



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

AGAINST E.S.M.O.

Protests Develop into Resistance

Strike in Kerala, West Bengal and Tripura

The entire country is reverberating with protests against the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance banning strikes, demanding its withdrawal. August 17, which was observed as Black Day, was the beginning of a resistance movement by all sections of workers in all industries and establishments in all the states.

The successive protest Bundhs in Kerala, West Bengal and Tripura on September 3, 11 and 14 respectively have thrown new impetus to the working class and the democratic forces for effectively resisting the authoritarian attacks of the Congress(I) Government to save democracy and the fundamental rights. All the frantic bids by the Congress(I) hoodlums and the disruptive forces to oppose the bundhs were completely paralysed by the left and democratic forces in the three states.

Voice of the people is being battled through by the entire opposition in the Parliament to obstruct the Ordinance getting enacted. But even though the ruling party wins the parliamentary battle by its sheer brute majority, the massive protest actions by the industrial workers and salaried employees both in the private and the public sectors reflect their determination to reject the ordinance and protect their fundamental rights.

Joint rallies, morchas, gate meetings, public meetings, wearing of black badges, distribution of leaflets and submission of memoranda are being reported from all corners of the country. State Campaign Committees formed in various states

with Central Trade Unions and other mass organisations have mobilised vast sections of the mass to resist the authoritarian measure.

In the teeth of the secessionist overtones in Assam and refusal of the Government to permit a Central rally, the Black-Day was observed almost in the entire state on August 17, in massive ways in day long programmes of demonstrations, gate meetings, wearing of black badges by workers in various public and private sector establishments. Besides other Central Trade Unions in the State Campaign Committee, even the INTUC in Assam, officially came out against the Ordinance.

In U.P., Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, West Bengal, Tripura, Kerala and Punjab, State Campaign Committees conducted joint movements demanding scrapping of the Ordinance, CITU State Committees acted as unifying forces to mobilise the workers and various mass organisations to launch the protest actions.

All India Protest And Demands Day—November 3

The CITU Congratulates People and Working Class

Of Kerala

B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU congratulated the Working Class of Kerala, for their successful observance of one day bundh on September 3, 1981 in protest against the promulgation of E.S.M.O. and said that this magnificent response to the call of the state level convention of all Central Trade Unions and National Federations in Kerala, barring only those handful who are following the Congress(I) section of I. N. T. U. C. held on August, 9, shows the determination of the workers to preserve their right to strike which was earned through decades of bitter struggles, blood and travail. The Working Class of Kerala, who had earned the distinction of launching a successful one-day strike against imposition of internal emergency in 1975, have once again demonstrated their capacity of struggle against the drive to impose an authoritarian rule on the people.

It is unfortunate that due to some stray incidents one A.I.T.U.C. follower has been killed and several other workers have been wounded. The CITU pays its homage to the memory of the worker who has laid down his life in defence of trade union and democratic rights and sends its condolences to the members of his bereaved family.

The C.I.T.U. appeals to the Working Class of the entire country to preserve and strengthen the unity already achieved for continuing the struggle against price-rise and anti-labour policies of the Govt. and resolutely fight against all attempts to impose an authoritarian rule on the people.

Of West Bengal

In a statement, B.T. Ranadive, President-CITU, congratulated

the people and working class of West Bengal for responding magnificently to the call of "BENGAL BUNDH" in protest against the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance and price-rise given by CITU and other trade union centres and supported by left front and some other parties and said that the CITU also congratulates the left-front Govt. of West Bengal for taking steps to maintain peace despite provocations. It needs special mention that the call given by the Congress(I) and the INTUC to oppose the bundh, was virtually ignored by the people and the bundh was total. This also indicates that the working class and the people of West Bengal are not only fighting against the price-rise and anti-labour policies of the Congress(I) Govt. at the centre but also its drive towards one-party authoritarian rule in the country.

The CITU appeals to the Working Class of West Bengal to preserve and strengthen the unity achieved through the struggle and carry forward, in close co-operation with other section of toiling people and democratic masses, the struggle in defence of Left-front Govt. and for preserving democracy.

Of Tripura

In a statement B.T. Ranadive President-CITU said that :-

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions congratulates the working class and people of Tripura for observing a successful "Bundh" on September 14 in protest against the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance and price-rise.

The Working Class and the people had shown commendable restraint in face of provocative

action of the Congress(I) supporters, and the tense situation which arose due to police firing at Jalaibari, apparently in collusion with them in which three lives were lost and several were injured. They made the "bundh" call a success and rebuffed the efforts to oppose the bundh. The CITU pays homage to the leaders of democratic movement who succumbed to the police firing and sends its condolences to the members of their bereaved families.

The CITU draws pointed attention of Govt. of India to the mounting struggles of the Working Class and the democratic masses against ESMO, price-rise and anti-labour policies of the Govt. and demands that the Govt. should give up its intention of taking away the fundamental right of the workers-the right to strike and reverse its policies.

CITU Nominee Leaves for Italy

M. Rajan, Jt. Secretary, Kerala State Electricity Board Workers' Association (CITU), nominee of CITU left Delhi for Turin (Italy) on September 20 to attend a three month training course on Methodology of Workers' Education, organised by I.L.O. He will also visit W. Germany, Switzerland and Sri Lanka as a part of the training.

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WORKERS MARCH AHEAD

Massive response of the working class to the call of united struggle against price-rise and anti-labour policies of the Government given by the June 4, Bombay Convention, is demonstrated through successful completion of the first phase of the programme viz formation of State level campaign Committees and holding of state/region level conventions within three months. Reports so far received, show that state-level conventions have already been held in the following states with campaign committees formed, with the participation of Trade Union organisations named against each.

- ✓ Kerala (Trivandrum)-August 9, CITU, AITUC, UTUC, HMS, INTUC (U).
- ✓ Maharashtra (Pune)-August 13, CITU, AITUC, HMS, BMS, UTUC.
- ✓ Rajasthan (Jaipur)-August 30, CITU, AITUC, HMS, BMS, INTUC (Dara).
- ✓ Tamilnadu (Coimbatore)-August 31. CITU, AITUC, HMS, TNTUC (Janata)-
- ✓ West Bengal (Calcutta) August 31, CITU, AITUC, UTUC, TUCC.
- ✓ Tripura (Agartala)-September 6, CITU, AITUC, UTUC.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal)-September 6, CITU, AITUC, HMS, BMS, UTUC (L.S).
- ✓ Assam (Gauhati)-September 6, CITU, AITUC, BMS, UTUC (L.S)
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad)-September 9, CITU AITUC, HMS, BMS.
- ✓ Haryana (Karnal)-September 13, CITU, AITUC, BMS, UTUC (L.S)
- ✓ U.P. (Lucknow)-September 20, CITU, AITUC, UTUC, HMS, BMS.
- ✓ Orissa (Cuttack)-September 20 CITU, AITUC, HMS, BMS, UTUC (L.S).

On behalf of CITU, P. Ramamurti, General Secretary, addressed the Conventions at Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, Haryana and U.P.; Mohd. Ismail, Vice-President, addressed at Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan; Nrisingha Chakrabarty, Secretary, addressed in Orissa; and Manoranjan Roy, Vice-President, addressed the Convention in West Bengal.

The conventions adopted resolutions in conformity with the decisions of the Bombay Convention and denounced the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance. banning strikes. The speakers analysed the causes of the spiralling rise in prices of all commodities and pinpointed the Government's

dependence on foreign aid and wooing the multinationals and its blatant anti-labour policies to discipline the workers. They called upon the workers to take up the cause of the peasantry and the agricultural labourers, forge alliance with them to struggle against price-rise and anti-labour policies of the Government.

The notable features of these conventions are that the State campaign Committees conducted massive campaign through posters and leaflets in thousands, printing and sale of the Bombay Convention resolution in State regional languages and vast mobilisation of workers. Apart from the followers of the Central Trade Unions who organised the conventions, workers and salaried employees from all walks of economic activity—Banks, LIC, GIC, Central and State Govt. employees, Railways, Post & Telegraph, Port and Dock, Road Transport, Public Sector Under takings—turned up, overflowing the capacity of convention halls. Rallies and mass meetings held after these conventions were equally impressive.

Equally notable was that the INTUC (I), and the trade union organisations following DMK and AIDMK kept themselves aloof from these Conventions showing their political appendage to the ruling party. These organisations had joined the convention against Industrial Relations Bill in 1978 and participated in the programme of workers' March to Parliament. Similarly the secessionist forces in Assam tried to stall the proceedings of the Convention at Gauhati and physically attacked some delegates. Despite these, the unity is being carried to the grass-root level through district or regionwise Conventions which may continue through out October. Preparations have been set forth for mobilising all sections of toiling masses through joint demonstrations, morchas, rallies etc to observe "Protest and Demands Day" on November, 3.

Unity of the workers and salaried employees achieved through these conventions has already started the process of building up of a broad platform of resistance against the drive to authoritarian rule and introduction of emergency conditions piecemeal, with the working class as its core. Building up of united struggle and heightening of the level of political consciousness of the masses can lead to building up of a viable left and democratic alternative to the present Congress(I) misrule which is heaping miseries on common man while granting concession after concessions to the monopolists, multinationals and land lords.

National Campaign Committee TO INTENSIFY CAMPAIGN

The National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions in its meeting held in New Delhi on 8 September decided to intensify the struggle in support of the demand for scrapping of the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance, which is soon to become an Act in the current session of Parliament. J. S. Dara President INTUC presided over the meeting.

The meeting noted that successful State level conventions have been held in Maharashtra, Kerala, West Bengal, Assam, Tamilnadu, Tripura, M. P. and Karnataka and conventions in other states have been planned during the rest of September and early October. It welcomed the spectacular response given by the working class to the call of united struggle against price rise and anti-working class policies of the Government.

The meeting congratulated the working class of Kerala for successful State Bandh on 3 September last and supported the decision of the trade unions in West Bengal to organise State Bandh on 11 September on the same issues. The Committee expressed satisfaction that the Campaign unleashed by the Bombay Convention in June last is gaining momentum all over the country.

The Committee reiterated its call to the Working Class of India to hold demonstrations on 3 November and observe All India Demands and Protest Day throughout the country to popularise the demands raised by the Bombay Convention such as reduction in prices of essential commodities, higher prices for peasants and wages for agricultural workers, action against black marketeers, need based minimum wage, full neutralisation in rise in cost of living, ban on retrenchment and victimisation, higher bonus, correction of Index, recognition of TUs through secret ballot, unhindered right of collective bargaining and withdrawal of NSA, and other repressive laws. On that day, demonstrations will be organised in front of Raj Bhawans and before District Headquarters and other offices of Government to voice the protest of the working class against rising prices and draconian laws like ESMO.

The Committee further decided to organise massive Workers March to Parliament on 23 November in support of these demands. Lakhs of workers from all over the country in all the industries will converge in Delhi on the occasion and warn the Central Govt. for rise in prices and

anti-working class policies and consider the date of one day strike through out the country.

The Committee considered the Memorandum to be submitted to the International Labour Organisation regarding the suppression of Freedom of Association and Right to Collective Bargaining in India. It was decided to submit the memorandum within one week.

The next meeting of the National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions will be held on 1st November 1981 at New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Indrajit Gupta M. P., Parvathi Krishnan (AITUC), Dr. Shanti Patel M. P. (HMS), Dr. M. K. Pandhe, Nrisingha Chakravarty (CITU), R. K. Bhakt, G. S. Vashist (BMS), J. S. Dara (INTUC), Sushil Bhattacharya, Sourin Bhattacharya (UTUC), Pritish Chanda, Gian Singh (UTUC-LS) and Amar Chakravarty M. P. (TUCC).

Greetings to the People's Republic of China

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions conveys its warm greetings to the working class and the people of China on the occasion of the 32nd Anniversary of the founding of the Peoples Republic of China.

The remarkable achievement of the working class and the People of China since the revolution, despite some shortcomings in the period of "cultural revolution", is a matter of great pride to the working class of India. CITU is confident that with socialist modernisation, the productive capacity in China will grow immensely and improve the living standards of the people considerably.

CITU is extremely happy to note the recent improvement in the normalisation of relations between India and China. It hopes that this process will continue still further and friendly relations between two great people of Asia will be further strengthened.

The successful visit of the CITU delegation to Peoples Republic of China in July-August last has further strengthened the bonds of friendship between CITU and All China Federation of Trade Unions.

CITU wishes the working class and the people of China all round success in further socialist construction and in the struggle against imperialism and war danger and for world peace.

ALL INDIA JOINT CONVENTION OF WORKING WOMEN

A meeting of the All India Co-ordination Committee of Working Women, held on August 24, at Belur, which was attended by B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU, decided to hold a convention of Working Women at Delhi on November 22. The general and specific problems of the Working Women and the role of working women in Trade Union movement would be discussed in the Convention.

From the reports it was observed that activities of work-in women satisfactorily increased in Delhi, Maharashtra and Tamilnadu. The struggle of J. M. Electronics, Faridabad was successfully led by the Co-ordination Committee. A Joint gate meeting was held and a procession was taken out in protest against police intervention. A 57 days' dharna was held against suspension of four activists and lay off of 50 workers, which ultimately forced the management to come down to settlement. In Tamilnadu, initial success was achieved by getting the demands for creche and transport facilities acceded to. The struggle of the Vellore nurses was led by the Co-ordination Committee. In Maharashtra massive demonstrations were organised by the Co-ordination Committee against assault on women.

The meeting decided to hold study classes under CITU guidance.

The meeting further decided that the working women should be encouraged to participate in the "March to Parliament" programme of November 23, in pursuance of the Bombay Convention decision against price-rise and anti-labour policies of the Government.

Summing up the discussions, B.T. Ranadive said :

"We are underestimating the opposition and indifference to the women's movement, which is a feudal deviation inside T.U. movement. We must understand

women as part of the working class grown during last 20 years. The problems of working women have become very serious and trade union movement must take note of it. The Christian Church, and such other interested parties and groups have also noted this and they are active in the women's movement taking up the extreme Left position with left slogans. They want to make the struggles as men vs. women, which is purely reformist. In modern society, working class is a leading section, and women workers, a leading section of women's movement. Therefore, a hard struggle is to be fought against all these deviations. We have to make women understand that their struggle must be a part of the organised struggle of the working class. They must be active in their union. Our main object is to rally our women under the union banner, remove the sense of aloofness in women from union. We should concentrate on women in CITU and on women in unions. But we must guard against becoming an independent women's trade union organisation.

AIR HOSTESS

In a statement, Vimala Ranadive, Secretary, All India Co-ordination Committee of Working Women (CITU) congratulated the Air Hostesses for their magnificent victory against the long standing discrimination of age bar and the question of pregnancy which was introduced by the management

of Indian Air lines and Air-India, and said that the judgement of the Supreme Court which struck down the rules for dis-continuing the services of Air hostesses at the age of 35 or after pregnancy, as discriminatory and violative of Art. 14, 15 and 16 of the Constitution, vindicates their struggle to which the entire democratic masses, particularly the Co-ordination Committee, had lent full support.

She said that such discrimination against Air-hostesses arose out of a feudal outlook of treating them as "Sex Symbols" and even the Woman Prime Minister of our country told a delegation of Air hostesses that "40 is too old for an Air hostess; only in very exceptional cases do women in India keep their looks and figure". It is needless to point out that such discrimination continues in various services and walks of life like jobs, promotions for the Working Women, denying them their due social status and right of motherhood, which has been upheld by the Supreme Court.

The Co-ordination Committee urges upon the Govt. of India to ensure that the management of Air India and Indian Airlines do implement the judgement immediately by revising their rules and the indignity of the Air Hostesses being treated as "Sex Symbols" comes to an end. The Govt. should also initiate action to bring about a thorough change in the outlook towards Working Women and an end to all such discriminations in all its departments and Public Sector Undertakings.

COAL WORKERS TO FIGHT NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL AGREEMENT

The Working Committee of the All India Coal Workers Federation in its meeting held at Ranchi on the 28th & 29th August, expressed its grave concern at the non-implementation of several clauses of the National Coal Wage Agreement signed in 1979. The provisions relating to educational, medical and housing facilities have not been implemented. In most of the Collieries even drinking water facilities have not been provided properly. The question of Difficulty Allowance, Gratuity and implementation of unanimous recommendations of Sub-Committees is still not settled by the management so far. The federation decided to launch All India movement to pressurise the management to implement all the non-implemented clauses of the agreement.

Com. M.K. Pandhe, President of the All India Coal Workers Federation presided over the meeting.

The meeting decided to publish 5000 booklets on the non implementation of the last bipartite agreement in coal mines and launch a campaign to get it fully implemented. It adopted the constitution of the federation as directed by the All India Convention held at Raniganj in April last. The meeting reviewed the membership campaign of the unions and decided to strengthen it so that one lakh members could be enrolled all over the country. Definite quotas were taken by individual unions.

The meeting welcomed the decision of the West Bengal trade unions to organise BANGLA BANDH on 11th September, 1981 in protest against price-rise, Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance and conspiracies of the Central Government against the Left Front Govt. in West Bengal. It called upon all the coal workers to join the bundh and make it success.

The federation condemned the employment policy of the Coal India Limited which is depriving several thousands of landloosers and displaced persons any job in new collieries. The reckless resort to mechanisation has stopped all avenues of new jobs in collieries. The meeting, therefore, demanded one job for each family in displaced villages.

The meeting charged the management of C.C.L. and B.C.C.L. for encouraging gangsterism against CITU leaders in Raniganj and Dhanbad areas. It demanded strong action against these gangsters. The meeting also demanded immediate withdrawal of all victimisation measures against trade union activists in Coal Industry.

The meeting expressed concern at the secret letter of Shri Venkataraman, Minister of Finance

to Shri A.B.A Ghani Khan Choudhury, wherein he has asked for withholding further concessions to coal miners. It called upon the workers to resist these machinations of the Government.

The meeting whole heartedly supported the decisions of the Convention of Central Trade Unions and Industrial Federations held in Bombay on 4th June last and called upon all the coal workers to participate in all the programme of the National Campaign Committee of Central Trade Unions. It decided to send a contingent of 300 workers to participate in the March before Parliament to be jointly organised by the trade unions in November third week.

The meeting of the working committee of the federation would be held at Nagpur in February next.

Meanwhile the INTUC has decided to withdraw its nominees on the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry as a pressure tactics to get more seats taking advantage of the present political situation. In the meeting of the J. B. C. C. I. held at Calcutta on 3rd September all the workers representatives disapproved the stand of the INTUC and requested it to reconsider their decision since many outstanding issues of the coal miners are yet to be settled.

Army Officer Drives Through BRO Employees

M.M. Lawrence, M.P. (CPI-M) narrated the terror of the Army officers of BRO in the Parliament. "A serious situation has arisen out of the refusal of leave for ONAM festival and forcible work imposed on the workers of Border Roads Construction by the Military Officer Commanding at Leh. The Military officer Commanding 55 Road Construction Company and Commander 16 Border Roads Tasks Force drove the jeep on the crowded workers, severely injuring many. Onam is the national festival of Kerala. The demand of Kerala workers of the festival leave is just and nobody could imagine that the fate for asking the festival leave would be ended in that way. Two seriously injured workers are fighting for life at Srinagar Hospital. Not only that, the military officials have forcibly taken several workers into the custody." He has demanded an enquiry into the matter and punish the guilty officials.

P. Ramamurti's message to General Secretary AIRF

I thank you for your kind invitation to participate in inaugural session of the 55th Annual Convention of AIRF to be held at Mathura on September 14, 1981. Due to pre-occupation, I regret that it would not be possible for me to attend the Convention.

Your Convention is being held at a time when the Government has not only armed itself with arbitrary powers to ban strikes in several important industries including railways but also is proposing a voluntary abjuring of strike by railwaymen in the Joint Consultative Machinery in exchange of some paltry concessions. The Government has already proposed impounding of 50% of additional D.A. entitlement of all Central Government employees including railwaymen. These proposals have come while the negotiating machinery including the J.C.M. has virtually broken down in the railways, as was indicated in the resolution adopted by the Working Committee of AIRF in May'81 and the 10-point charter of demands adopted by the AIRF in the Bikaner Convention has not been accepted by the Government.

While this is the position in respect of demands, the authorities have adopted a policy of victimisation under arbitrary powers and more than 10,000 railway workers, including some prominent leaders of affiliated unions of AIRF have been victimised during the past one year. Some days back even a General Secretary of the union affiliated to AIRF was arbitrarily removed from service.

Your Convention is likely to be seized with the growing trend in accidents and loss of the travelling public including railwaymen. Though the authorities are trying to shift the blame on the shoulders of railwaymen by ascribing the cause, in majority of the cases, to human failure, there is a growing feeling that the revision of the system of working, throwing to winds the safety rules and introduction of heavier and faster trains, non-renewal of out-lived and fractured track and non-replacement of distressed bridges and over-aged rolling stock, are responsible for these accidents. There is pressure of the World Bank to resort to Total Computerised Operation System (Known as TOPS in the Southern Railroads U.S.A.) through introduction of 3rd/4th Generation Computers from IBM to which the Bikaner Convention of AIRF has expressed opposi-

tion. This Convention, therefore, has to discuss all these aspects and take appropriate decisions.

The participation of AIRF in the 4th June'81 "National Convention of Trade Unions against Price-rise and Anti-labour policies of the Government" and the subsequent observance of August 17, as Black Day in protest of promulgation of E.S.M.O has established a link of railway trade union movement with the mainstream of the working class movement in the country and we are sure that the 55th Convention of AIRF would take steps for successful implementation of the decisions of 4th June 1981 Convention, by mobilising railwaymen all over the country on 3rd November 1981 to observe "Protest & Demands Day" and in the workers' march to Parliament on the 23rd, November 1981 and also in country wide strike action in railways on the date which is going to be fixed by the National Campaign Committee.

The CITU General Council which met recently at Belur-Howrah has adopted a resolution pledging full support to the struggle of railwaymen which has already been sent to you and I reiterate once again our support to the struggle of railwaymen for achieving their just demands.

I wish your Convention a grand success.
With Greetings,

GOVT. THOROUGHLY EXPOSED ON ACCIDENTS.

The debate in Lok Sabha on August 17 on an adjournment motion moved by Jyotirmoy Basu and others and in Rajya Sabha on August 24, thoroughly exposed the high handed pattern of functioning of the Railway Board.

Members raised a host of questions including the unilateral scrapping of 10 hour work agreement with AILRSA. The poor state of railway maintenance was highlighted quoting from the Report of the Sikri Committee. Violation of safety norms was substantiated citing railway circulars. Powerful voice was raised for a change of policy in matters of labour relations, victimisation, work load, lack of materials and tools and man power planning.

The Railway Minister could not answer the points raised and hence tried to take cover under the figleaf provided by the Railway Reforms Committee.

THE HISTORIC PARLIAMENT SESSION

The most dogged ever united opposition broke all previous records of late sitting in the annals of Parliament to fight against the most authoritarian Government legislative measure, viz. the Essential Services Maintenance Bill banning strikes. When the speaker put the Bill for voting at 4 A.M. on September 17 there were barely seven hours left for the next session to start. The unity of the opposition could be gauged when during the two days' debate in the Lok Sabha, the tooth and nail battle over each and every clause of the Black Bill had the backing of all. So powerful was the opposition offensive that even a Congress(I) M.P., viz. Ramachandran, who had to support the Bill, confessed that the "legislation was unpalatable to the working class".

The hypocrisy of the Home Minister was revealed when he regarded the workers as "brethren" and assured to "snatch from the employers the fruits of additional production and distribute these among the working people and the less fortunate people below the poverty line". But faced with a determined opposition, the new satellite of Indira Gandhi bluntly exposed the real authoritarian character of the Government when he challenged the opposition with the statement: "If you want to fight, you can fight. But we are going to fight back". Samar Mukherjee, leader of the CPI(M) group accepted the challenge in a determined voice with the comment that the Congress was responsible for driving the disparate opposition parties to come together in 1977 and the Government was again creating a similar situation. The same determination was reverberated by P. Ramamurti in Rajya Sabha, who declared that the Bill was aimed at stemming the rising tide of the people's movement against the retrograde economic policies of the Government, precisely because the working class happened to head the struggle. He said amidst applause from the entire opposition that today the banner of independence and national unity have to be raised by the working class in waging this struggle, since it is the only class capable of leading our toiling masses.

BANKURA DISTRICT BEEDI WORKERS' CONVENTION

The Bankura Zilla Beedi Karigar Union (CITU), affiliated to the Federation of Bengal Beedi and Tobacco Workers' Unions, discussed in depth the deplorable conditions of more than 40 lakhs Beedi workers in the country. In a convention held on July 12, it was pointed out that while the Government of India is earning crores of rupees through

Central Tax on beedis and the leaves and also earning foreign exchange by exporting beedis, they have not even implemented the Beedi and Cigar Act. of 1966. Through a resolution the convention made the following demands: An All India minimum wages of Rs. 12-00 per 1,000 Beedis; D.A. linked with C.P.I., Minimum Bonus as prescribed by the Government; Application of Provident Fund and E.S.I Scheme, Implementation of Beedi and Cigar Act; Tripartite Committees in each state; Abolition of contract system; Equal facilities for male and female workers; Appointment letters to all workers, etc.

The Convention decided to mobilise all beedi workers and launch agitations with the above demands.

JOINT MORCHA BY BEEDI WORKERS

Hundreds of beedi workers under CITU and AITUC from Madras, Chingleput and North Arcot Districts in Tamilnadu marched to the State Secretariat and submitted a memorandum to the Labour Minister. The procession was led by K.M. Haribhatt, K. R. Sundaram, M.L.A., (CITU) and G. Kannabiran, N.A. Poongavanam (AITUC). The demands included Rs. 12-00 for rolling 1,000 beedis D.A. linked with C. P. I., Implementation of the Beedi and Cigar Act and Modification of the State Government notification on fall-back wages.

HYDERABAD ALUMINIUM INDUSTRIES CONTRACT WORKERS ON STRIKE

About 600 workers of Aluminium Industries (P) Ltd., Lingampally, Hyderabad were compelled to go on strike from August 21, against retrenchment, led by Aluminium Industries Contract Labour Union (CITU). More than 100 workers doing permanent nature of jobs, both skilled and unskilled have been kept as contract labourers by the management for about 15 years. Wages paid to them are even below the minimum prescribed by the State Government. They do not have any paid holiday even on the Independence and Republic Day. On formation of the union, management removed 16 workers from services without any reason. On representation made by the union, the management dismissed more workers. When representations made to the State Government brought no results, the workers were forced to go on indefinite strike.

CITU Denounces War Against Angola

Shri B.T. Ranadive, President C.I.T.U. has issued the following statement on September 2 :

The C.I.T.U. denounces the unprovoked attack by the racist regime of South Africa on the people of Angola and imposing a full scale war on them. Being unable to suppress the growing struggle of the African people against the policy of apartheid through indiscriminate hanging and other measures of ruthless repression, the racist Govt. of

South Africa defying the World opinion as expressed in the U.N. resolution has taken this measure in a vain bid to terrorise the black people in the zone.

The C.I.T.U. condemns the Reagan Administration of U.S.A. for applying veto in the U.N. Security Council thus blocking measures to stop this massacre

of black people. The Thatcher Govt. by abstaining from voting in the Security Council has indirectly supported this heinous crime of the South African racist Govt.

The C.I.T.U. calls upon the Working Class of the country to express solidarity with our bretheren in South Africa and Angola by raising its powerful voice in protest against the war of attrition unleashed by the South African racist regime.

Economists Express Concern At IMF Loan

Twentythree eminent economists of India met at a conference at Calcutta on 7th and 8th August at the invitation of the Government of West Bengal to review the economic situation in the country and recommend measures to the Centre. The seminar was presided over by Dr. I.S. Gulati. After reviewing the economic situation and the Centre's economic policies the economists gave 11-point suggestions to the Central Government.

At a Press Conference held on 8th August, the economists expressed grave concern at the move of the Central Government to take a massive loan of Rs. 5,000 crores from the IMF and at the import policy being followed by the Centre leading to sharp fall in the foreign exchange reserves of the country. They warned the Central Government that such loans are granted by the I.M.F. by imposing their economic dictates on the borrowing countries. Terming such loans as suicidal for the borrowing country, Dr. Gulati said that the IMF's policy is to put an embargo on all programmes for the poor masses viz. food subsidy, food-for-work programme etc., as a condition for such loan.

Focus on Parliament

FIVE YEAR PLANS AND UNEMPLOYMENT

<i>At the end of</i>		<i>No. of Unemployment</i>
First Plan	—	53 lakhs
Second Plan	—	71 lakhs
Third Plan	—	96 lakhs
Fourth Plan	—	1 Crore 71 lakhs
Fifth Plan	—	2 Crores 21 lakhs

The above figures of growing unemployment at the completion of each Five Year Plan were quoted by Motilal Hansda of CPI(M) during his speech on a Private Members' Bill on Unemployment Relief (Age Bar Exemption and other Amenities) Bill in Lok Sabha on September 4. He mentioned that while drawing out the draft outline of the Sixth Plan, the Government itself has estimated that every year nearly 50 lakh persons will be joining the army of the unemployed in our country. At present the number of unemployed is about 2 Crores 50 lakh. He pointed out that the growing unemployment was because of the pro-monopolist, pro-landlord and pro-multinational fiscal policies of the Government. He supported the bill demanding unemployment allowance and cited the examples of W. Bengal and Kerala, where the Government have extended this benefit to the unemployed.

Orissa State Council Meets

The Orissa State Council of CITU met at Barabati Stadium Cuttack on September 21-22 under the presidentship of Shivaji Patnaik with 21 members attending. The meeting paid homage to A. Balasubramaniam. After the presidential address, Nrisingha Chakrabarty inaugurated the meeting explaining the development in the political situation in the country and the task of united movement.

Ajeya Rout, General Secretary placed a report giving a graphic picture about the organisational position, 15 members participated in the meeting. Nrisingha Chakrabarty summed up the discussions pointing out the onerous task before the comrades. The meeting decided to launch an immediate campaign for the success of the programme of National Campaign Committee.

On September 22, the Second Annual Special Number of "Shramik Ek" was released.

GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

ON SIXTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

This meeting of the General Council held at Howrah on August 21-24, 1981 draws the pointed attention of the working class and the people of the country to the utter fiasco of planning as revealed in the Sixth Five Year Plan which shamelessly advocates attack on the people heaping misery on them while giving concessions to the rich. The dilapidated condition of the economy and the extent of crisis is patently manifest in the Plan Document itself.

The Plan Document admits that no less than 215 million people i.e. 30 per cent of our total population will be living below the poverty line at the end of the plan period even after spending thousands of crores of rupees. This is gross understatement, as 48 per cent of the people are admittedly living below poverty line now and there is no concrete measure to change the situation.

For example, the Plan admits that there is backlog of 22.1 million in regard to employment at the beginning of this Plan. It also admits that there will be 32 million new entrants into the labour market during the next five years. The Planners make a fantastic claim to find employment for 30-million, when in reality the increase in employment in organised sector has been around 0.8 million per year. Hence the planners talk of self-employment which is nothing but a fraud to those waiting for jobs, whose number according to the live registers in employment exchanges had crossed 15 million mark in December 1980. Every Five Year Plan has increased the number of unemployed and this plan also would not be able to change the trend.

The planners observe that nearly a fifth of the urban population is estimated to be living in slums. They estimate that in 1985 about 37 million of such population would be needing housing accommodation. The planners intend to provide housing for 21 lakh only, the rest 35 million being left to rot in the slums or pavements constantly being at the mercies of Antulay and his cohorts. In respect of rural housing the planners estimate that 14.5 million families would be needing housing assistance of whom 7.7 million have been given house-sites but only 0.56 million have been provided with construction houses.

The Planners, instead of suggesting strict implementation of the land reforms in favour of the peasantry, have given further concessions to the big landlords by suggesting take-over of only 15% of the land held in excess of 5 acres thus hitting the middle

peasants. They do not suggest measures for ensuring full employment and adequate wages to the agricultural labour and remunerative prices to the peasantry for its produce, though both these sections are being continually denuded of their purchasing power due to continuous rise in prices and raging inflation.

The planners, in the name of helping these weaker sections of the society, have drawn a plan which is already reduced in size due to inflation which has reached a double digit figure. The scheme of resource mobilisation for the fulfilment of the plan shows that main burden would fall on the people, while the affluent section is left out in the name of granting incentive for investment. They have advised the Public Sector Undertakings to cut down their losses by increasing prices. But they do not suggest steps against corruption, mismanagement and under-utilisation of capacity, which contribute to this loss. They do not call for nationalisation of foreign and Indian monopoly houses who have been increasing their assets at a more faster rate than before. The planners attack the common people for resource mobilisation to the tune of Rs. 21,302 crores through escalation of prices in all public sector undertakings, withdrawal of subsidy on food, fertilisers and indirect taxation on the people. The planners also provide for deficit financing to the tune of Rs. 15,000 crores which would undoubtedly be more than double the figure at the end of plan causing more inflation and sky-rocketing of prices.

The planners depend on foreign aid, which they estimate at Rs. 10,000 crores net or nearly Rs. 20,000 crores gross. To get this aid they have granted various concessions to the multinationals as could be seen from the total number of collaboration approvals having made a new record of 596, the foreign collaboration being double than those in 1979. The multinationals have penetrated capital into all branches of our economy including vital sectors like oil, fertiliser, electronics etc. These concessions to the multinationals are virtually mortgaging our country and with the growing deficit in balance of payment position which has forced the Government to negotiate a loan of Rs. 4500 crores from I.M.F. pose a very serious danger to our economy as well as the trade union movement. The ruthless suppression of the strike struggles in the country and banning of strikes under the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance are propitiatory measures to secure the favour of I.M.F.

The planners have singled out the workers and employees of the organised sector for its attack. The wages and income policy in the Plan is in

reality a measure to freeze and reduce their wages. The planners attack the concept of bonus as deferred wage by proposing productivity-linked-bonus scheme. Secondly, they suggest that future wage rise should be linked with productivity. Even when the workers increase production in any particular factory or industry, they cannot expect a fair return for their labour. They have to wait till the economy recovers as a whole. In the name of reducing disparities in incomes, the planners magnify the disparity between the wages of one worker and another and propose wage-cut as a measure of lessening disparity. But in their hypocrisy they take no measures to remove the increased disparity between classes and curb the income of big capitalists, monopolists and landlords.

This meeting therefore records its strong protest against the bankrupt policies of capitalist planning and demands an immediate moratorium on foreign debt payments, nationalisation of monopoly houses both Indian and foreign for mobilisation of resources and through increased direct taxation on high incomes of capitalists, big landlords and traders, a proper wage and income policy aiming at reducing the disparity of income between the exploiting classes and the toiling people, distribution of surplus land to the poor, remunerative prices to the peasantry for their produce, adequate wages to the agricultural workers, relief to the unemployed and other steps to ameliorate the conditions of the weaker sections.

ON THE TASKS OF BOMBAY CONVENTION AND TRADE UNION UNITY

This General Council meeting whole-heartedly welcomes the decisions of the "National Trade Union Convention Against Price-rise and Anti-people Policies of the Government" held at Bombay on 4th June, 1981 last, in which 40 industrial federations had participated besides the eight Central Trade Union Organisations who had sponsored this. Over 3,000 representatives from all parts of the country assembled to chalk out a programme oriented protest action which includes :

- (a) Holding of State-wise/Region-wise Conventions;
- (b) Observance of Protest & Demand Day all over the country on 3rd November, 1981;
- (c) Workers' March to Parliament in the third week of November, 1981 &
- (d) One day strike action in all industries.

The Charter of Demands formulated in the Convention includes the demands of the peasantry, the agricultural labour, the working class and the entire people of the country who are suffering from

CITU Circular No : 22/81

To All Affiliated Unions

Dear Comrades,

The General Council meeting held at Belur-Howrah on August 21 24, 1981 reviewed the international situation and adopted some very important resolutions. It noted that the U.S. imperialists are taking more and more arbitrary steps which have increased the dangers of another world war. The decision of Reagan Administration to mass produce neutron bombs—an inhuman weapon of mass destruction of human beings keeping the properties intact, has been denounced by the meeting. The decision of the U.S.A. of arming Pakistan with sophisticated weapons, has brought the dangers of war to our doorsteps. In the background of the worsening world situation, this measure constitutes a positive threat to freedom of our country. The resolutions on "Threatening War Dangers and struggle for Peace" and "U.S. Arming of Pakistan" contain our views on the subject. It was noted that the CITU Unions are lagging behind in conducting a campaign and rousing the masses about the international situation and prepare the working class for discharging its duty in the struggle for peace and in defence of our country. We must overcome this as quickly as possible.

On the national situation, the meeting adopted a resolution on Sixth Five Year Plan which gives an idea as to how an allround offensive on the workers' wages, bonus and trade union rights are being mounted while giving concessions to the multinationals, monopoly houses and land lords and thus exposes the bankruptcy of capitalist planning in the country and the hypocritic claims of the Congress(I) Govt. The resolution on the "Tasks on Bombay Convention and Trade Union Unity" stresses the need for carrying forward the tasks in order to unleash a movement against the drive towards establishing one party authoritarian rule and reiterates the call for formation of a Confederation of all Central Trade Unions and National Federations.

Our affiliated unions must, therefore, study these resolutions and build up a campaign on the same. The serious threat of war should

On Page 16

the ill-effects of rampant inflation and sky rocketing of prices.

This meeting warmly congratulates the working class throughout the country who are enthusiastically carrying forward these tasks and calls upon all CITU unions to do everything that is possible to promote unity from below and ensure that the programme adopted in the National Convention is observed successfully.

The events since the convention particularly the promulgation of Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance amply demonstrate the need for prompt intervention and united action of the working class. The General Secretary of CITU has been making efforts for bringing about such a united forum which can meet and on the basis of agreed decisions intervene promptly on issues affecting the working class and the toiling masses.

This meeting of the General Council once again reiterates the call for formation of a confederation of all Trade Union Centres and National Federations and directs that renewed efforts may be made to bring about such a united forum which is the need of the hour.

ON U.S. ARMING OF PAKISTAN

This General Council meeting notes with serious concern the massive arming of the Military Junta of Pakistan by the United States of America with F-16 Aircrafts and other sophisticated missiles. It is also reported that a delegation of the Pakistan military rulers has completed a deal to acquire USA's latest Spruance class destroyers which like the F-16 aircrafts is equipped with missiles and are able to strike at any part of India. The people of India who had to face three wars unleashed by the rulers of Pakistan are naturally very much concerned.

This meeting warns the working class that after establishing a fully developed military base at Diego Garcia, the U.S. imperialists are trying to establish more military bases in South and South West Asia with Pakistan as the centre piece of its regional strategy. Under the plea of meeting 'Soviet threat' to Pakistan, the U.S. imperialists are arming the military dictator to secure a base in the sub-continent. While encouraging Pakistan to gear up its nuclear potentials, the U.S.A. is going back on its earlier agreement for supply of enriched uranium for the Tarapur plant with the obvious intention of forcing the Government of India to toe the U.S. line against Soviet Union. It is unfortunate that the Peoples Republic of China lends support to the U.S. Arming of Pakistan military dictator.

The U.S. help to Pakistan rulers helps the

dictatorial regime against the people. It is calculated at the same time to promote the U.S. conspiracy to make "Asians fight Asians". This meeting conveys its warm fraternal greetings to the working class and people of Pakistan for their heroic struggle for re-establishing democracy. Both the people of Pakistan and India must repudiate tension and war between the two countries.

This meeting warns that the ruling party with its dependence on imperialist aid and its authoritarian anti-people policies will not be able to mobilise the people for trouncing the U.S. conspiracies and defend our independence. The responsibility squarely rests with the working class and proletarian forces of our country to mobilise the democratic masses to prevent war between the two countries—a task which it can ignore only at its own peril.

ON THREATENING WAR DANGER AND STRUGGLE FOR PEACE

This General Council meeting views with serious concern the deliberate drive against detente and mounting international tension created by the United States of America, which threatens the world peace and creates the danger of military confrontations involving nuclear weapons and Neutron bombs. The massive piling up of arms and modernisation of its various bases are clear proofs of hectic war preparations by the U.S.A. The defence bill of 136 billion dollar for 1982 of the Reagan Administration is the costliest military measure in the U.S. history and 26.4 billion higher than last year. This meeting denounces the decision of the Reagan administration to mass produce neutron bomb—a monstrous device of annihilation of people while keeping the properties intact, as a crime against humanity.

Demanding unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops and Soviet support to the people of Afghanistan as pre-condition for any talks, the Reagan administration has been putting off the negotiations on disarmament indefinitely. Having received a rebuff from Iran, USA is now rapidly expanding its bases in South and South West Asia. A 300 million dollar contract has been given to expand the air and sea facilities at Diego Garcia. When completed, the base will be manned by a force of 2,150 men and the navy and air-force will be able to handle the giant C-5 transport planes, while the harbour will be able to shelter aircraft carriers. The Reagan Administration has proposed an additional 237.7 million dollars which will permit USA to station and fly B-52 bombers from Diego Garcia. It has obtained further base access

in Oman, Somalia, and Kenya and plans to spend hundreds of millions to develop American forces in those countries.

In the West Asian region, the Zionist Israel is being heavily armed and developed as a powerful striking force by the U.S. imperialists. The disunity of the Arab countries and the direct encouragement by USA has emboldened the Zionist rulers to blast the nuclear reactor of Iraq and repeatedly attack and plunder Lebanon. The decision of the Reagan Administration to give further military aid has not only created a positive danger to the West Asian Countries, but also the European Countries are exposed to attacks, who have already expressed their resentment.

This meeting is of firm opinion that these moves of the U.S. rulers confirm that an attempt is being made to throw a strategic arc around Europe and Asia with the sole aim to contain the growing socialist influence in this area.

This meeting notes that the struggle for peace is gaining momentum and lends full support to the forces of peace—the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union, being in its forefront,

This meeting warns the Working Class to realise the growing war danger created by the U.S. imperialist which is threatening world peace today and calls upon them to rouse all sections of the people of our country against the evil design of foisting another World War, so that they could, in close co-operation with the world working class movement, be able to defeat the game of warmongers and ensure world peace.

ON THE TENTH WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS

The meeting of the General Council of the CITU welcomes the decisions of the World Federation of Trade Unions to hold the Tenth World Trade Union Congress at Havana from 10th to 15th February 1982.

The Congress is being held at a time when the crisis of world capitalism is further deepening and an attempt is being made to pass on its burden on the working class. This has resulted in wage freeze offensive, growing unemployment, curtailment of Social Security benefits and attack on TU and democratic rights of the workers in all capitalist countries. The Working Class in these countries is unitedly organising active resistance to these attacks.

The Working Class of developing countries while fighting for improvement in their standard of living is also fighting for building a self reliant economy and against imperist machinations detrimental to developing countries.

The struggle against multinationals is acquiring new momentum in both advanced capitalist and developing countries.

In contrast the workers in socialist countries are having crisis free society and their standard of living is continuously rising while unemployment is totally non-existent in these countries.

Due to the rapid armament industry and nuclear arms build-up in imperialist countries the threat of another war is hovering around the world. It is against this war danger and for disarmament that the working class all over the world is waging a grim battle.

Under the circumstances, the Tenth World Trade Union Congress will be a remarkable event that would lead to greater mobilisation of the working class of all affiliations in the struggle against imperialism and for world peace.

The CITU calls upon all its affiliated unions to popularise the issues before the world T.U. Conference so that the Indian working class can play its honourable part in the world wide movement against imperialist machinations and danger of war, as well as for disarmament and world peace.

MEETING OF THE CITU SECRETARIAT

The meeting of the Secretariat of the CITU held in New Delhi on September 14 expressed its heartfelt condolences at the passing away of Com. A. Balasubramanyam member Working Committee of CITU. Com. B. T. Ranadive President CITU presided over the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the decisions of various industrywise meetings held along with General Council meeting at Belur and considered steps to implement them. It also discussed the progress of joint movements in different states and deliberations of the meetings of the National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions.

The meeting congratulated the working class of Kerala and West Bengal for their successful Bundhs on September 3 and 11, in protest against price-rise and ESMO. It supported the decision of Tripura trade unions to organise strike on September 14 and similar decision in Karnataka and Maharashtra to observe strikes on September 21.

The meeting decided to nominate Com. P. Ramamurti General Secretary CITU to participate in the Tenth World Trade Union Conference to be held at Havana (Cuba) on 10-15 February 1982.

On Unemployment

This meeting of the General Council expresses its deep concern at the growing unemployment in the country. The number of job seekers in the Live Registers in Employment Exchanges stood at 162 lakhs in December 1980 of whom 76.6 lakhs are educated unemployed. This shows utter fiasco in capitalist planning. Every successful implementation of Five Year Plans left increased backlog in employment which rose from 5.3 million after First Plan to 22.1 million after Fifth Plan. Now the Sixth Plan admits that there will be 32 million new entrants in the labour market and a fantastic claim is made that jobs for 30 million would be found which even if fulfilled would still leave a backlog of 24.2 million.

The Planning Commission observes that the major employment generation activities are to be found in agriculture, rural development, village and small scale industries, construction etc. which are industries with low pay or sweated labour. For the educated unemployed, the Plan talks about self-employment which, in the present economic crisis, is nothing but a fraud to hoodwink the people.

The figures of the Planning Commission do not convey the real extent of unemployment. According to a news report, the rural work force will increase to 240 million by the end of 1985 of whom 46 million would have no employment. With the ever growing number of job seekers in urban areas, the figure of unemployed is likely to cross 6 crore mark by 1985. If the number of displacement of labour through mechanisation, modernisation and computerisation some of which are being promoted by the Government, is taken into account which has rendered tens of thousands of workers in Bidi, Tobacco, Tobacco leaf threshing, coir and other industries already jobless, the problem is bound to be very severe indeed.

This meeting congratulates the left led Govt. of West Bengal and Kerala who have implemented a Scheme of relief to the unemployed within the limited resources available to them, while the Central Govt. has refused to extend the same through out the country. The employment guarantee scheme in Maharashtra has come to grief. In such a situation, efforts are being made to divert the anger of the unemployed to pit one section against the other while resisting the demand for including "Right to Work" in the Fundamental Rights of our Constitution as a justiciable right and grant of unemployment relief.

This meeting warns the working class to realise that there would be no employment to their children

in the near future unless they champion the cause of the unemployed and build up united struggle for a change in the policies of the Govt. This meeting directs all affiliated unions to undertake a serious campaign and voice the demand of the unemployed. This meeting also appeals to all central trade unions to take up the issue for building up united struggle.

On Collapse of Labour and Safety Legislations

This meeting of the General Council held at Howrah on August 21,24-1981 views with grave concern the increasing collapse of all labour and safety legislations many of them much short of requirement and had to be wrested after protracted struggles in the country due to deliberate violations by the authorities and the bureaucrats in Govt./ Public Sector Undertakings and the Govt.'s incapacity, rather refusal, to enforce them.

The multinationals, particularly those in the Drugs and Pharmaceutical industry are the worst offenders as they respect no law. Innumerable instances could be cited to show how they violate the labour laws in the country and the Govt. stands helpless before them,

Coming to the Govt.'s own undertaking, the Railways stand out as number one in respect of violation of laws. For example, they accept that the Industrial Disputes Act apply to railways but they do not appear before the Labour Commissioners for conciliation thus cutting at the roots of the principles of collective bargaining. They do not observe the provisions of Payment of Wages Act, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act and various other laws until they are forced to do so by a Court's Order and when they find no plea to circumvent the same.

In many States the Industrial Disputes Act is either not respected or justice is so delayed that it tantamounts to denial of the same. A Tribunal in Punjab has taken twenty years to give an Award. Failure reports are not promptly given for adjudication and the owning class utilise the Courts to delay settlement. This Act which was evolved through a consensus just after attaining Independence is no longer able to protect or give relief to the workers as the owning class violate the same with impunity and the Labour Ministry stands transfixed before them.

The Plantation Labour Act was found to contain some grave lacunae for which an Amendment Bill was brought in the Rajya Sabha in 1973 which has not been passed even to day. As a result, the Plantation Owners merrily continue to violate the provisions of the Act.

Violations of Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, are on the increase. The Inter-State Migrant Labour Act has relationship with Abolition of Bonded Labour Act on the one hand and the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act on the other. A statutory Committee called for an in-depth review more than a year back, which has not been done yet and the workers do not get any relief.

The employers including public sector, do not deposit the Provident Fund and ESIC money and other amounts deducted from the wages of the workers, do not implement the Awards/Agreements, do not pay the legal dues including Gratuity/Pension and the Government does not take appropriate steps against, including prosecutions of the defaulters.

Equal Remuneration Act and all other protective legislation as far as the women workers are concerned are either being violated or circumvented or used as a plea to deny them jobs. The Government does not take any effective measures to stop these violations.

The violations of safety regulations are also on the increase. There were several coal mine disasters for violations of Coal Mine Safety Act in pursuit of profits which have been established in several enquiries. But no step has been taken by the Govt. against the offenders. The Director General of Mine Safety is not only understaffed but also is incapable of taking action because of his being lower in status than the offenders.

Reports of violations of safety rules in the railways are on the increase thus jeopardising the lives of tens of millions of passengers who travel daily. Simultaneously there are increased number of accidents in railway establishments, yards and workshop. There have been cases of more than 804 electrocution victims after railway electrification was introduced, which according to the Traction Workers Association are due to deliberate violation of Electricity Rules. The Port and Docks also are accident prone due to violation of safety rules.

While the above are the few instances of the types of violations, some of which like violation of safety rules in the Surat mill disaster or Chasnala disaster are very serious indeed in which hundreds of workers lost their lives in one single instance, there are many more which do not come to light at all because the workers do not know as to what the rules and the laws provide for and are not organised enough to get the rules and the laws implemented.

The implementation of the Labour legislations, however, is the responsibility of the Govt. and here

lies the crux of the situation. The Govt. themselves are offenders on two counts, viz. (i) for not ratifying several International Conventions laid down by the International Labour Organisation for protection of the labour and their social security, (ii) for not implementing the laws or the rules themselves in the departmentally run or Public Sector Sector Undertakings. The multinationals, monopoly houses and management of Public, Private Sector concerns and the bureaucrats advance this as an argument while refusing to implement the labour laws or safety rules.

The collapse of the labour and safety legislations also signify the deepening crisis of the social system in our country and the pronounced class bias of the rulers as they do not want to touch all these offenders who not only deny the workers what is due to them but also callously commit acts against humanity.

This meeting calls upon the affiliated unions to take up the matter of these violations of the labour legislations and safety rules more seriously without getting bogged down in the procrastinating process of constitutional remedies alone but to rouse the masses of workers for demanding a change in the attitude of the Govt. and ensure effective implementation. This meeting also appeals to all trade union centres to take up this issue as well so that united might of the working class forces the Govt, to respect the laws, give the labour their due and amend these laws in favour of workers for better living standards and safe working environment.

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FIRST CONFERENCE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH CITU

The First Conference of Himachal Pradesh CITU held on 3rd September, 1981 at Mehatpur (Distt. Una) was an important event in the TU movement in the state. The working class movement is extremely weak in the state and keeping regular contact with different centres itself is an uphill task in view of the unfavourable terrain. Yet 33 delegates from all over the state attended the conference.

Himachal Pradesh Ad hoc Committee of CITU was constituted in 1979 to co-ordinate the activities in the State. It decided to hold a proper conference and elect the State Committee to guide the activities more effectively.

Tara Chand Secretary, H.P. State Committee of CPI(M) hoisted the red flag and delegates placed flowers on the martyrs column.

A Presidium consisting of O.P. Datta, Dhani Ram and Shamlal was elected to conduct the deliberations of the Conference. After the delegates paid homage to departed leaders and martyrs, M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU inaugurated the Conference. He reviewed the growing attacks on the Indian Working Class and the united resistance being organised throughout the country.

Kuldip Singh, Convenor, Ad-Hoc State Committee submitted a report of the activities in State during the last two years. Eleven Comrades participated in the discussion on the report, which was adopted after including some amendments suggested by the delegates.

Consumer Price Index Numbers

State/Centre	Base 1960			State/Centre	1981		
	May	June	July		May	June	July
Andhra Pradesh				Orissa			
Gudur	433	437	461	Barbil	397	398	406
Guntur	475	486	491	Sambalpur	441	446	460
Hyderabad	446	453	465	Punjab			
Assam				Amritsar	445	452	460
Digboi	436	441	446	Rajasthan			
Doom Dooma	354	355	359	Ajmer	456	470	477
Labac	349	352	353	Jaipur	477	487	491
Mariani	353	353	359	Tamil Nadu			
Rangapara	358	365	377	Coimbatore	459	462	468
Bihar				Coonoor	444	440	457
Jamshedpur	405	415	420	Madras	420	428	452
Jharia	403	405	409	Madurai	446	449	463
Kodarma	426	437	450	U.P.			
Monghyr	442	456	473	Kanpur	420	429	445
Noamundi	397	419	426	Saharanpur	432	436	445
Gujarat				Varanasi	480	843	491
Ahmedabad	418	427	438	West Bengal			
Bhavnagar	442	448	454	Asansol	436	440	444
Haryana				Calcutta	399	406	408
Yamunanagar	456	468	477	Darjeeling	378	350	360
J. & K.				Howrah	385	049	392
Srinagar	449	459	465	Jalpaiguri	346	348	357
Karnataka				Raniganj	415	442	425
Ammathi	457	465	471	Delhi	453	461	476
Bangalore	483	485	490	Other Centres*			
Chikamagalur	464	476	480	Berhampur ('49)	579	577	596
Kolar G.F.	460	457	458	Cuttack ('49)	541	543	559
Kerala				Jabalpur ('49)	592	589	576
Alleppey	445	469	448	Beawar ('51-52)	544	566	587
Alwaye	453	456	460	Tripura (1961)	394	401	394
Mundakayam	449	450	460	H.P. (1965)	320	321	326
Madhya Pradesh				Goa (1966)	320	324	329
Balaghat	449	452	462	Bhilai (1966)	301	303	307
Bhopal	451	461	470	Bhilwara ('66)	285	291	304
Gwalior	464	467	481	Chhindwara ('66)	252	259	262
Indore	475	480	487	Kothagudem ('66)	292	304	313
Maharashtra				Rourkela ('66)	298	309	311
Bombay	442	450	459	All India ('49)	526	534	543
Nagpur	440	454	459	-do- ('60)	433	439	447
Sholapur	471	482	490				

Figures in bracket indicate base year.

The Conference adopted several resolutions on the pressing issues facing the working class and elected 13 member State Committee with D. N. Kapur and Dhani Ram as President and General Secretary.

CITU circular

From Page Eleven not be underestimated and the campaign should be undertaken with a sense of urgency. To

facilitate these tasks, full texts of these resolutions are being printed in our journals.

I am confident that our unions would rise to the occasion and take up the task with due seriousness.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,
(B. T. Ranadive)
President.

CITU Condemns Attack on Workers Families

B. T. Ranadive, President CITU has issued the following statement on September 1 :

The CITU condemns the management of Hissar Textile Mills, one of the top most monopoly houses of the country, for launching an attack on the families of the workers and attempts for throwing them out of their quarters by deploying so called security guards. All the workmen and the employees of the mill were forced to go into strike from 20.5.81 when the management imposed an illegal lay-off on them from 3rd May without implementing the previous agreement entered into on 16.8.80 on basic wages and also without settling the demands on D. A., bonus etc which expired in Dec'80.

The CITU also condemns the Haryana Govt., for its pro-management policy as, (instead of declaring the lay-off as illegal and forcing the management to settle the legitimate demands of the workers, it has referred the issues to a tribunal after the strike thus colluding with the management for suppression of the struggle which is being conducted jointly by all the five unions in the mills. It was under such patronage of the Haryana Govt., that the monopolist management has started the new terror tactics of assault on the families of the workers. The leadership of all the unions met the Prime Minister and the Minister of State in the Labour Ministry to intervene in the matter as nearly 4 months have passed after the illegal lay-off and more than 105 days after the strike.

The CITU demands that the Govt. of India should intervene immediately as the Freedom of Association and Right to Collective Bargaining is being curtailed and the family members of the workers are being assaulted upon. The CITU appeals to all the workers to preserve the unity already achieved and continue their just struggle without falling a prey to provocation caused through the terror tactics adopted by the monopoly house in order to ruthlessly suppress the struggle for their just demands.

*A settlement has since been reached
on September 3*

Barbarous Lathi-Charge at Andaman-Nicobar on August 15

The Independence Day witnessed another authoritarian onslaught by the Congress(I) Government on the workers and the common people at Anda-

man-Nicobar Islands, ruled by the Union Government. The C.R.P., helped by the Armed Police swooped on a peaceful procession of Tamil Education Protection Committee at Port Blair and made a barbarous lathi charge at random. Hundreds of people were arrested including Government employees. 105 employees have been suspended on alleged participation in the procession. Salaries of the arrested employees have even been withheld.

The Centre of Andaman Joint Trade Union Council in a resolution condemned this brutal attack and demanded release of all the workers and withdrawal of the suspension orders. They have further demanded a judicial enquiry into the unprovoked lathi charge. In another resolution, they denounced the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance and demanded its withdrawal. In a meeting held on August 27, the Joint Trade Union Council and the Andaman-Nicobar Government Employees and Workers' Federation decided to observe September 6 as a Protest Day against the anti-working class attitude of the Government of India, against the ESMO and demanding withdrawal of the suspension order on 105 employees.

Workers' Struggle Force Government to Take over "SICK" Unit

The determined struggle of the workers of New Jehangir Vakil Mills Ltd. at Bhavanagar, Gujarat, compelled the Government of India to submit application to the High Court for taking over the mill under Industrial Development and Regulations Act.

The victory is significant in the background of closures of large number of units in various industries in the country on the plea of sickness and the Government's proclamation of not to take over the "sick" units.

The mill employing 3,500 workers remained closed for 14 months. All sections of the workers and the people supported the struggle of the Mill workers which led to two successful Bhavanagar Bundhs. Subodh Mehta, General Secretary of the CITU union led the successful struggle.

Water Front Workers Prepare For All India Movement

The meeting of Executive Committee of the Water Transport Workers Federation of India held in Calcutta on August 19 and 20 decided to organise an All India Campaign during the second fortnight of September to press for the settlement of the outstanding issues remained unsettled during the last wage agreement in January. The meeting decided to organise mass rallies on September 30 to submit a memorandum to the local authorities to press for these issues.

M.M. Lawrence, President of the federation presided over the meeting. K. K. Roy Ganguly, General Secretary of the federation submitted a report of the activities since the last meeting of the executive committee held at Haldia. The report was supplemented by comrades from various centres and noted the growth of activities in different centres. B.T. Ranadive, President and M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU participated in the discussions. Comrade Ranadive reviewed the trade union situation and called upon the Port & Dock workers and seamen to unitedly carry forward a struggle on the present demands. He also pointed out the danger of authoritarianism and imperialist conspiracies around India's borders.

The meeting supported the 7 point charter of demands submitted by the Forward Seamen Union of India and decided to organise one day's strike of All Seamen in next November.

The Executive Committee decided to make serious preparations so that all the programmes of joint movements will be fully implemented in all the ports.

A mass meeting of the workers was held on August 20, which was addressed among others by B.T. Ranadive, Krishnapada Ghosh and M.K. Pandhe.

Meeting of Construction & Sub-Contractors Workers

A meeting of the workers in construction industry was held in Belur on August 25 to review the present situation in the construction industry and decide steps to strengthen the organisation. Santi Ghatak, Secretary West Bengal State Committee of CITU presided over the meeting. M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU reviewed the developments after the last meeting at Cannanore. Nrisingha Chakravarty, Secretary CITU spoke on the problems of construction and sub contractor workers. The meeting felt the necessity of CITU to bring together the construction workers through an All India movement for resolution of the problems. Meanwhile the meeting of the Sub Committee of the Joint forum in HSCL was held on August 28 in New Delhi. K. Ramdas Acharya, CITU representative on the Committee submitted a note demanding re-instatement of all retrenched workers of Kudremukh, Hyderabad, Obra etc. with continuity of service. The representative of the management and of INTUC and AITUC opposed this note. As a result of this, no concrete conclusion could be arrived at. The 49 workers of Kudremukh who were arrested in SUPA, were released on August 25. CITU is continuing its efforts to get them absorbed in Kudremukh Iron Ore Project.

ENGINEERING WORKERS MEETING

A meeting of the All India Co-ordination Committee of Engineering Workers' Unions, held in Belur on August 25 decided to prepare a detailed report on the conditions of Engineering Industry in different states based on which a joint movement is to develop on the problems faced by the workers. The meeting was attended by members from West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu Andhra, Rajasthan, Punjab, U P., Delhi, Assam, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.

M. K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU attended the meeting, which was presided over by Rabin Mukherjee. Santi Ghatak convenor of the Co-ordination Committee submitted a report concerning the decisions of the All India Engineering Workers' Convention held in Howrah in March.

The engineering industry faced the serious situation of retrenchment, lay off and closures. Wages differed substantially from centre to centre and from area to area. The meeting decided to study this aspect in further details. The meeting welcomed the proposal by the National Safety Council to nominate M. K. Pandhe as Chairman of Engineering Panel and decided to organise seminars on safety in engineering industry. The next meeting of the Co-ordination Committee in Calcutta on November 9 and 10 would prepare a draft of the All India Report concerning the working of the Engineering Industry. It also decided to hold a Convention of Engineering Workers in Bombay at a suitable date fixed by the Co ordination Committee.

Struggle in J.K. Rayons and Kanpur Jute Udyog Continues

Led by J. K. Rayons Workers' Union (CITU) and Kanpur Jute Udyog Mazdoor Panchayat CITU 200 workers marched from Lucknow station and started a dharna before the Chief Minister's residence from September 5. Struggle in J. K. Rayons started two years back when the management foisted one INTUC Union and settled with them, bypassing the recognised CITU Union. Helped by the Government machinery, the management unleashed a severe repression on the workers by dismissing a section of the leadership and getting a number of the workers arrested. Since July, they have laid off hundreds of workers. While the Government is sitting pretty, the management has given notice for closure of J. K. Rayons from November.

Similar repression has been let loose on the workers of Kanpur Jute Udyog, which resorted to closures several times, misusing the financial grants from the Government.

Total failure of the U.P. Government to resolve the issues compelled the workers to stage a dharna before the Union Labour Minister's Office at Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi on September 16. About 100 workers from J. K. Rayons and Kanpur Jute Udyog participated in the dharna. M. K. Pandhe and Niren Ghosh, Secretaries of CITU met the Union Labour Minister and demanded withdrawal of the closure notice and settlement of all issues with the recognised unions.

Steel Workers' to Hold All India Convention

All India Co-ordination Committee meeting of Steel workers' unions held at Jamshedpur on August 30 decided to hold an All India Steel Workers' Convention at Durgapur on November 6, 7 and 8. B. T. Ranadive President, CITU will inaugurate the convention and Jyoti Basu the Chief Minister of W. Bengal will address the open session.

Presided over by Baniapada Mukherjee, the meeting finalised the charter of Demands and decided to submit it to the management of all steel plants on September 23 and hold demonstrations. It decided to launch a country-wide movement to popularise the charter of demands so that a powerful support can be built up behind these demands. The meeting decided to approach the other sister trade unions so that they can also raise similar demands to the management. The current wage agreement expires on August 31, 1982 and it was decided to build up a movement to force the management to settle the Charter of Demands before

that. The meeting decided to hold local conventions and issue leaflets to popularise the Charter of Demands. M. K. Pandhe, Secretary CITU explained the importance of the Bombay Convention and it was decided to mobilise a large number of workers to the All India March to Parliament on November 23.

Electricity Workers Prepare For Joint Movement

A meeting of the representatives of the CITU Unions working in Electricity Industry was held on August 25 at Belur and reviewed the growing attacks on the wage standards and trade union rights of Electricity workers. The meeting decided to make efforts to bring together various trade unions working in the Electricity Industry so that a joint movement can be launched all over the country to press for settlement of their long standing grievances concerning wages and other working conditions. E. Balanandan, Secretary participated in the meeting.

Victory of CITU Union in Secret Ballot

Fire Bricks and Ceramic Kamgarh Union, affiliated to CITU in Hazaribagh District of Bihar won thumping majority in a secret ballot, defeating INTUC, HMS, HMP and another non-affiliated union.

The workers of India Fire Bricks and Insulation Co., organised under the CITU Union waged a bitter struggle since 1978 for recognition by secret ballot. But initially the Janata regime delayed the process trying to give recognition to the HMS Union. Later the Congress(I) Government refused for a secret Ballot and tried to give recognition to the INTUC Union. But the determined struggle of the workers forced the Government for a secret ballot on August 8. To thwart the CITU Union's victory, the Government, hand in gloves with the contractors, speculators and the management, helped the INTUC union with large sums of money. They even tried to corrupt the workers with liquor. However, the authoritarian character of the Government had completely isolated them from the workers along with their satellite, the INTUC Union and ultimately the verdict of the workers went in favour of CITU, which won by a margin of nearly 200 votes. Workers in the entire Ramgarh belt celebrated the victory of the CITU Union with a mass rally.

Comrade A. Balasubramaniam.



The Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions expresses its deep sorrow at the untimely death of Com. A. Balasubramaniam, a member of the Working Committee and also a member of Polit Bureau of Communist Party of India (Marxist) in the morning of September 5.

Comrade Balasubramaniam was an outstanding leader of the trade union movement who had always championed the cause of class struggle with steadfastness based on the principles of proletarian internationalism. Upholding the cause of working class unity, he took prominent part in the formation of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions and was elected to the Presidium in the Foundation

Conference held at Calcutta on May 28-30, 1970. He was elected to the Working Committee of C.I.T.U. in the Conference and remained a member of the same till his death. He devoted his main energy for developing socialist consciousness amongst the working class, who were being drawn into the vortex of an intense struggle due to the deepening economic crisis in the country. In his death the country has lost an outstanding Trade Union leader and a revolutionary.

The Secretariat dips the red banner of C.I.T.U. in homage to Comrade A. Balasubramaniam and sends its heartfelt condolences to the members of his bereaved family.