

Dethrone the Rajiv Government from Power

THE Working Committee meeting of the CITU held at Com. Ratanlal Brahman Manch, Kalyani, W. Bengal from September 4 to 6, 1989 gave a clarion call to the working class to further step up united struggles to dethrone the Congress(I) Government headed by Rajiv Gandhi and elect an alternative Government of peoples's choice at the Centre in the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

The meeting was attended by 93 members. Seven comrades representing their all India industrial federations also attended the meeting as special invitees.

As Com. B.T. Ranadive could not attend the meeting, Com. Jyoti Basu, Vice President, hoisted the red flag. After placing of wreathes at the Martyr's Memorial, the meeting started with the welcome address by Com. Amritendu Mukherjee, Chairman of the Reception Committee.

Com. Jyoti Basu presided over the meeting on the first day. Com. BTR's presidential address was read out by Com. P.K. Ganguly, Secretary CITU (*Presidential address has been published in the September issue of the Working Class*).

The meeting then adopted condolence resolutions on several leaders of the CPI(M) and CITU, Kisan leaders, on martyrs who laid down their lives at the hands of gangsters and the secessionist elements in Punjab and Tripura and on leaders of international communist movement who passed away during the period, viz. Com. Shankar Dayal Tiwari, Com. Ratanlal Brahman, Com. Khudiram Bhattacharya, Com. Paritosh Chatterjee, Com. Prithivi Singh Azad, Com. N.L. Upadhyaya, Com. Dinkar Mehta, Com. Safdar Hashmi, Com. Andri Gromyko, Com. Janos Kadar, Com. Hu Yao Bang, etc.

The meeting then confirmed the minutes of the last Working Committee meeting held at Dhanbad on 23rd September, 1988.

Com. P.K. Ganguly proposed the constitution of the Resolution Committee and Credential Committee as follows:

Resolution Committee: Com Jibon Roy (Convenor), Com A K Padmanabhan, Com Chittabrata Majumdar, Com P Sanzgiri and Com V B Cherian.

Credential Committee: Com. Ranjit Basu (Convenor), Com P Satyanaryana, Com. Kali Ghosh.

General Secretary's Report: Com. Samar Mukherjee placed the General Secretary's report. The report analysed the developments during the period from

the last General Council meeting held at Dhanbad in September, 1988 and reviewed the activities of the CITU in commensurate with the developments. He said that the upsurge of mass movements which had culminated in the Bharat Bandh of 15th March, 1988 continued and developed, culminating in yet another massive Bharat Bandh on 30th August, 1989 with the central demand for resignation of the Rajiv Government. The two successive Bharat Bandhs and industrial strike within a span of only seventeen months pointed to the growing isolation of the Rajiv Government from all sections of the people and further intensification of the struggle to oust the Congress Government from power. Getting growingly isolated from the people, the Congress went on compromising with imperialist backed divisive forces endangering the unity and integrity of the country.

The report recorded that Bengal gave the lead by calling Bengal Bandh on 30th August on various vital issues of the working class including closures, and lockouts. Kerala also took a decision for Kerala Bandh on the day. This laid the ground for all India movement which got a spurt following the resignation of the opposition MPs following the exposure of the Government's scandal in the CAG report on the Bofors issue and refusal of the Rajiv Government to resign. The CITU promptly supported the call and called for industrial strike on 30th August. On the initiative of the CITU, NCC meetings were called. Although the call for the industrial strike on 30th August could not be given from the NCC due to reservations on the part of the BMS, the call was given by six Central Trade Unions. The report elaborated the massive preparations taken by the unions and federations and other mass organisations for the success of the Bandh and the industrial strike.

Samar Mukherjee drew the attention of the members to the valiant struggle of the CITU and CPI(M) workers against the semi-fascist terror in Tripura. He pointed to the report of ILO on the complaint lodged by the CITU stating that a situation free from violence did not exist in Tripura. While indicting the Congress-TUJS Government, the ILO asked further informations from the Government of India on several points from the complaint of the CITU. Com. Samar Mukherjee called upon all the State Committees and unions to demonstrate protest actions against the semi-fascist regime and extend financial support to the struggling workers of Tripura.

On the question of minimum wage and other demands of the unorganised workers, he congratulated the State Committees of Delhi, UP, Haryana,

Punjab and other states for waging militant strike struggles. He called for making the forthcoming convention of the unorganised workers being organised by the NCC at Delhi on 23rd September a success, so that an all India movement could be launched culminating in a countrywide strike action.

The report self-critically analysed the activities of the State Committees on the question of unemployment and reiterated the call for mobilising the unemployed workforce in action programmes demanding the right to work and unemployment allowance.

Com. Samar Mukherjee elaborately dealt on the unabated activities of the communal and secessionist forces in various parts of the country like in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Tripura, UP etc and pointed to the serious threat posed to communal harmony in the country by the Hindu communalists like the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, BJP, etc on the question Ramjanam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid, threatening to defy the court order if it went against them. He called for concerted struggle against all the imperialist backed divisive forces to safeguard the unity and integrity of the country.

On the question of the fraudulent new Consumer Price Index be congratulated the Maharashtra Committee for successfully launching a strike action and called upon all the State Committees to launch independent action programmes on the issue.

The report dealt on various other issues like the struggle of public sector workers, crisis in textile industry, working women, closures and lockouts, struggle of sugar workers, struggle for peace, kisan movement, membership drive, etc, and called for stepping up united struggles and struggle for trade union unity on the question of removal of the anti-people Rajiv Government.

Other Reports: M K Pandhe placed a detailed report on public sector, in which he dealt with the united struggle of the public sector workers compelling the Government to reach agreements in various undertakings. He briefed about their participation in the 30th August Bharat Bandh which was by and large successful in several units in several states. He dealt on the question of privatisation and called for renewed struggle against the policy of the Government on public sector.

P K Ganguly placed a detailed report on textile industry. He dealt on the deepening crisis in the industry due to the pro-monopolist thrust of the new textile policy, which seriously affected all the sectors of the industry including the NTC mills, affecting tens of thousands of workers due to closures and sickness. He stressed for the independent activities of the CITU in the industry and called for maximum mobilisation of all textile workers in the forthcoming programmes at Delhi from September 13 to 15.

Vimal Ranadive had sent a report on Working

Women, which was read out by Ramnika Gupta as Vimal Ranadive could not attend the meeting.

E. Balanandan placed the Treasurer's report which was adopted unanimously. A separate report on membership was placed by Ranjit Basu focusing the attention of the State Committees to the necessity of a continuous drive for membership as a task laid down by the Dhanbad General Council and for submission of Annual Returns regularly.

On 5th and 6th Com. Manoranjan Roy, Vice President, presided over the meeting.

Discussion on the Reports: All the above reports were discussed elaborately by the members. Those who participated in the discussions from the State Committees were E. Padmanabhan, V B Cherian (Kerala); Chittabrata Majumdar, Ananda Pathak, Santi Ghatak, Sunil Basu Roy (W. Bengal); Mangatram Pasla (Punjab); Amal Ghosh Dastidar (Assam); A K Padmanabhan, K Vaithinathan (Tamil Nadu); S K Bakshi (Bihar); S Kumar (M.P.); Harsahay Singh (UP); V J K Nair (Karnataka); S N Solanki (Haryana); Bimal Singha (Tripura); P Sanzgiri (Maharashtra); Hethram Beniyal (Rajasthan); P Satyanarayan (AP); and S B Bharadwaj (Delhi).

The representatives of the national industrial federations who took part in the discussions were Sujit Das (Road Transport), Debanjan Chakrabarty (Construction), S Debroy (Fertilisers), Mrinal Banerjee (Steel), K O Habid (Electricity), and V Srihari (Sugar).

All the members and the representatives of the federations elaborated their experience and the participation of workers in the Bharat Bandh. They told about their experience in the struggle for trade union unity on the question of industrial strike on the day, particularly in the public sector. (Despite opposition from the INTUC, BMS and vacillations by some other trade unions, particularly the AITUC in a number of states, the strike was by and large successful in most of the States, while total in some states.) Despite obstructions created by the top leadership of some trade unions, the mood of the overwhelming number of workers were for removal of the Rajiv Government from the Centre. The CITU workers were arrested in thousands in all the states. The barbarous repression let loose by the Congress Governments and their gangsters could not deter the workers from joining the strike. The speakers narrated their experience of struggles on several other issues also.

Resolutions: At the outset, a resolution on Bharat Bandh was adopted unanimously, moved by M K Pandhe and supported by K N Ravindranath. Suryanarayan Rao and Niren Ghosh also spoke on the resolution. The resolution congratulated the working class for their successful participation in the Bharat Bandh and called upon them to carry forward the struggle to dethrone the Rajiv Government from power.

The resolution on Struggle for Peace was moved by E. Balanandan and supported by P K Ganguly. V B Cherian moved the resolution on the New Consumer Price Index calling for struggle. It was supported by K L Bajaj. The resolution on Jute Industry elaborating the crisis and the problem faced by the workers was moved by Kshiti Burman and supported by Shiva Prasad Bhattacharya. The resolution on Support of the Left Front Governments was moved by M M Lawrence and supported by Niren Ghosh. A resolution on Sino-Soviet Summit was moved by R. Umanath and supported by Robin Mukherjee. Samar Mukherjee moved the resolution on Support to the CPC Leadership in thwarting the counter-revolutionary rebellion in China. It was supported by Suryanaryan Rao. P Sanzgiri moved a resolution on the deteriorating economic situation, which was supported by Kanai Banerjee. A resolution greeting the international conference of working women being held at Sofia in September was moved by Jibon Roy and supported by Ramanika Gupta. A K Pamanabhan moved the resolution on Unemployment supported by Sunil Basu Roy.

A resolution on the birth centenary of Com. Muzaffar Ahmed was moved from the Chair by Com. Manoranjan Roy.

Expulsion of Yogeshwar Gope : A resolution was moved by P K Ganguly and seconded by Ranjit Basu expelling Yogeshwar Gope from the Working Committee and primary membership of the CITU for his strike breaking and anti-CITU activities during the historic strike of the Bihar NGEs in September, 1988. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

On Tripura: Moved by Bimal Singha and seconded by Jibon Roy, a resolution was unanimously adopted calling for observing a day in solidarity of the fighting Tripura comrades and for contribution in Tripura struggle fund. Members responded spontaneously. The contributions totalled to over Rs 60 thousand (*The details have been given separately*).

Another resolution was moved by Ranjit Basu and seconded by Jibon Roy transferring some amounts lying in the Central CITU accounts to the Tripura fund. This resolution was also adopted unanimously.

Report by Resolution Committee: Jibon Roy reported about the resolutions adopted by the meeting and a number of other resolutions which could not be placed due to paucity of time. The meeting unanimously authorised the Seretariat to go through the resolutions and adopt them, which would be deemed to have been adopted by the Working Committee.

Report by Credential Committee: Ranjit Basu placed the report of the Credential Committee. The meeting granted affiliation to 185 new unions with a membership of 30, 653. Affiliations to another 25 unions with a membership of 5,298 would be granted after they fulfil all the requirements.

Report on Moscow Visit: M K Pandhe reported on the recent visit to Moscow by a 30 member team of the CITU which was led by him in mass meeting of Indian and Soviet Trade Unions which was participated by 30 members each from other Central Trade Unions.

R Umanath reported about his lecture tour of Soviet Union, where on invitation from AUCCTU he gave lectures to Soviet trade union cadres in four places on the current trade union movement in India.

Reply by Com. Samar Mukherjee: Replying to the deliberations, Com. Samar Mukherjee at the outset thanked the State Committee, the Local Committee and the volunteers for devoted work for the success of the meeting.

He congratulated the State Committees, the federations, unions and the workers for their assiduous work for the success of the Bharat Bandh. He said that the success of the Bharat Bandh had created a new situation and prospect for the defeat of Rajiv Government in the forthcoming elections. The task laid down in the last General Council meeting in this respect was quite successfully carried forward by the CITU making all efforts for trade union unity and increasing cooperation with the left and secular opposition parties. This task has to be further carried forward by CITU by stepping up its independent activities all the more not only for the period till elections, but beyond it, so that the path for the left, democratic and secular alternative could be paved through continuous struggles, as the objective of the CITU was not only to oust the reactionary Congress regime but also to isolate the divisive forces. He laid special stress on building up CITU's independent activities on the question of unemployment, unorganised labour, working women, minorities in trade unions, etc. He called for consolidating the NCC and its further expansion and intervention on issues vital to the working class and the people. He emphasised on the question of a continuous drive for membership so that it commensurates with the growing influence of the CITU in all the states. Alongwith this, the upgradation of cadres and democratic functioning of the unions have to be taken care of. All the issues affecting the working class and the people like unemployment, closures, industrial sickness, price rise and attack on the trade union and democratic rights were the results of the Government's pro-monopolist, pro-feudal and pro-multinational policies and required to be campaigned before the working class for waging united and militant struggles.

The CITU has to intervene in all such issues for an alternative change in the economic policies and check to the growing authoritarianism. The question of nationalisation with workers' participation in the management, the question of safeguarding the public sector from privatisation, the question of safeguarding national unity against the imperialist backed divisive forces, the issue of Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, Panchayati Raj and Nagarpalika Bills must be taken

to the grass root levels of the workers, so that there could be mass upsurge against the Government's policies. Simultaneously, the CITU must carry forward a continuous ideological campaign among the workers for the development of socialist consciousness which only could pave the way for an alternative. Simultaneously, a working alliance has to be built up with the peasantry and other allies. He called for review of the CITU's activities in the above line which would be taken up in the next meeting.

Subhas Bose thanked the members on behalf of the Reception Committee. Com. Manoranjan Roy concluded the meeting with a clarion call to forge ahead with a determined struggle to dethrone the Rajiv Government from power.

Mass Rally: A massive rally of thousands of workers and people from the adjoining areas was held in the afternoon of 6th September. The rally was presided by Com. Manoranjan Roy. Com. Samar Mukherjee briefed the decisions of the Working Committee meeting. The main speaker was Com. Jyoti Basu. He analysed the failure of the corrupt Rajiv Government in all spheres of its activities and called for its outright defeat in the forthcoming elections.

Contributions Announced for the Tripura Fund

West Bengal State Committee	Rs 15,000
Kerala "	Rs 10,000
Maharashtra "	Rs 5,000
Assam "	Rs 2,000
Tamilnadu "	Rs 2,000
Bihar "	Rs 2,000
UP "	Rs 1,000
Punjab "	Rs 1,000
Haryana "	Rs 1,000
Delhi "	Rs 1,000
Rajasthan "	Rs 1,000
MP "	Rs 1,000
Singarene Collieries	Rs 1,000
Texmaco Workers' Union	Rs 2,000
Hind Motors Workers' Union	Rs 4,000
Steel Workers' Federation of India	Rs 5,000
Hindustan Steel Employees Union	Rs 2,000
Jessop Workers's Union	Rs 1,000
Construction Workers' Federation of India	Rs 1,000
SEB Workers' Union	Rs 1,000
Nadia Committee of CITU	Rs 500
BCMU (Hukumchand)	Rs 500
BCMU (Naihati)	Rs 500

Resolution on Bharat Bandh

This meeting of the Working Committee of CITU held at Kalyani from 4-6 September 1989 warmly congratulates the working class and the people of India for making the Bharat Bandh on 30th August a grand success. This unprecedented countrywide action organised at the call of opposition political parties and Central Trade Unions and other mass organisations has convincingly expressed the strong feelings of overwhelming majority of the people of India in support of the demand of resignation of Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India for anti-people, anti-working class policies of his Government and his shameless involvement in corruption.

Despite virulent propaganda by the Radio, T.V. and official media, the toiling people in all corners of India observed Bandh successfully. Shops, schools and colleges, industrial undertakings were by and large closed down making the life in the country standstill. The stoppage of railway and road traffic all over the country was an added feature of the Bandh. The Central Government's vile attempt to malign this action by calling it opposition state sponsored Bandh proved to be utterly false since the action in Congress(I) led states was also widespread and pronounced. Despite the Central Government's order to its employees to stay in office to foil the Bandh, by and large the employees joined the strike and foiled the Govt. of India's attempts. This meeting denounces the strike breaking order and other repressive steps by the Central Government.

This meeting condemns the Congress(I) Governments for arresting tens of thousands of people on the eve and on the day of Bandh. This repressive action however failed to cow down the people. The meeting strongly condemns the killing of several activists in Tripura, West Bengal, Bihar, Kerala and other states at the hands of notorious gangsters and Congress(I) police. The CITU condemns the reign of terror let loose by the Tripura Government which resulted in injuries to Com. Nirpen Chakraborty, Member P.B. of the CPI(M) and former Chief Minister of Tripura and others.

The CITU pays homage to all the martyrs who laid down their lives to make Bandh call successful.

The CITU appeals to the working class and people of India to relentlessly carry forward the struggle by various forms of movements and actions against the corrupt Rajiv Gandhi Government till it is thrown out of power from the Government of India.

Editorial Board

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