

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

THIRD CONFERENCE

WORK REPORT

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SHANMUKHANAND HALL

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Report On Activities And Organisation

Since the second conference of the CITU our unions were busy in carrying out their day to day activities on the basis of policy laid down by the conference. Several struggles were led by our Unions while we expressed solidarity with those who fought under the banner of other organisations. A review of the struggles conducted by the unions has already been circulated to the delegates. Here it is proposed to consider the activities of the CITU since the Second Conference.

According to the constitution of the CITU the working committee should meet at least twice while the General Council once in a year. These constitutional provisions were followed during the last two years. We had 3 meetings of the working committee and the 4th has been convened on the eve of this conference. There was a General Council meeting prior to the Second Conference in 1973 and hence no other meeting was convened during the year. During 1974 a meeting was convened at Visakhapatnam. Another meeting has been convened on the eve of this conference. A brief Report of the meetings already held is given below.

Working Committee Meeting, New Delhi

The Working Committee met at the Constitution Club, New Delhi on 3rd to 5th October 1973, Thirty six members and 5 invitees attended the meeting. Com. B. T. Ranadive, President CITU presided.

Since the meeting was held immediately after the counter-revolutionary coup in Chile the opening speech of Com. Ranadive dwelt at length with those developments. He also reviewed the economic situation in the country and the growing attacks on the working class. Com. P. Ramamurti in his report pointed out how the united struggles were growing bringing together more and more sections of the working class.

Ten comrades participated in the discussion on the report.

Com. P. Ramamurti gave a report on the seminar on Productivity and Industrial Relations convened by the National Productivity Council, held at New Delhi. There was a discussion on the policy towards the NPC in which 6 comrades participated. While generally agreeing with the stand taken by the CITU representatives in the Seminar the meeting decided to withdraw its nominee from the steering group constituted by the seminar.

The meeting also heard the Report on the visit of the representative of the TUI of Agricultural Forestry and Plantation workers to the office of the All India Plantation workers Federation.

The meeting considered the Reports of the industrywise meeting of delegates held at Ernakulam Session and steps taken by the CITU centre to implement them. The meeting took some organisational decisions to improve industrywise co-ordination and guidance to activities of CITU unions.

The meeting adopted several resolutions on important national and international issues including on relaxation of tension in Indian Sub-continent, mounting repression, atrocities on Harijans, struggle of Loco running staff Association and solidarity with Central Government employees fighting against the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission etc.

General Council Meeting, Visakhapatnam

The General Council met at Visakhapatnam on 4th—7th April, 1974. Com. B. T. Ranadive, presided over the meeting which was attended by 149 members and invitees. Despite weak CITU units in the township several friendly unions gave remarkable assistance to make the meeting successful. Com. Ranadive's written speech and Report of the General Secretary covered national and inter-national developments and problems facing the workers. They also reviewed the growing united struggles of the workers.

Thirtyone comrades participated in the discussion on the Report of the General Secretary.

The meeting discussed in detail the CITU's stand on productivity and the National Productivity Council in which 25 members participated. A policy statement was adopted in the meeting calling upon the CITU unions to fight against all aspects of productivity movement. It further discussed the attitude of CITU towards code of discipline and extension of ESI Scheme to Plantations Mines and other establishments.

Com. B. T. Ranadive, President CITU reported on his visit to Vietnam in connection with the Conference of the Vietnam Trade Union Federation and depicted the heroic resistance of the Vietnamese people against U.S. aggression. A written note was circulated among the members.

The meeting after adopting several resolutions on the current issues facing the working class passed unanimously the audited statement of accounts for 1973. It decided to co-opt comrades A. P. Chatterjee, Prakash Ghosh, Biswanath Dasgupta, Vimal Ranadive and Sukhomay Paul in the General Council.

Industry-wise meetings were held for Plantations, Road transport, Port and Docks, Engineering, Electricity, Paper and Beedi Industries to discuss the Co-ordination of CITU Unions.

A mass meeting was held on 7th April which was presided over by Com. N. Prasada Rao and addressed by Comrades B. T. Ranadive, P. Ramamurti and Jyoti Basu.

A meeting of the working Committee was held prior to the General Council meeting on 4th April which considered the issues before the General Council meeting.

Sibpur Working Committee Meeting

The meeting of the working Committee held at Sibpur (Howrah) on 11th to 14th December 1974 was attended by 43 members and invitees. This was the first meeting after the All India Railway strike and the discussion of this strike formed a major part of Presidential speech as well as Report of the General Secretary. 4 prominent leaders of the railway move-

ment were invited to participate in the deliberations of the meeting. Since the meeting was held after several state, local and regional level conventions such the as All India Convention of the working people against wage freeze held in New Delhi on 28th August 1974, it considered the possibility of organising one day strike of the workers all over the country in co-operation with all the central Trade union organisations against wage freeze.

Apart from a written speech of the President and report of the General Secretary a note on the Developing Economic situation was circulated among the members.

The meeting considered the industry-wise functioning in various industries and took appropriate organisational decisions to co-ordinate the activities of CITU unions. Industry-wise meetings of comrades working in Port and Docks, Road Transport, plantations, Rayon and Tyre & Rubber were held on 14th December 1974.

After passing several resolutions on current national and international issues and on problems of workers in some industries the meeting accepted the invitations of Maharashtra State Committee of CITU to hold the Third Conference of CITU at Bombay in May 1975.

After the meeting a well attended rally was held on 14th December at Howrah Jute Mill Maidan which was addressed among others by B- T. Ranadive, Jyoti Basu, P. Ramamurti and Hari Sadhan Mitra.

The Secretariat had been meeting from time to time to consider the policy matters between the two sessions of the working committees. Since the Second Conference there were 10 such meetings in which the policy matters were discussed on urgent issues. These meetings were attended by only those members available in Calcutta. For wider consultations Comrades Krishnapada Ghosh and Biren Roy were invited to attend these meetings. On occasions extended office-bearers meetings were convened in which the available working committee members were also invited. Due to unavoidable difficulties whenever it is not possible to hold meeting of the Secretariat available

members were consulted on important issues before taking a decision.

The State Conferences

After the Second Conference most of the states held their Conferences as a part of the preparations for the Third Conference. A brief review of the Conferences is given below :

Tamilnadu

The Second Conference of the Tamilnadu State Committee was held at Madras from 20th to 23rd December 1973. Com. P. Ramamurti General Secretary CITU inaugurated the Conference which was presided over by Com. K. Ramani. It was attended by 433 delegates representing 149 unions and other fraternal organisations. Com. R. Umanath submitted a General Report while Com. A. Nallasivam Assistant Secretary submitted a Report on activities. 38 delegates participated in a discussion after which these Reports were adopted. The Conference gave a call for observation of January 10 1974 as Solidarity Day in support of striking transport workers of Kanyakumari District and textile workers of Vikramsinghpuram. The Conference concluded with a big procession of 50,000 workers and a rally of one lakh workers which was addressed by P. Ramamurti, R. Umanath, V. P. Chintan, Kuchelar and Krishnamurthy. The Conference elected a New State Committee of 40 members with K. Ramani as President and R. Umanath as General Secretary.

Madhya Pradesh

No Committee could be formed in this State prior to the Second Conference. The CITU Centre convened the First Convention at Bhilai on 25th to 27th December 1973. Com. B. T. Ranadive who was to inaugurate the Convention could not reach due to dislocation of trains as a result of Loco-Running staff strike.

Com. Md. Ismail Vice President therefore inaugurated the Conference. Despite transport difficulties 120 delegates and observers attended the Convention. Com. M. K. Pandhe Secretary CITU presented a General Report on activities of the CITU in the State. Over 20 delegates participated in the discussion. The Convention elected a Co-ordination Committee with Com. S. Kumar as the Convener. The Convention ended with a rally which was addressed by comrades Md. Ismail, M. K. Pandhe, Motilal Sharma, Vimal Ranadive and others.

Delhi

The Second Conference of Delhi State Committee of CITU was held at Karampura (Delhi) on 2nd and 3rd January 1974. Com. B. T. Ranadive President CITU inaugurated the Conference and guided its deliberations. Delegates representing 13 unions with a membership of 11,397 in the textile, engineering, food and drink, building and construction and commercial establishments attended the Conference. Com. T. M. Nagarajan submitted a Report on activities in the State since the first Conference which was adopted after discussion. The Conference elected a new State Committee with Com. T. M. Nagarajan as the President and Com. Ghanshyam Saran Sinha as the General Secretary,

As per decision of the Visakhapatnam General Council meeting a regional Committee was constituted for Delhi, Haryana and Western U. P. A Conference of the Regional Committee was held at New Delhi on 26th and 27th April 1975. Com. B. T. Ranadive President CITU inaugurated the Conference (Detailed Report was not received by the Central Office by the time of writing this report).

Rajasthan

A special Convention of the Office-bearers of the CITU unions was held in Bikaner on 30th and 31st December 1973. Com. B. T. Ranadive President CITU inaugurated the Conven-

tion which was presided over by Com. Mohan Punamia President Rajasthan State Committee of CITU. Com. D. D. Shirali General Secretary reviewed the struggles conducted by the CITU unions in the State. The Convention called upon the workers to participate in demonstrations all over the State against price-rise, unemployment etc. and observe 22nd January 1974 as State-wide Protest Day to voice the grievances of workers against ESI. It decided to organise a State-wide strike of Engineering workers on 14th February 1974.

The Third State Conference was held at Bharatpur on 14th to 16th February 1975 which recorded a remarkable advance of the CITU in the State. At the foundation Conference of the CITU 29 unions with 8559 members participated but the Conference reflected the strength of 80 unions with over 22500 membership. 345 delegates and 143 observers participated in the Conference of whom 20 were women. Overwhelming majority of the delegates were below 30 years of age. After paying homage to 3 SIMMCO martyrs who were killed in police firing in August 1974 Com. B. T. Randive President CITU inaugurated the Conference. Com Mohan Punamia delivered his Presidential Address while Com. D. D. Shirali presented a General Report. 52 delegates participated in the discussion on the Report. The Conference decided to organise Rajasthan Bundh to protest against repression, against students, peasants, press correspondents and other along with some working class demands. It further decided to collect Rs. one lakh by May next to defend the workers involved in court cases and give relief to families of victimised workers. It also decided to defend 7 Kota comrades who were sentenced to life imprisonment by court. The Conference decided to increase the levy on the union to meet the growing expenditure of the State Committee. The Conference elected a new State Committee with comrades Mohan Punamia and D. D. Shirali as President and General Secretary.

Kerala

The Second Conference of the Kerala State Committee was held at Trichur on 20th-22nd September 1974. The 859

delegates and observers representing 343 unions with a total membership of 1,81,911 were just coming together immediately after observing a successful Kerala Bandh on 18th September 1974 against wage freeze. Com. B. T. Randive President CITU inaugurated the Conference which was presided over by Com. C. Kannan President of the State Committee. Com. E. Balanandan General Secretary presented a report on activities since the first Conference held in 1970. Over 30 comrades participated in the discussion after which the Report was adopted unanimously. Com. Md. Ismail greeted the Conference on behalf of West Bengal State Committee of CITU while Com. M. K. Pandhe spoke on some organisational problems. The Conference was also greeted by Com. E. M. S. Namboodiripad, Com. E. K. Nayanar and others. A symposium on world Economic crisis was organised during the Conference in which Com. B. T. Ranadive participated among others. The Conference elected a new General Council of 183 members and Executive Committee of 31 members with C. Kannan as the President and E. Balanandan as the General Secretary. A colourful procession in which several thousands of workers participated paraded the main streets of the town culminating in over one lakh strong rally which was addressed by comrades B. T. Randive, E. M. S. Namboodiripad, V. P. Ayyappan, C. Kannan and E. Balanandan.

Maharashtra

The Second Conference of Maharashtra State Committee of CITU was held in Bombay from 20th to 23rd December 1974. Over 550 delegates and observers attended the Conference. Com. B. T. Randive President CITU inaugurated the Conference. Com. P. K. Kurane General Secretary of the State Committee in his exhaustive report reviewed the activities of the CITU in the State since the first Conference. About 60 delegates participated in the discussion on the Report which was adopted unanimously. The Conference reflected trebling of CITU membership (from about 19000 to 57000) during the last 4 years. The Conference elected a 42 member State Committee

with Com. S. Y. Kolhatkar as President and Com. P. K. Kurane as General Secretary.

A 10,000 strong rally was held after the Conference which was addressed by Comrades B. T. Ranadive, P. Ramamurti and others,

Orissa

The first Conference of CITU unions in the State was held at Rourkella from 17th to 19th January 1975. Only a couple of months ago an ad-hoc State Committee was formed to coordinate the CITU activities in the State. Com. B. T. Ranadive President CITU inaugurated the Conference which was attended by delegates of 8 districts working in mines, steel, engineering, transport and other industries. Com. Shivaji Patnaik Convener Preparatory Committee placed a Report on the activities of the CITU unions in the State. The conference elected a 25 member State Committee with Com. Ajeya Rout as the Secretary. The open session of the Conference was attended by 5000 workers which was addressed among others by Comrades B. T. Ranadive, Samar Mukherjee and Shivaji Patnaik.

West Bengal

The Second Conference of the State Committee was held at Malbazar in North Bengal on 25th to 28th December 1974. Com. Md. Ismail President of the State Committee presided while Com. B. T. Ranadive President CITU inaugurated the Conference. Over 1000 delegates participated in it despite prevailing reign of terror and gangsterism in the State. Com. Monoranjan Roy General Secretary presented a General Report and 50 delegates participated in the discussion. According to the organisational Report submitted to the Conference by Com. S. S. Bose Secretary, the number of unions affiliated in West Bengal rose from 900 in 1970 to 1120 in 1974. The membership also rose from 4 lakh 70 thousand to more than 5 lakhs during the same period. The Conference gave a call to the working class of West Bengal to prepare for one day State-wide General strike

against wage freeze, high prices, unemployment etc. Com. Jyoti Basu Vice- President CITU Concluded the deliberations of the Conference. The Conference elected a new General Council and State Committee with Com. Md. Ismail as the President and Com. Manorajan Roy as the General Secretary. It ended in one lakh strong rally which was addressed by comrades B. T. Ranadive, Jyoti Basu, Md. Ismail, Monoranjan Roy, Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury, Ratanlal Brahman and Parimal Mitra.

Assam

The Second Conference of the Assam State Committee of CITU was held at Dhubri from 1st to 3rd February 1975. It was presided over by Dr. D. P. Barua while 75 delegates and 43 observers attended. Com. Monoranjan Roy Secretary CITU inaugurated the Conference and Com. Jyoti Basu Vice-President CITU greeted the delegates. Com. Amal Ghosh Dastidar Secretary Assam State Committee submitted a Report on activities which was adopted after discussion. A seminar on problems and tasks of the T. U. movement was held on the concluding day in which about 150 trade unionists participated. Com. Jyoti Basu was the main speaker in the Seminar. A well attended open Session of the Conference was presided over by Com. Nurul Huda M. P. and addressed by Com. Jyoti Basu and Manoranjan Roy. The Conference elected S. Hazarika as president and Amal Ghosh Dastidar as General Secretary,

Gujarat

In Gujarat it was not possible to form any Committee due to the weakness of the movement. A Convention was organised at Ahmedabad in the last week of December, 1973 which was guided by Com. Jyoti Basu, Vice-President, CITU. The convention elected a State Committee with Com. Mehendale as the President and Com. Chandubhai Patel as the General Secretary. During Gujarat agitation most of the CITU leaders were arrested and kept behind the bar for some time.

Punjab and Himachal Pradesh

The second conference of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh State

Committee of the CITU was held at Batala on 29th and 30th September, 1973 which was attended by 75 delegates from 23 Unions representing over 8000 members and 25 fraternal delegates from friendly organisations. Com. P. Ramamurti, General Secretary, CITU inaugurated it. Com. Hari Singh Kang, General Secretary submitted a report which was adopted after discussion. The State Committee became defunct soon after the conference and later on the headquarters had to be shifted from Ludhiana to Jullundar. Com. Jagjit Singh Lyalpuri was elected as new General Secretary by the State Committee. The third conference of the State was scheduled to be held on 25th and 26th April, 1975. However, no report was received by the Centre by the time of writing this Report.

Goa

The Second conference of Goa State Committee is scheduled to be held on 16th to 18th May, 1975 and Com. Jyoti Basu will inaugurate it.

No State conference could be held in Bihar and Eastern U. P. due to various reasons. Attempts will be made to hold them after the All India Conference.

Problems of Industry—wise Co-ordination

With rise in consciousness of workers, the local struggles gradually take the shape of region-wise or industry-wise struggles. Unions have of late been raising demands which can be achieved only by bringing pressure on the employers on an all India scale. Some public sector undertakings have units spread over in various parts of the country and struggle for uniform working conditions immediately brings all the workers on a common platform. Some of the foreign monopoly concerns have branches in several centres and unions in these branches often come together to launch struggle on common demands. Several local unions affiliated to various central trade unions have also jointly launched programmes of action to achieve

their demands. The CITU has to do everything to encourage these trends so that country-wide class struggles are strengthened in future.

Apart from this, the question of co-ordinating the activities of CITU unions in certain industries in order to build broad based industrywise struggles in major industries assumes importance and the CITU Centre has to pay more and more attention to this problem. Despite other pre-occupations, we had to give priority to some of the industries in the last 2 years. During the meetings of leading bodies of the CITU, the related questions had to be discussed in greater detail for appropriate organisational decisions. A brief review of the activities in this regard are mentioned below :

I. Road Transport : A meeting of the delegates from the industry attending the Second Conference was held at Ernakulam in which the comrades decided to hold an all India Convention to consider the steps to be taken to co-ordinate the activities in this industry. After a discussion in the Delhi Working Committee meeting it was decided to hold a Convention at Calcutta on May 25-27, 1974 but it had to be postponed to July 28-30 in view of the All India Railway strike. A meeting of representatives of unions in this industry was held at Visakhapatnam on April 8, 1974 to discuss the details of the preparations of the All India Convention. The Convention was inaugurated by Com. B. T. Ranadive, President CITU, which was participated by delegates from West Bengal, Kerala, Andhra, Orissa, U. P. and Delhi. Some unions which were outside the CITU also participated. However unions from Tamil nadu, M. P., Punjab and Rajasthan failed to send delegates. The Convention decided to form an all India Road Transport Workers' Federation and elected a Working Committee with Com. V. Viswanatha Menon as the President and Com. Sujit Das as the General Secretary. It was decided to have the headquarters of the new organisation at Calcutta. The Convention adopted a Charter of Demands and decided to observe a week in the last week of September 1974 to popularise the demands. The week was observed in most of the States. The extended meeting of

the office-bearers of the Federation which was held in Calcutta on December 14, 1974 finalised the Constitution of the Federation. Com. P. Ramamurti, General Secretary CITU attended the meeting on behalf of the CITU Centre. A State-wide Convention was held in Tamilnadu in October while Andhra Pradesh Road Transport Workers Federation was held in November 1974. A Convention was also organised in Orissa. However, the Federation has not been able to establish a functioning Centre and regular contact between centre and the units is still far from inadequate. The working Committee of the Federation is meeting in Bombay on the eve of the Third Conference.

2) Plantation : The All India Plantation workers' Federation founded in 1972 held its working Committee meeting on the eve of the Second Conference and adopted its Constitution. The Federation secured affiliation to the Trade Union International of Agricultural Forestry and Plantation Workers (WFTU) in September 1973 and a representative of TUI visited the office of the Federation on 25th September 1973. The Federation submitted a memorandum to the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Plantation Labour (Amendment) Bill—Local unions appeared before the Committee during the visit of Committee at different centres while oral evidence was also submitted before the Committee on 7th July 1974 explaining the provisions of the memorandum. In its working Committee meeting at Visakhapatnam on 8th April 1974 the Federation decided to observe Demands week from 25th to 31st May to highlight the problem of closure of plantations and large scale unemployment of workers, to collect 2 lakh signatures of plantation workers on a petition to be submitted to Parliament in August. The day was observed in Tripura and some parts of West Bengal, Kerala and Karnataka but unions did not exert their utmost to popularise the demands. The signature campaign was also conducted in a lower tone and only about 40,000 signatures were collected till the submission of the petition to Parliament on 27th August 1974 by Com. Biren Dutta M. P., Vice-President of the Federation. A Deputation of the Federation met the

Union Commerce and Labour Ministers to press the demand for reopening of the closed gardens.

As per decision of the Working Committee of the Federation Com. R. Umanath attended a meeting convened by the TUI at Madras on 15th April 1974 to consider the preparations of the Asian Plantation Labour Conference. Apart from the CITU Representative the meeting was attended by two representatives from Sri Lanka and the Secretary General of the TUI. The AITUC representatives did not participate in the meeting. The Meeting decided to have a wider discussion with ICFTU and other organisations in the region. However, the Federation has not yet received any informations from the TUI on the progress made in this regard. As per call of the TUI, the Federation called upon the affiliated unions to observe 11th September 1974 as Chile Day. The Federation also nominated Com. Parimal Mitra Vice President to participate in the 7th TUI Conference to be held in Moscow on 20th—24th May 1975.

The Federation in its extended office bearers meeting held at Calcutta on 14th Dccember 1974 decided to hold the Second Conference at Vandiperiyar, on January 31 to February 2, 1975 which had to be postponed due to the death of Com. K. I. Rajan. It was held in the same place on 11th to 13th May just on the eve of our Third Conference.

3) Beedi : Delegates attending the Second Conference proposed to the centre to organise an all India Convention of Beedi Workers. The Working Committee meeting at Delhi after considering the issue decided to give emphasis on region wise Co-ordination. Accordingly the Second South Zone Beedi workers Conference was held on January 26-27, 1974 at Tellicherry (Kerala) where 400 delegates participated. Regional Conventions were also held in West Bengal in Dhulian (Murshidabad District) and Madhya Pradesh at Damoh. A meeting of the leading activists in the industry was held at Visakhapatnam on 8th April, 1974 which considered the non-implementation of the Beedi and Cigar Act despite the judgement of the Supreme Court in January 1974

validating the provisions of the Act. It was decided to hold a wider meeting at Warangal (Andhra) in May 1974 which had to be postponed due to railway strike. Later Andhra comrades expressed their inability to hold the meeting. Mangalore comrades also could not make arrangements for the meeting. Ultimately at the initiative of the Tamilnadu State Committee Vellore comrades agreed to hold a Conference on 1st and 2nd February 1975. 210 delegates from 8 States attended the Conference which was inaugurated by Com. B. T. Ranadive President CITU. The Conference decided to form a Co-ordination Committee with Com. C. Kannan (Kerala) as the Convener. A deputation on behalf of the Co-ordination Committee met Union Labour Minister on 8th April 1975 and submitted a memorandum regarding non-implementation of the Beedi and Cigar Act. Earlier a deputation of South Zone unions met him in August 1974 to press for similar demands.

In Karnataka under the leadership of CITU unions in this industry an agreement was signed with the managements providing implementation of Act. All the workers including the home workers received $8\frac{1}{8}$ per cent bonus. The unions could not however force the managements to accept past claims. In West Bengal an impressive demonstration of Beedi workers was organised on 4th November 1974 and a successful strike was observed on 29th January 1975 in support of the demands for wage rise, implementation of the Act and others.

4) **Coal** : The CITU centre had to pay considerable attention to the problem of Co-ordination in Coal Industry during the last 2 years. We were given a seat on the Bipartite wage Negotiations Committee. After fixation of Rs. 325 as the minimum wage at 246 Consumer Price Index with 1960 base and Rs. 15 as house rent allowance the AITUC and INTUC bargained separately with the management for a lower scales of pay for higher categories of workers and came to an agreement despite our opposition. However, the Central Government refused to accept even the so-called agreement and the AITUC and INTUC leadership was forced to talk of struggle. Thrice they gave strike notices but with drawn on

flimsy grounds. Ultimately they agreed to forgo the house-rent allowance, reduction in DA and underground allowance. The CITU refused to sign the agreement on these onerous terms. The HMS also has officially condemned the agreement.

We convened All India meeting of Coal unions in January and April 1974 to consider the issues involved in coal negotiations. The developments were also informed to the unions from time to time. Com. Robin Chatterjee was nominated as a member of the Committee. Due to his ill-health Com. M. K. Pandhe was nominated at a later stage.

The CITU Centre also helped the organisations of clerical staff working in CMA, BCCL, NCDC and Coal Board in conducting their struggles. They were also kept informed about the negotiations at every stage. In Calcutta a Co-ordination Committee of all these organisations was formed which is working in co-operation with the CITU Centre.

In view of the importance of the industry the centre will have to pay more attention to it. It is necessary to evolve some machinery to co-ordinate the activities of our unions and build united struggles at local and regional levels. Possibilities of increasing our work in this industry are immense and we should utilise them properly.

Electricity : The Union Government constituted a guidelines Committee for fixation of wages for electricity undertakings and we were given one seat on it. The CITU nominated Com. Sukhomoy Paul on the Committee. Though the Committee recommended interim relief of Rs. 30 it was not implemented in full by many State Electricity Boards. In Haryana and Punjab large number of electricity workers were victimised for strike action in support of the demand for implementation of the recommendations. The Government of India failed to take any action in the matter. Since the INTUC and AITUC leadership were not prepared for common struggle we had to convene an All India meeting in first week of February in 1974 in Madras. It was decided to create basis of All India struggle with-

out which the Government would not move. The matters were again discussed at Visakhapatnam on 8th April 1974. However due to inadequate preparations the strike call had to be deferred. As per joint decision of the representatives of the AITUC, HMS and CITU an All India Convention of Electricity workers was held in New Delhi on 19th and 20th November in which a Co-ordination Committee was formed to carry forward the struggle unitedly. Comrade E. Balanandan, Vice-President CITU and Com. V. P. Chintan along with 20 others participated in the Convention on behalf of the CITU Unions. Prior to the Convention we had a meeting of our comrades to consider our line of approach. The comrades in the meeting suggested that the CITU Centre should pay more attention to this industry so that our activities are better guided and co-ordinated. The Working Committee at Shibpur discussed this question and decided to give the responsibility to Com. E. Balanandan.

The meeting of the guide lines Committee held in March 1975 made it clear that the Government and the State Electricity Board have no intention of arriving at an all India Settlement on the question. The AITUC and INTUC are also trying to move separately bypassing the Co-ordination Committee. The problem of wages of the workers is kept in cold storage since then and we have to consider the steps to build up an all India united movement in this industry.

Port And Dock : The question of revision of wages of Port and Dock workers had been pending for a long time. The Transport Ministry was having negotiations with the Federations led by HMS, INTUC and AITUC and we were ignored despite our strength in the industry. In West Bengal our unions in co-operation with other organisations formed Sangrami Morcha and even organised joint strikes and other forms of actions. In Goa and Cochin we led several struggles of workers despite the attempt of the Government to bolster the INTUC unions. Our major weakness is in Bombay and Madras where we could not make much headway. This question was discussed in the working Committee meetings also. In

Madras the State Committee has started some preliminary work. In Visakhapatnam General Council meeting the situation in all the ports was reviewed and it was decided to organise an all India Convention of Port and Dock workers and Seamen in Calcutta. Accordingly, the Convention was held on 12th to 14th February 1975 which was attended by 217 delegates and observers. The Convention was inaugurated by Com. B. T. Ranadive while the open session was addressed by Com. Jyoti Basu.

The Convention decided to form Water Transport Workers' Federation of India with Com. Gerald Pereira as President and Com. Nilmony Ghosh as General Secretary. At the call of the Federation an all India Demands Day was observed on 18th March 1975 to popularise the Charter of Demands adopted by the Convention. A deputation of the Federation met the Transport Minister to press for the demands of the workers.

The Government constituted a Wage Committee without any nominee from the trade unions. However the three "recognised" Federations have accepted interim relief recommendations of the Wage Committee. Though the three Federations talk of boycotting the wage Committee they do not show any readiness for a joint struggle along with us. The CITU unions will have to take initiative in launching a campaign wherever we have strength so that pressure is brought on the Government for an adequate wage rise. The new Federation has already taken up such a programme of action.

Steel : Our unions in this industry along with friendly unions formed 26 July Committee to co-ordinate the activities of the unions in steel industry. The Committee prepared a common Charter of Demands of steel workers and organised campaign in all the steel centres. A well organised Convention was held at Jamshedpur in September 1974 which was attended by Com. B. T. Ranadive and Com. Jyoti Basu. The success of the Convention marked the advance of the steel workers movement under our leadership. Hindusthan Steel Employees Union, Durgapur played an important role in organising weaker units and giving them whatever help was possible. This the union did despite the

reign of terror and repression faced by the union. The representatives of the union on the Bipartite Wage Negotiations Committee and Standardisation Committee did good work and continuously built pressure from below through various forms of movements.

A notable development in industry is the decision of TISCO Karmachari Samiti, Jamshedpur to affiliate to the CITU. This independent organisation formed by rank and file workers made much dent into the influence of the AITUC and INTUC.

The bipartite wage negotiations are moving slowly and the steel unions are trying to build united actions at local levels keeping in view the perspective of an All-India struggle. At times even the AITUC and INTUC leadership are forced to talk of struggle if the demands are not met.

Surreptitious attempts were made to exclude CITU from the bipartite study team which visited Soviet Union in November 1974. This, however, could not succeed and ultimately they had to include Com. Jibon Roy, Joint Secretary, Hindusthan Steel Employees Union, Durgapur. The Report of the Committee was circulated to all the unions in the industry, the State Committees for their information and use.

Rubber and Tyre : The All-India Tyre and Rubber Workers' Federation which was formed in January 1973 has not shown much notable activity during 1973. The working Committee of the Federation could not be convened before 14th December 1974. The meeting decided to observe Demands week for fixation of higher minimum wage for the industry and 100% lay-off compensation.

There was a Convention of Eastern Zone on 1st and 2nd August 1974 at Chinsura (West Bengal) ; General Secretary of the Federation attended the Convention. The President visited Bombay during the long drawn CEAT struggle. The involvement of many Bombay union activists in murder cases has created some difficulties in the working of the Centre. We have also not been able to establish regular contacts between the centre and the local unions as well as between the leading activists of the Federation. The working Committee of the Federation is

meeting at Bombay on the eve of the Conference to consider the working of the Federation and taking suitable steps to improve the functioning.

Jute : The All-India Jute workers' Convention planned as early as in 1972 could not be held so far due to several difficulties. However, Com. Kamal Sarkar Secretary CITU has been keeping regular contacts with unions in jute industry. He visited Kanpur in November 1974 and addressed meetings of activists there. The All India strike of jute workers in 1974 was an important event in the Jute workers movement and possibilities of building up countrywide organisations are there. However, unless State Committees outside West Bengal who have jute factories in their States take some more interest in co-ordinating of activities in this industry it will not be possible to achieve this. Since the question of uniformity of wages and other working conditions has remained unresolved for years only an All India movement will bring sufficient pressure on the Government of India.

Rayon : Unions in this industry have been pressing the Centre for some steps to co-ordinate the activities of our unions in the industry. Since we have worked in about 9 factories it is possible to take initiative in building an all India movement in this industry. The Secretariat considered this question and an All India meeting was convened in Calcutta on 4th December 1974. The meeting reviewed the activities of the CITU as well as the problems facing the industry. It was decided to launch a campaign all over the country on the non-implementation of the Report of the official Committee on poisoning in Viscose Rayon manufacturing process. The full text of the Report which is not available was typed and supplied to all the unions. A draft of petition was circulated to all the unions and they were asked to campaign on the issue and collect signatures on the petition. The details of the campaign were not available with the centre at the time of writing this Report.

Other Industries : The meeting of representatives working in paper industry in 1971 decided to have co-ordination and they elected Com. Robin Sen as the Convener. The Committee however could not function. After General Council meeting at

Visakhapatnam on 8th April 1974 another meeting of representatives was held but not much progress could be made since Com. Robin Sen could not find time due to the disturbed conditions in his region.

At Ernakulam a meeting of delegates working in Pharmaceutical industry was held which elected Com. Gyan Sen as the Convener. But the Committee did not meet at all and there is not much progress regarding our co-ordination in this industry.

Comrades, we have taken steps to increase the co-ordination of our unions in various industries. The demand for building co-ordination in some more industries is increasing. The demand is fully justified but unless we have a team of comrades who would be able to discharge responsibilities effectively, the co-ordination will not be effective. Our experience has shown that wherever comrades have taken initiative in co-ordinating the activities it has been possible to develop our activities. Sometimes, localistic tendencies shown by comrades become a serious hurdle in the task of building an all India movement. This weakness has to be overcome if we have to build a systematic net work of industry-wise activities throughout the country.

The CITU had to participate in several seminars and various meetings convened by different departments of Government to express the standpoint of the CITU on issues facing the working class. A brief review of the work done in this regard is given below :

Our Participation in Official Seminars, Meetings Etc.

The ILO and the Central Board for workers Education organised a National workshop for trade union officials on welfare tasks and family planning from August 27, for two weeks at Bombay. On behalf of the CITU Com. Sudhin Kumar Vice-President, participated in the programme. He placed CITU'S view points during the discussions. A written note was also

circulated among the participants elucidating CITU's understanding.

The National Productivity Council arranged Saeminar on Industrial Relations on 19th and 20th August in New Delhi in which 9 Central trade unions participated. CITU was represented in the Seminar by Com. P. Ramamurti and Com. M. K. Pandhe. The Seminar adopted a statement explaining the viewpoint of the trade union on the problem of productivity.

At the instance of the Planning Commission a meeting of Central trade unions was held in New Delhi on 20th July, 1973. Com. B. T. Ranadive and Com. P. Ramamurti attended the discussion on behalf of the CITU. They pointed out the anti-people character of the plan and how the crisis in the Indian economy was intensifying because of the policies pursued by the Government of India.

ILO in co-operation with Norweign Devolopment Agency organised two seminars at Bangalore and Ranchi on Industrial Relations in India in 1973. The Seminars were attended by leading trade union functionaries, representatives of managements both in public and private sectors and Senior Government officials. As per decision of the Secretariat Com. R. Umanath participated in a Seminar held at Bangalore on 5th and 6th November, 1973 while Com. M. K. Pandhe read a paper in Ranchi Seminar held on 12th and 13th November, 1973. In both the Seminars our representatives attacked the policies of the Government and the managements and upheld the line of CITU on all aspect of industrial relations.

The National Productivity Council convened a meeting of representatives of Central trade unions to consider the question of constitution of a National Wage Commission on 11th and 12th January, 1974. CITU was represented in the meeting by Com. M. K. Pandhe. The Seminar by majority rejected the idea of the National Wage Committee and suggested fixing up need-based minimum wage on the basis of norms laid down by 15th Indian Labour Conferenee.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment convened a symposium on Family Planing in New Delhi on 15th to 18th April

1974. The Secrétariat nominated comrades Sudhin Kumar and Biren Roy to participate in the symposium. Com. Sudhin Kumar was nominated on the steering group and also read a paper elaborating CITU's approach on the question.

The Ministry of Labour convened Third Mines Safety Conference in Calcutta on 14th and 15th July, 1973. We were first invited to send only an observer and that too at eleventh hour. When we protested and walked out, we were invited to send a delegate and an observer. Com. Rabin Chatterjee, Member working Committee attended the Conference as delegate.

The CITU also participated in the Standing Committee on safety in Steel Industry and Com. Dilip Mazumdar, Member, General Council represented us on the Committee. It was possible for the first time to work out some norms for safety in this industry.

The Union Labour Ministry also held 3 "workshops" on population problems at Calcutta, Kanpur and Mangalore simultaneously on 18th to 23rd November, 1974. We were asked to nominate 5 comrades for each centre. After consulting the the State Committees we could nominate only 7 comrades. For Calcutta we nominated comrades Biren Roy, Nrisingha Chakraborty and Biswanath Prasad (Bihar), for Kanpur Com. Jagjit Singh Lyallpuri (Punjab), Com. Ghanashyam Saran Singh (Delhi) and Com. Durgadas Shirali (Rajasthan) and for Mangalore we nominated Com. N. K. Upadhaya (Karnataka). In these programmes our representatives criticised the Government programme on Family Planning and pointed out that it would not succeed.

The Union Labour Ministry and the ILO held a Seminar on minimum Wages at Madras on 18th to 20th November, 1974 and the Secretariat nominated Com. R. Umanath. His presentation in the Seminar was acclaimed as the best by all the participants of the Seminar. The ILO official Mr. Perceria who came to India in connection with this Seminar visited CITU Office on 14th December for a discussion on the questions of Minimum wages in India

The Administrative staff college of Hyderabad organised a Seminar on Bonus at New Delhi from 18th to 20th December 1974. Com. Ramamurti addressed the Seminar on behalf of the CITU.

The CITU submitted a Memorandum to the workers Education Review Committee constituted by the Union Labour Ministry. In the Memorandum we criticised the working of the entire scheme and pointed out how it is at the mercy of the Employers and bureaucrats.

The CITU and the All India Plantation Workers Federation submitted a memorandum to the Joint Committee on Plantation Amendment Bill. On 8th July, 1974 the All India Plantation Workers Federation was called for oral evidence and comrades M. K. Pandhe, K. Padmanabhan and Vimal Ranadive appeared before the Committee.

We submitted a Memorandum to the Joint Committee on Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill criticising the very basis of the Bill. To submit oral evidence Com. M. K. Pandhe and A. P. Chatterjee appeared before the Committee. Our representative could not complete the evidence due to the high handed attitude of the Chairman. Com. B. T. Ranadive, President, CITU protested to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha against the behaviour of the Chairman.

A memorandum was submitted by the CITU to the Committee on Social status of women under the Chairmanship of Smt. Phulrenu Guha. Com. Vimal Ranadive appeared before the Committee on 31st July, 1974 and explained the stand of the CITU on the question.

The CITU submitted a Memorandum to the Joint Committee on Foreign contribution (Regulation) Bill. Com. M. K. Pandhe appeared before the Committee on 13th and 14th January, 1975 and demanded scrapping of the Bill.

At the instance of the Public Accounts Committee, the CITU submitted a memorandum to the Committee on the accounts of the Calcutta Port Commissioners. Coms. M. K. Pandhe, Nilmony Ghosh and A. K. Roy Ganguly submitted oral evidence before the Committee on 4th March, 1975.

Com. Biren Roy attended the Joint meetings of Central Council of Health and Family Planning on 5th-7th March, 1974 and 15th - 16th April, 1975. Earlier Com. Sudhin Kumar was nominated for the meetings but due to his illness Com. Biren Roy attended a meeting of the Trade Union Committee on Family Planning on 8th and 9th March, 1975. The meeting was later converted into a Tripartite Committee on Family and Welfare Planning. The first meeting of this committee was held in New Delhi on 29th April, 1975 and the Secretariat nominated Com. Nrisingha Chakravorty on the Committee.

Regarding our participation in Seminars etc. Com. P. Ramamurti in his Report to the Visakhapatnam General Council Meeting made the following observations.

“Our representatives on the Seminars have to be extremely vigilant and be prepared to reply to every argument of the employers and other trade union centres. We should not go by the idea of the arriving at unanimity and compromise our basic positions. We have to be forthright in expressing our line of approach and should not fall victim of the idea of toning down our approach on the ground that we are talking to the other side. Our representatives should carefully go through the conclusions as soon as we find anything contrary to our understanding. Any lapse on our part in this regard is likely to be used by our adversaries to create confusion among our ranks. Hence, we should send our seniormost comrades to participate in these seminars, who should make exhaustive preparations and not treat these seminars in a casual manner. The precautions are extremely essential to uphold the CITU's positions on all issues facing the working class.”

Our representatives should take note of these observations so that they can play their role effectively.

CITU Complains To ILO

Since the Second Conference the CITU complained four times to the ILO on violation of ILO Conventions.

Regarding the violation of Convention of Freedom of Association CITU pointed out the prevalent reign of terror in West Bengal and forcible occupation of 300 trade union offices belonging to CITU. It also complained during the Jute Strike in West Bengal in 1975 when permission was withdrawn for a meeting to be addressed by Com. Jyoti Basu on the plea that Congress party decided to organise a rally at the same place even though permission was granted to CITU.

The CITU launched another complaint on the question of victimisation of large number of railway workers and terrorisation of family of workers during the railway strike,

In another complaint the CITU pointed out gross violation of ILO Convention relating to Equal Pay for men and women workers In India. The Complaint was taken up by the ILO with the Government of India. The Government has now brought forward a Bill introducing the Principle of Equal pay for equal work details of which are not yet available.

The CITU will continue to draw the attention of the ILO to the violation of the Conventions and campaign within the country so that the Government is forced to accept Conventions which have not been accepted so far.

Work of the Legal Aid Committee

The large scale victimisation of railway workers by the Railway Board was a challenge to the entire Trade Union movemet. The CITU decided to fight the victimisation and organise legal defence for the railwaymen. Accordingly the CITU decided to form a Legal Aid Committee and on the 4th June, 1974 Com. B. T. Ranadive and Com. P. Ramamurti jointly issued a statement appealing for solidarity funds for the vicitimised railway employees. Immediately on 6th June a meeting of about 30 lawyers in Calcutta was held in the Central Office of the CITU and Legal Aid Committee was formed with Com. A. P. Chatterjee as the Convener. Com. B. T. Ranadive and Jyoti Basu were present in the meeting. A small committee of railway comrades was also

constituted to assist the Legal Aid Committee. In West Bengal the State Committee organised mass collections and paid Rs. 40, 500 to the Centre while the total collections with the CITU amounted to Rs. 45, 750. 45 p.

As a result of the work of the Committee, 24 cases involving 200 victimised railwaymen under Rule 14 (ii) of Conduct Rules were decided in favour of workers while the authorities have appealed against it. In all we conducted 242 cases while 218 cases are in various stages of proceedings. Through People's Relief Committee we have been able to distribute relief to workers worth Rs 6, 500. In addition to this we extended help to Kancharapara, Shalimar, Kharagpur, Adra and Coal and Ash Handling workers in Eastern Railway amounting to Rs. 3, 300,

The Legal Aid Committee at Calcutta had done a tremendous work as will be seen from the following record of its performance upto 1st March 1975

Types of cases	ER	SER	NFR	Total	Workers involved
Against Removal 14(ii)	59	46	26	131	810
„ „ 149	1	9	—	10	489
Against detention MISA	15	35	13	63	63
Against Transfer	8	9	—	17	98
Against Reversion	—	1	2	3	3
Against Compulsary Retirement	5	2	—	7	7
Against trial Under DIR	—	9	—	9	38
For contempt of Govt. order	—	2	—	2	4
Grand Total :	88	113	41	242	1512

The CITU also arranged circulation of judgements of Calcutta, Gujarat, Andhra and Cochin High Courts to all the unions connected with Legal defence of railwaymen. It had been possible to extend advice and other legal assistance to some union who sought for it. We also accepted responsibilities of

sending advocates to Jabbalpur, Gauhati, Patna, Nagpur and Cuttack. Some help was also given to the victimised Central Government employees through the Committee. Though the work done by the Committee was very small in relation with the victimisation faced by the railwaymen, our work was generally appreciated by railwaymen. The victimisation is still continued and the work of the Committee will have to be carried still further for some more time.

A statement of Accounts of the Legal Aid Fund is enclosed with this Report for information of the delegates.

New Affiliation

Since Ernakulam, the Working Committee and the General Council have granted affiliation to 202 unions with a membership of 39, 758 details of which are given below :

Meeting	No. of Unions	Membership
Working Committee		
Delhi, October '73	24	3710
General Council		
Visakhapatnam, April '74	64	18581
Working Committee Sibpur, Howrah, December '74	114	17467
Total :	202	39758

Since some unions have not sent their annual return their membership could not be ascertained. Hence, the actual number will be more than mentioned in the table. The CITU Centre has received some more affiliations after the Sibpur meeting which will be considered by the General Council meeting at Bombay on the eve of the Third Conference.

During this period, the CITU had to discuss the question of disaffiliation of the unions which have either become defunct or have not paid the affiliation fee regularly. The CITU Centre sent a list of such unions to the State Committees. However, comments about their disaffiliations were not received by the

Centre from some State Committees. The Sibpur Working Committee decided to disaffiliate 119 unions and disaffiliation of some more will be considered by the General Council prior to the Session.

Unless we observe strictness regarding payment of affiliation fees, the lethargy shown by some unions will go on increasing. The State Committees should also take more interest in this work so that unions show promptness in the matter.

The CITU Secretariat waived payments of fees to some unions in West Bengal which were seriously affected by repression and reign of terror. However, it is creditable to some unions who paid dues to the Centre despite these repressive measures and other difficulties.

Verification Of Membership

The Government of India asked CITU in the middle of 1973 to submit a list of membership for verification for the year 1972 and we submitted a list of 2031 unions with 9,12,328 members to the Chief Labour Commissioner in September 1973. While doing so, we pointed out that the procedure for verification was highly undemocratic and heavily loaded in favour of INTUC and pro-Government Trade Unions. The letter also noted the prevalent reign of terror and occupation of offices of a large number of CITU unions in West Bengal.

Along with the CITU, the other organisations submitting the list were : INTUC, UTUC, UTUC (Lenin Sarani), Bharatiya Mazdur Sangh and National Labour Organisation. The AITUC and HMS did not submit their list and due to the pressure brought out by them the Government deferred verification.

Meanwhile the Government reconstituted all the Tripartite Committees on the basis of 1968 verification results and CITU is being deliberately excluded from them. We are invited only to such Committees where it is difficult for the Government to exclude us. The CITU is fighting against this discrimination at every level.

Congress of Vietnamese Trade Unions

The Third National Congress of the Federation of Vietnam Trade Unions was held in Hanoi from 11-14 February 1974 and CITU was invited to participate in it. The Secretariat nominated Com. B. T. Ranadive, President to attend as fraternal delegate. His visit strengthened the bond of friendship between the CITU and the Federation of Vietnam Trade Unions. After the Congress he along with other fraternal delegates visited some centres and saw the strenuous efforts the working class and the people of Vietnam were making to reconstruct the economy destroyed by the savage bombing of the U. S. imperialists. He gave a detailed report of this visit to the members of the General Council in the meeting held in April 1974 and General Council recorded its appreciation to the work done by him during his stay at Vietnam.

Solidarity to Rehabilitate Orissa CITU State Committee Office.

On the midnight of 3rd December, 1974 the hirelings of the employers set fire to the Orissa State CITU office at Cuttack. The entire office and records were gutted and Comrades sleeping inside escaped miraculously. The CITU President immediately issued an appeal to all the State Committees to contribute funds to rehabilitate the office. The delegates attending West Bengal State Conference contributed Rs. 1,700/- towards the solidarity funds while the delegates attending Rajasthan State Conference contributed Rs. 501/-. Solidarity funds also were sent from Goa (Rs. 100/-) and Gujarat (Rs. 121) States. CITU Unions in Orissa and Unions friendly to CITU also contributed to the funds. It is expected that the Orissa State Committee will be able to re-establish their office at an early date.

Work Among Women Workers

During the Second Conference some time was specially allotted to discuss the problems of women workers. A brief

Report on the conditions of women workers prepared by Com. Vimal Ranadive was circulated among the delegates. Some women workers who spoke in the Conference also criticised the neglect of this problem and emphasised the need to take more interest by the CITU unions in the work among women workers. Com. B. T. Randive while summing up the discussion on the subject asked the CITU unions to take up the task of working among women workers more seriously.

In West Bengal, meetings of women workers in Coal, Plantations, Beedi and Jute industries were held by the CITU unions while in Maharashtra a State level Convention of women workers was held in Bombay on 18th and 19th January 1974 which was attended by about 2000 women workers. Conventions of women workers were also held in Bhilai (M.P) and Rourkela (Orissa) while demonstration of women workers against price rise and scarcity of essential commodities were held in Kerala, Tamilnadu and Maharashtra.

However, it is necessary to take further steps by the State Committees to organise the women workers and training them to take up more and more responsibilities in the organisation particularly in industries where large number of women are working. This question should be taken up in right earnest. CITU Secretariat has already decided to organise a Convention or a Seminar on the problem of women workers during 1975.

The Working Class and The CITU Journals

In the Second Conference, we amended the Constitution of the CITU and made it compulsory for the affiliated unions to subscribe to the CITU journal—The Working Class. The objective behind this amendment was that every union should regularly get acquainted with the CITU policy on issues facing the trade union movement and the activities of the CITU in every State.

A statement enclosed with the Report gives the total circulation of the journal in various States. It is clear from the statement that the circulation of the journal has gone up by over

1000 during the last two years. Our print order for April 1975 issue was 4200.

It has been the experience that wherever comrades made efforts, they could increase the sales substantially. The Bhilai comrades have increased the sale up to 130 and promised to raise it still further. Even in a weak centre like Muzaffarpur (Bihar) the comrades could push up the sales up to 100. However it must be noted that many important industrial centres have not yet taken steps to start the agencies.

There should be no difficulty in increasing the circulation to 5000 if comrades take up the work seriously. Particularly efforts should be made to push up the sales among the educated employees. One good feature is that many organisations, outside the CITU are coming forward to subscribe to The Working Class. The articles published in our journal are also reproduced in some other journals, belonging to friendly organisations.

The complaint regarding the failure of the State Committees to send regular reports is not a new one but it must be admitted that some State Committees have taken steps in the matter and it is hoped that others would also do the same. One good feature is that some correspondents from non-CITU unions have started sending reports to the journal from time to time.

There is much scope for improvement in the functioning of the Editorial Board—some members are not available for work due to the other preoccupations. It is necessary that we should take steps to make the functioning of the Editorial Board more meaningful. It must, however be mentioned here that the comrades on the staff of the journal who include some part timers also have done commendable work in bringing out the journal regularly.

The CITU State Committees in West Bengal, Kerala, Andhra and Maharashtra continue to publish journals in local languages. The Maharashtra State Committee had to discontinue publishing the journal for about one year but it has restarted publishing it. The circulation of Sharmik Andolon (Bengali) is 4000 while the circulation of CIFU Sandesam

(Malayalam) Karmika Lokam (Telugu) and Warga Yuddha (Marathi) is about 2000.

The demand for journal of the CITU in Hindi is being raised by several unions and comrades. However, Centre could not undertake the responsibility for publishing it. The Centre is exploring the possibility of bringing out Hindi journal from Delhi in co-operation with Delhi State Committee of CITU.

Due to high cost of printing and paper it is extremely difficult to bring out The Working Class at old price - despite difficulties the Centre refrained from increasing the price so far. It may be now necessary to increase the price of the journal at least to 50 paise to meet the rising costs.

The CITU journals have played an important role in popularising the policies of the CITU among the mass of workers. It is necessary to make further efforts to make maximum use of the journals and improve their quality so that we can meet the growing expectations of the readers.

CITU Publications

Since the Second Conference we have been able to bring out 10 publications-seven of which were in English, two in Hindi and one in Bengali. The following were the titles brought out :

1. Resolutions and Proceedings of the Second Conference (English)
2. Deepening Crisis : Rising Struggles : (Review of the Documents of the CITU Working Committee meeting, New Delhi, Oct. 3-5, 1973)
3. Labour Hand Book 1974 (English)
4. Nai Jangi Sangram Ki Our Barho (Hindi) (Speech of Com. B. T. Ranadive at Viskhatpatnam Gen. Council Meeting, April 7, (1974)
5. Do (Bengali)
6. Constitution of the CITU (Revised Ed.) (English)

7. Akraman Ke Pratirodh Ke Liya Ek Baddha Ho (Hindi) (Speech of Com. B.T. Ranadive at the Working Committee meeting of Howrah on 11-14 December 1974).
8. A Critique of the Confidential Report of the Committee on wage Policy—submitted by the CITU at the National Convention against Wage Freeze in Delhi on 28th August 1974. (English)
9. World Capitalist Crisis—by B. T. Ranadive (English).
10. Against Inflation and Wage Freeze—By B. T. Ranadive.

Most of the publications were sold. The Labour Hand Book became popular even among the non-CITU unions. The first edition is completely sold out and second is under preparation.

West Bengal, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Andhra and Maharashtra and Delhi State Committees have published booklets in vernacular languages and organised sales in their respective States. The documents of CITU meetings are brought out mainly in English and steps are necessary to popularise it among large sections of workers. It is expected that State Committees will pay more attention to this aspect so that our weakness in this regard is overcome without any further delay.

The Statement Showing Circulation of the Working Class (1973 to 1975)

STATE	March 1973 Total Copies Supplied	March 1974 Total Copies Supplied	March 1975 Total Copies Supplied
Assam	59	107	157
Andamans	1	1	2
Andhra Pradesh	119	197	168
Bihar	212	253	218
Gujarat	5	8	23
Goa	15	1	16
Haryana	17	9	9
Himachal Pradesh	3	18	26
J & K	1	—	3
Karnataka	158	137	182
Kerala	119	141	480
Maharashtra	216	230	275
Madhya Pradesh	146	169	217
New Delhi	110	70	97
Orissa	59	30	87
Pondicherry	1	1	2
Punjab	97	139	161
Rajasthan	25	17	21
Tamil Nadu	291	276	332
Tripura	1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	62	83	70
West Bengal	731	689	892
Total :	2,449	2,580	3,441
Cash Sale	153	181	378
Complementary	104	117	120
Foreign	35	52	32
GRAND TOTAL :	2,741	2,930	3,971

Victimised Railway Workers'
Receipt & Payments Accounts for the period

RECEIPTS

	Rs.	Rs.
To Donations received from		45,750.45
1. W. B. State Committee CITU	40,500.00	
2. NCCRS, Santragachi	500.00	
3. United Committee of Railwaymen, Jalpaiguri	500.00	
4. Workshop Staff Committee Kharagpur	500.00	
5. S. E. Rly. Loco Running Staff Association, Adra	500.00	
6. N. F. Rly. Gauhati	200.00	
7. Darjeeling Dist. Chia Kaman Mazdur Union	228.45	
8. Koyala Sramik Sangha, Surguja	101.00	
9. ABTA College. Calcutta	135.00	
10. 12th July Committee	100.00	
11. Tripura State Committee CITU	577.00	
12. Tripura Student Federation	200.00	
13. Orissa Student Federation	200.00	
14. W. B. State Electricity Board, West Bengal	330.00	
15. Kalinga Tubes & Allied Concern Employees' Union	126.00	
16. Staff, Central Office CITU	50.00	
17. Southern Rly. CL. Union Seklaspur	100.00	
18. LRSA, Malda, W. Bengal	150.00	
19. Others.....	753.00	
	45,750.45	

45,750.45

Legal Aid Fund

from 26th May, 1974 to 31st March, 1975

PAYMENTS

	Rs.	Rs.
By Legal expenses		
Relief to Railway Workers		18,117.60
Indian Railway Coal & Ash Handling Majdur Union Bandel; Hooghly, W. B.	300.00	
„ Victimised Railway Workers of Kharagpur	500.00	
„ Victimised Railway workers of Ranaghat	500.00	
„ Victimised Railway workers of Shalimar	500.00	
„ Indian Railway Coal & Ash Handling Union.	500.00	2300.00
„ Legal Aid for All India Loco Running Staff Associa- tion, S.E. Rly Zone, Adra		1000.00
„ Payments to People's Relief Committee for organising Relief Centres at Kharagpur & Kanchrapara & other centres	5000.00	
Stationery	1500.00	6500.00
Travelling & Conveyance		6408.74
Miscellaneous Expenses		1628.60
Postage		314.35
Typing Charges		152.05
Cost of two SATRANJ		1081.95
Cost of one Steel Trunk		105.00
Repairs (Typewriter)		34.00
Cash in hand	1658.76	200.00
Cash with CITU	6250.00	7908.76

45750.45

WORKING*Receipts and Payments Accounts***RECEIPTS**

	Rs.	Rs.	1973 Rs.	1974 Rs.
To Opening balance				
Cash in hand	15.21			
Cash at Bank	<u>1790.38</u>		1805.59	
Cash in hand		247.27		
Cash at Bank		<u>945.15</u>		1192.42
Subscription received			10180.95	12667.14
Loan			1000.00	300.00

12986.54 14159.56

CLASS*for the period ending 31st December, 1973 & 1974***PAYMENTS**

			1973	1974
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
By Printing Charge			5051.31	6070.86
Binding & Packing			729.00	750.40
Stationeries			119.70	162.82
Railway Parcel Charges			72.97	59.16
Postage			720.20	897.13
Newsprint			4930.25	3953.00
Conveyance			27.50	43.85
Cooly & Cartage			68.31	78.49
Miscellaneous Expenses			58.88	92.10
Bank Charges			16.00	22.00
Cash in hand	247.27			
Cash at Bank	<u>945.15</u>		1192.42	
Cash in hand		20.12		
Cash at Bank		<u>2009.63</u>		2029.75

12986.54 14159.56

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