 10. But the mills remained closed due to the two warring factions of the Congress(I). The Samity and the Joint Trade Union Action Committee jointly called for a

Ujjain Bundh on June 30. The bundh was total despite the arrest of all the leaders of the Samity. The bundh continued on July 1. The Government again assured to open the mills within seven days. But the mills have not opened. The workers are carrying forward the grim struggle.

State Conference of CITU

The second State Conference of CITU was held at the Bhillai from June 4 to 6. The Conference was inaugurated by B.T. Ranadive, President CITU. The Conference elected P.K. Moitra as the General Secretary of the Madhya Pradesh State Committee.

TAMILNADU

CITU Union's Movement in Salem Steel Plant

Following desertion of the INTUC union by a large number of workers and their joining the CITU affiliated Steel Plant Employees' Union, the management of Salem Steel Plant, an unit of the Steel Authority of India, has started foul play to suppress the movement of CITU union which now enjoys the support of over 80 per cent of the workers.

Having instructed all Heads of Departments not to enter into any settlement with the CITU union, the management suddenly made an agreement with the INTUC union on grievances which were hitherto left ignored, like removal of overlapping shift and Canteen subsidy. To woo the workers to join the INTUC union, the management even went on to publicise the news through the press and radio. But not a single worker left CITU.

The management then suspended three workers of the CITU union including one Executive Committee member. The workers staged massive demonstrations and gate meetings and processions. As the management remain adamant, the workers are stepping up their struggle demanding withdrawal of the suspension orders, removal of all discriminations against the ministerial staff with regard to working hours, leaves, etc, demanding specific job descriptions to different categories of workers and other demands.

TRIPURA

Benefits for BRO Labourers

Nripen Chakrabarty, the Chief Minister of the Left Front Government of Tripura talked with the Chief Engineer and one of the officers of the Border Roads Organisation on the question of better working and service conditions of the labourers. The Chief Engineer and the officer assured the Chief Minister to extend the following benefits to the labourers:

The working hours would not go beyond 4 P.M. and the workers would be given lift within 5 P.M., so that they can reach home before dusk. For this, if necessary, additional vehicles would be provide;

As the State Govt. increases the minimum wage by Re 1/- from August 1, the same increase would be given to the BRO labourers;

The services of the medical officer would be provided to the BRO labourers;

The labourers would receive ration, including Kerosene Oil;

No outside labourer would be engaged except for mechanical work. The tribals would be given priority while engaging labour.

A labour Officer of the State Govt. would keep liaison with the Border Roads Organisation to see that the above amenities reach the labourers in time.

Statewise Registered Unemployment

Andhra Pradesh	15,23,000
Assam	3,72,000
Bihar	22,12,000
Gujrat	5,34,000
Haryana	3,71,000
Himachal Pradesh	1,57,000
Jammu-Kashmir	54,000
Karnataka	6,24,000
Kerala	18,19,000
Madhya Pradesh	8,84,000
Maharashtra	13,65,000
Manipur	1,27,000
Meghalaya	10,000
Nagaland	8,000
Orissa	4,80,000
Punjab	4,85,000
Rajasthan	3,94,000
Tamilnadu	12,33,000
Tripura	78,000
West Bengal	27,48,000
Uttar Pradesh	14,76,000
Andaman Nicobar	11,000
Chandigarh	68,000
Delhi	3,06,000
Goa-Daman-Dieu	32,000
Lackadive	5,000
Mizoram	15,000
Pondicherry	42,000
Total	1,74,24,000

(Source: *Indian Labour Journal*, February, 1982)

Anti Dowry Movement by Women

THE women's organisations in Delhi have jointly come up against the state of bride burning which is raging the northern India of late. The Capital has particularly been rocked by the increasing number of bride burning and dowry deaths.

In a meeting held in July the various women's organisations decided to hold a morcha and mass demonstration before the Parliament on August 3. The meeting was attended by over fifty representatives of the various women's organisations which included the All India Democratic Women's Association, All India Co-ordination Committee of Working Women (CITU), National Federation of Indian Women, Nari Dakshata Samity, All India Women's Conference, Janabadi Mahila Samity, Young Women's Christian Association and others. The meeting was also attended by representatives of various mass organisations like CITU, AITUC, SFI, DYFI and some voluntary organisations and individuals. Vimala Farooqui of the National Federation of Indian Women presided over the meeting. Reports of coercion for dowry and killing of the brides by the husbands and the in-laws were placed by Sushila Gopalan, M.P., General Secretary of All India Democratic Women's Association, Pramila Dandavate, M.P. of Nari Dakshata Samity, Vimala Ranadive, Secretary, All India Co-ordination Committee of Working Women, Rita Karat of Janabadi Mahila Samity, Tarakeshwari Sinha M.P., Aziza Imam, M.P. and many others.

The meeting condemned the role of the Government and the police for their callous and casual attitude towards this criminal act of murder. As admitted in the Lok Sabha, the Government does not even compile an all India data of dowry deaths on the plea that it is a State subject. The

police authorities sleep over the incidents pleading paucity of evidence. The speakers charged the police for directly colluding with the murderers and suppress the cases by accepting bribes.

The organisations denounced the system of dowry, a social evil, born out of the feudal society to commit atrocity on women. All the mass organisations lent unstinted support to the cause.

The meeting decided to mobilise people from all walks of life and launch a vigorous campaign against the system of dowry. It appealed to all organisations to work steadfastly to make the march to Parliament on August 3 a grand success. A Sub-committee was formed with All-India Democratic Women's Association, All India Women's Conference, National Federation of Indian Women and the Young Women's Christian Association to carry forward the tasks.

Protest Against Female Foeticide

A meeting of Women's organisations, Doctors, Scientists, Educationists Students, Youth and Trade Unions was held in Delhi on July 15 to protest against the growing practice of sex determination tests to abort the female foetus. The meeting was organised jointly by the All India Democratic Women's Association and All India Co-ordination Committee of Working Women in co-operation with other women's organisations. Veena Majumdar of the Centre for Women's Development Studies presided over the meeting.

As per reports, a number of doctors in Punjab, Kanpur, Bombay and other places have been mis-utilising the scientific

purpose of the sex-determination tests by whipping up the male-biased feudal society against the females and thereby earning profits.

Moving the resolution, Vimala Ranadive said that owing to the subordinate and low status of women in India, both economically and socially, there has been a decline in the ratio of females as compared to males. Women are deprived of nutrition and health care. Frequent pregnancies lead to deterioration in their physical condition. Frequent abortions to get rid of the female children in the search for a male will have a further disastrous effect on the health of women. Such misuse of scientific knowledge amounts to gross violation of all ethical principles, human rights and principles of equity and justice. Instead of promoting changes in social values that now obstruct women's right to equality, dignity and justice, it attempts openly encourage and exploit the existing negative attitudes to female children. Among those who spoke on the resolution were Sushila Gopalan, Dr. Imrana Qadir, Dr. Sathyamala, Dr. Banoo Coyaji, Director, K.E.M.P. Hospital, Poone, Dr K. Kucheria from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Latika Sarkar, Bani Dasgupta and others.

The resolution was passed unanimously demanding of the Government of India to immediately ban such Sex-determination tests for killing the female foetus. It also urged upon the Indian Medical Council to initiate disciplinary actions against those doctors who advertise and undertake such practice in pursuance of their unethical conduct.

The meeting decided to convene a seminar on the subject to mobilise opinions against the socially retrograde practice.

No Job for all Trained Apprentices

MEEETING of the Central Apprenticeship Council held on July 5-6, highlighted the fact that even all the trained apprentices could not be given jobs. Union Labour Minister inaugurating the meeting said in his speech that "With the passage of time, there has been relative shrinkage in new employment opportunities and the passed out apprentices have started feeling difficulty in getting suitable employment, with the result that a number of apprentices are on the live Registers of Employment Exchanges".

In this background the Council demanded that man-power planning so far neglected should be taken up and efforts should be made to see that training of apprentices more or less conform to the requirements. The CITU nominee in the Council, Nrisingha Chakrabarty, demanded that automation and giant job killing devices should not be introduced, if they tend to squeeze the employment potential. He cited the cases of 3rd/4th Generation Computers, photo-type setting and various measures which are killing jobs by lakhs. The council unanimously decided that the Govt. of India must ensure that the man-power planning must be made an integral part of planning in the country.

The CITU nominee pointed out that the action-taken statement does not represent the correct picture as the decision of the Sub-committee for enhancement of stipend for Graduate and Technician Apprentices has been reduced substantially. The Govt. side explained that it has been done due to financial constraints. He further pointed out that the question of granting of House Rent Allowance to the Apprentices has not been considered at all. It was therefore decided that the Sub-committee should go into the question now.

It was seen that out of 47624

seats located in Central Sector for Trade Apprentices only 23054 seats (48.5%) could be utilised, while the corresponding figures in the State section was 130,838 and 99516 respectively (76%). The position for Graduate and Technician Apprentices for Central and State Sectors was 35.5% and 56.1% respectively. The reluctance of the Central Sector to train apprentices came under criticism. Some representatives of Central Public Sector managements wanted to blame the trade unions which was opposed by the CITU. Nrisingha Chakrabarty

pointed out that the demand for apprentices is related with various other factors including stagnation of the existing workmen. It was, therefore, decided that a further meeting will be held with the representatives of the workers and Employers' representatives to sort out the question.

The meeting also decided that the pass marks for theoretical examination in the final examination of the Apprentices should be reduced to 40% from the existing 50%. A provision of 3 grace marks was also made.

Consumer Price Index Numbers

Base 1960

State/Centre	Feb. 1982	March 1982	April 1982	State/Centre	Feb. 1982	March 1982	April 1982
Andhra Pradesh				Orissa			
Gudur	461	453	442	Barbil	417	419	431
Guntur	494	494	456	Sambalpur	495	503	505
Hyderabad	470	462	465	Punjab			
Assam				Amritsar	470	475	480
Digboi	451	454	467	Rjasthan			
Doom Dooma	350	361	349	Ajmer	483	481	483
Labac	366	367	394	Jaipur	494	494	496
Mariani	364	362	378	Tamil Nadu			
Rangapara	373	372	380	Coimbatore	481	473	471
Bihar				Coonoor	465	459	457
Jamshedpur	434	443	444	Madras	453	448	447
Jharia	434	438	442	Madurai	466	463	470
Kodarma	497	494	498	U.P.			
Monghyr	481	487	488	Kanpur	442	446	446
Noamundi	445	442	447	Saharanpur	470	471	475
Gujarat				Varanasi	497	510	508
Ahmedabad	465	459	461	West Bengal			
Bhavanagar	463	460	452	Asansol	457	462	465
Haryana				Calcutta	413	416	422
Yamunanagar	482	490	498	Darjeeling	380	378	381
J. & K.				Howrah	396	409	408
Srinagar	481	484	537	Jalpaiguri	354	358	370
Karnataka				Raniganj	440	439	450
Ammathi	449	446	445	Delhi Territory	474	484	493
Bangalore	520	516	514	Other Centres			
Chikamagalur	494	492	493	Berhampur ('49)	633	635	644
Kolar G.F.	465	453	447	Cuttack ('49)	585	584	573
Kerala				Jabalpur ('49)	604	611	597
Alleppey	472	466	464	Beawar ('51-52)	571	562	560
Alwaye	470	466	460	Tripura ('61)	421	426	440
Mundakayam	448	444	443	H.P. ('65)	335	341	342
Madhya Pradesh				Goa ('66)	328	329	331
Balaghat	478	475	477	Bhilai ('66)	304	305	306
Bhopal	504	502	491	Bhilwara ('66)	304	304	304
Gwalior	472	477	476	Chhindwara ('66)	249	249	253
Indore	501	512	505	Kothagudem ('66)	308	311	307
Maharashtra				Rourkela ('66)	321	322	325
Bombay	469	468	473	All India ('49)	557	555	558
Nagpur	480	477	476	All India ('60)	458	457	459
Sholapur	517	493	492				

(Figures in bracket indicate base year)

NEWS IN BRIEF

In a statement issued to the press on June 27 Delhi State Committee of CITU condemned the police for forcefully removing the striking workers of Narula Resturant, who were peacefully offering dharna outside the resturant since the last twenty four days. Fortyone workers including the Joint Secretary of Delhi State Committee of CITU were arrested. CITU congratulated the workers of the hotel industry in Connaught Place for observing one day's token strike on June 27 in support of the struggle of the Narula Resturant workers.

* * *

District Dehradun Driver and Conductors' Union (CITU) decided to go in for one day's strike on July 9 in pursuance of its eleven point charter of demands. The union served the charter of demands to the employers on June 3, endorsing copies to the Labour Department. But even after repeated representations to the employers and the Labour Department the managements did not turn up in conciliation proceedings. The union was compelled to serve the notice for strike on July 3.

* * *

CITU has demanded of the Government a public enquiry into the death of Mary Vakkachan, a migrant labour in a fishing plant at Veraval, Gujarat. She was brought from Kerala by one K. Norbert, a labour contractor to work in Veraval, where she was raped and killed under mysterious circumstances. The Gujarat State Committee of CITU, after visiting the place, had confirmed about the clandestine involvement of the police to save the employer and violation of Labour Laws. The Govern-

ment has not taken any move to punish the guilty persons.

* * *

The Hindustan Dowidat (Everest) Mazdoor Union (CITU) in Jatheri, Sonapat, Haryana served a charter of demands to the management. The management refused to negotiate on the plea of the existence of another union. CITU compelled the management to hold secret ballot to judge the majority union and came out victorious by a large margin. But the management still remained adamant and refused to talk. The union has launched agitation demanding negotiated settlement of the demands.

* * *

The working staff of Delhi Doordarshan Kendra held a successful round the clock dharna from May 14 to 23 and compelled the management to revoke the suspension orders, cancel transfer orders and consider their other demands. The continuous dharna was staged under the banner of the Joint Forum consisting of six unions and associations, viz. Doordarshan Programme Staff Union, Engineering Employees' Association (AIR & TV), Technical Employees' Association (AIR & TV), Doordarshan Technical Programme Staff Association, D-Group Employees' Association and Motor Drivers' Association.

* * *

From April 27, the workers of Abbott Laboratories, an US multinational drug company, went on indefinite strike in Bombay demanding reinstatement of R.G. Michael, the General Secretary of the Union. One day

before the strike the management tried to shift truck-loads of raw materials from the factory, with the intention to manufacture the products outside Bombay in Small Scale Sector. But the workers of the factory came out spontaneously and gheraoed the trucks. The management was forced to start negotiations and ultimately agreed to reinstate the General Secretary. The strike was withdrawn on May 17.

* * *

The field workers of Themis Pharmaceuticals went on one day's complete strike in Bombay on May 21. The call for the strike was given by the Maharashtra Sales and Medical Representatives' Association protesting against the management's repressive policies of arbitrary transfers, increasing work load and on other long pending demands. The striking field workers staged a day long dharna and a massive demonstration, completely paralyzing all office works.

* * *

In a statement issued to the press on July 10, S. Savaridoss, General Secretary of Bharat Gold Mines Employees' Union, Kolar Gold Fields, refuted the statement of Gundu Rao, the Chief Minister of Karnataka that the police firing killing five persons in the Kolar Gold Fields on July 5 was resorted to because of violence caused by trade union rivalry. He condemned the Chief Minister for making cooked up statements in the press. He said that the students of Colleges and High Schools protested against imposition of Kannada and putting a bar on their right to learn through the mother tongue. They took out a procession to demonstrate their opposition to the authoritarian imposition of Kannada. The Government could not tolerate the peaceful agitation of the students and the people and tried to curb their democratic rights by ordering police firing.

Focus on International Matters

CITU's Message to SOHYO

P. Ramamurti, General Secretary, CITU sent the following message to SOHYO, Japan on June 29 on the occasion of its 66th Annual Convention:

Brother Motofumi Makieda,
President,
The General Council of Trade Union of Japan
(SOHYO)

Dear Brother,

I am happy to learn from your communication dated June 17, 1982 that the Sohyo is going to hold its 66th Annual Convention in Tokyo on July 25-28, 1982.

The threat of inflation and unemployment which has now affected the economically developed countries also sharply brings out the fact that under the present capitalist system, there is no end to crisis in economy and it becomes sharper every time another crisis breaks out. The threat of inflation and unemployment cannot be eliminated unless the social system is changed and all means of production are socialised. We welcome your determination to strengthen solidarity with international trade union movement in defence of interests and rights of workers and also right to employment and livelihood. We firmly believe that the working class of Japan under your leadership will fight for ushering in a change in the social system and banish exploitation of man by man.

The hysterical arms race by the USA and its

Unemployment in Advanced Capitalist Countries

	1981	1982 (April)
OECD Countries	24 millions	28 millions
EEC Countries	9.1 millions	10.5 millions
USA	8.5 millions	10.3 millions
Britain	3 millions	4 millions
Canada	1.2 millions	1.4 millions

Till 1981 the situation in other countries were as follows:

France and Italy — Over 2 millions; FRG and Japan — 1.3 millions; Spain — 7,50,000; Belgium — 4,00,000; Denmark — 2,50,000.

proposal of limited nuclear war has already brought the world under threat of the holocaust of nuclear war. Resistance to this policy has developed into a powerful peace movement throughout the world including in USA. The working class and people of Japan who were the first victim of nuclear war, have been struggling for disarmament, against nuclear weapons and for defence of peace against war. We welcome your statement to strengthen the struggle. We are confident that the working class of India and Japan moving hand-in-hand with the international trade union movement will be able to defeat the machination of the war mongers.

On behalf of 1.7 million members of Centre of Indian Trade Unions, I convey our warm fraternal greetings to the working class of Japan through you on the occasion of your 66th Annual Convention. We hope that fraternal relations between our two organisations will be strengthened in future.

CITU Denounces Fresh Israeli Attack on Lebanon

B.T. Ranadive, President and P. Ramamurti M.P., General Secretary, CITU have issued the following statement on July 7:

The CITU denounces the fresh Israeli attack on Lebanon in violation of the call for cease-fire given by the Security Council of the United Nations and in defiance of the world opinion. The Zionist rulers of Israel, have sealed off the Western Beirut completely and had cut off its water and electric supply. They have also sealed off all routes in such a manner that food cannot reach the civilian including women and children.

Ignoring the fact that by such measures, they have violated the Charter of Human Rights adopted un-animously by the UNO in the past, the Israel aggressors are pursuing their line of annihilating the Palestinian Liberation fighters, killing thousands of ordinary civilian population in the process.

The CITU demands that their crime against humanity must stop and the Govt. of India should in co-operation with all peace-loving and democratic forces of the world must bring pressure on the U.S. Imperialists who are backing the Zionist rulers of Israel to stop this depredation.

The CITU once again directs its affiliated unions and appeals to all trade union and democratic organisations to raise their powerful voice against this blatant violation of human rights. Once again, the CITU appeals to its affiliates to rush whatever help they can render to the brave fighters of P.L.O. at this time of their dire need.