

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Meeting of the Working Committee

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July 15 - 17, 2010

**B T RANADIVE BHAWAN
New Delhi**

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Meeting of the Working Committee

B T Ranadive Bhawan, New Delhi

15-17 July, 2010

AGENDA

1. Condolence Resolution
2. Presidential Address
3. General Secretary's Report
4. Future Course of United Struggles
5. Any other issue with the permission of the chair

PROGRAMME

15.7.2010	5.30 PM	:	Flag hoisting – Homage to martyrs
	5.45 PM – 8.00 PM	:	Condolence Resolution
		:	Presidential Address
		:	Introduction of General Secretary's Report
		:	Resolution
	8.00PM	:	Dinner
16.7. 2010	9.30 AM-11.00 AM	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
	11.20 – 1.00 PM	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
	1.00 PM- 2.00PM	:	Lunch
	2.00 PM- 5.00 PM	:	Laying of Foundation Stone of PR Bhawan at Saket
	5.30 PM- 7.30 PM	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
	7.30 PM – 8.30 Pm	:	Secretariat Meeting
	8.00 PM	:	Dinner
17.7. 2010	9.30 AM-11.00 AM	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
	11.20 – 1.30 PM	:	Reply by General Secretary
		:	Adoption of Report
		:	Concluding address by President
	1.30 PM	:	Lunch

N.B: *Breakfast* : 16th & 17th July : 8.00 AM
 Tea Breaks : 16th & 17th July : 11.00 AM
 15th & 16th July : 5.00 PM

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dear Comrades,

It is almost four months, from the successful conclusion of the 13th conference at Chandigarh when we meet here in BTR Bhawan for the first meeting of our newly elected working committee. I would like to use this opportunity to thank the Punjab State Committee of CITU, the reception committee of the conference and all our unions and fraternal organisations and individuals who had contributed to the success of the 13th conference. I also thank all the delegates and observers from fraternal organisations whose contribution to the successful holding of the conference needs a special mention. We are also grateful to all the leaders of National Trade Union Centres, and Trade Union Organisations from other countries and international organisations that had sent their representatives to attend our conference or had sent messages.

We were all shocked when there were series of incidents which caused huge loss of life like the Dantewada massacre of CRPF Jawans, Jnaneshwari express mishap, the Mangalore Airline crash. Killings of innocent people and activists of mass organisations and CPI (M) continue in West Bengal by the anti people 'Maoists' with the connivance of the Trinamool Congress and others.

CITU expresses condolences to the kith and kin of those who lost their lives and also registers its protest over the inhuman killings by the Maoists in West Bengal and other areas.

During this period, the Indian trade union movement lost a veteran, with the demise of Com. Moni Bose, who was a stalwart of the P & T workers, movement and that of Central Govt. employees. We pay our homage to the memory of Com. Moni Bose and convey our condolences to the bereaved family members and comrades.

Dear Comrades,

We have assembled here after celebrating May Day and also the completion of 40 years of CITU on 30th May 2010. In between, there were commemorative functions in various parts of the world on the 65th year of victory over fascism on 9th May. People all over the world owe it to the Red army and the people of erstwhile USSR, for the great sacrifices and heroism which led to the historic victory over fascism. It is for us to be vigilant to fight against all efforts of falsification of history and to see that the world never forgets the treacherous roles played by various forces.

INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

Global economic crisis continues to create catastrophic effects on the lives of the people

world over. All those who had started saying that the recovery of the economy has begun, have now concluded that the recovery is fragile. We will all remember that our 13th conference at Chandigarh had dealt with the issue in detail and said that the so called recovery is only a myth. We had also dealt about the developments in Greece and noted that the crisis is spreading to the whole Eurozone.

The later developments have only confirmed the spread of the crisis. It has developed to a full fledged sovereign debt crisis in Greece and had its impact in countries like Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Italy and even Britain though it is not a 'Euro' country.

Greece announced a series of curative steps, which were a direct attack on the lives of the working people of the country and the working class movement has reacted in a militant manner by going for massive strike actions.

The steep wage cut, reduction of pension benefits, increase in retirement age etc have been followed by all the affected countries. The working people in various countries in Europe especially in Spain and Portugal have conducted massive strike actions involving millions of workers. Protesting against the so called austerity measures, more than 45% of 26 lakhs of public workers of Spain went on strike during first week of June. In Portugal, massive strikes and demonstrations took place. On 24th June, a mass strike against the French Govt's plan to raise retirement age and other austerity measures was organised which affected the transport, education and other sectors. Unions reported that millions of protestors took to streets. In the meanwhile Govt. has decided to bring a pension reforms bill next month.

On the whole, this year 2010 has seen strike struggles in various European countries; strike of public employees, railway workers, airways employees, pilots, cabin crews, press workers, news paper distributors and various sections of industrial workers.

While there is hue and cry over the sovereign debt crisis and demand for deficit reduction leading to attacks on livelihoods of working people, Govts. have not thought of taking steps to increase their income other ways, i.e. by taxing the rich. On the other hand, in Greece, the borrowings of the Greek Govt. had actually flown to the corporates of the country in various ways. The assets of the big corporates of Greece in 2009 increased to Euro 1,36,000 crores from 36,000 crores in 2004.

From among the Eurozone countries also, Germany which boasted of a strong economic foundation, had started feeling the pinch of the crisis and Govt. led by Ms. Angela Merkel, who was once dubbed as queen of Germany is now being criticised for 'paralysis'. The Govt. has announced a 'saving package', through which they want to save Euro 80 billion (8000 crores) by 2014, mainly by cutting social spending and support for poor parents and the long term unemployed. Merkel Govt. also wants withdrawal of stimulus packages. Govts. own supporters have started protesting. Their outcry is that wealthier people do not contribute for the 'recovery'! Media has started writing obituaries for the coalition Govt. led by Ms. Merkel. One

In Britain, an opportunistic alliance of Conservatives and Liberals has come to power, unseating Labour. Though there is not much to differentiate between the three prominent parties and both the partners in the present coalition have swallowed many of their pledges during the election campaign, all are united in attacking the working class. The new Govt's. chancellor of exchequer George Osborne in his budget on 22nd June, has slashed each Govt. department's budget by 25%, froze public sector wages for two years, cut welfare spending by more than 10 billion pounds (1500 crore dollars) and also increased capital gains and value added sales taxes. A former Member of Bank of England's monetary committee had this to say on the budget "The Patient is on life support now, and if you take it off now, you will kill firms off and create a million unemployed workers. It is a classical policy mistake".

At the same time, IMF in its latest world economic outlook, says, that a 'global depression' has been averted –with the world economy expected to grow 4.2 percent over all in 2010 – divisions between developed and emerging economies remain stark. IMF economists also see the increasing levels of Govt. debts in developed world as one of the chief risks for continued recovery. At the same time Fund is calling for a period of 'fiscal consolidation' – spending cuts and tax hikes – in US, Japan and Europe. IMF reports that the amount of money the banks will have to write off & is nearly 2,30,000 crores of US dollars. It will be of interest to note that the National Debt of USA as of 23rd April 2010 is at 8,370,635,856,604.98 Dollars (8.37 Trillion). This is not even counting the trillions owed by the Govt. to social security and other Trust Funds. The congressional budget office expects it to reach 20 Trillion US dollars over the next decade on the assumption of no new recessions, no new wars and no new financial crisis!

IN LATIN AMERICA

The political changes in the Latin American countries, which we have explained on various occasions earlier, have given an impetus to the class conscious Trade Union movement. From 2008 onwards, a new platform of powerful Trade Union struggle has been built up with a commitment to "strengthen the defense of fundamental class interests, their commitment to class solidarity, internationalism and search for the path that leads to unity in action". The third meeting of this 'Our America' movement is being held in July, to consider steps to further intensify the class struggles in the entire continent to foil all conspiracies of US imperialism in the region.

At the G-20 summit in Toronto, on 26th and 27th June, the deficit reduction and questions of recovery were the main topic of discussion. Reports suggest that there were serious differences on how to go ahead and the two sides are represented by USA and Germany. While Britain, France and Germany had by the time of summit led moves to slash back record public deficits, the views, expressed by USA as reports suggest, are that the stimulus packages should continue. As for the workers, stimulus packages have not resulted in saving of their jobs! From the other side of the table, the proposals are for directly attacking their earn-

ings and livelihoods!

Europe's plans for radically cutting Govts'. spending have brought out strong criticisms. Brazil has said that it will hurt emerging economies. UN Chief Banki Moon has also endorsed the views by saying "if the cuts take place in advanced countries it is worse, because instead of stimulating growth they pay more attention to fiscal adjustments". He also is reported to have said that "under any circumstances we must not balance budgets on the backs of the world's poorest people".

The 'concern' for the poorest and workers were also expressed by Mr. Juan Somavia, Director General of ILO. He has summed up the total situation like this – "Despite a fragile economic recovery, global unemployment is at its highest level ever, at more than 210 million and we will need to create 470 million new jobs, in next 10 years to absorb new entrants into the labour markets. Youth unemployment has reached unacceptable levels. Gains in reducing the number of working poor, living on less than \$1.25 per person per day are being reversed. The informal economy and vulnerable work are swelling". He also added that "concerns over the sovereign debt crisis and growing deficits in Europe have prompted decisions to cut social spending, moves to raise taxes and the pursuit of significant austerity measures. History shows that doing this can jeopardise the very recovery we are trying to achieve. And we also know that such measures will certainly slow down jobs recovery in the short run". On this occasion, he also referred to the just concluded ILO conference, which he called the conference of representatives of "real economy", where, the participants "expressed concern, fear and frustration over the evolution of the crisis response and the possibility that even meager gains made so far in economic recovery may be lost in terms of creating jobs, sustaining enterprises and supporting the unemployed". He also underlined the "very importance of a financial system that works for the real economy no the other way around". The bottom line according to him was this – "the only sustainable way out of the crisis is by reactivating the real economy, creating more jobs and thus increasing Govt. revenues". This, the Director General of ILO says is the expectations of the ILO conference!

More than expressing hope, what else can the ILO expect in the present situation in the world, where almost every convention approved by ILO are either not ratified or not implemented where it is ratified! At the same time there are also efforts to regroup and try to follow all the discredited methods of financial dealings with new Avatars of derivatives and other tools so as to create more bubbles and surely more bursting of bubbles.

Nobel Laureate Paul Krugman had this to say after the G-20 summit. Referring to its decisions, he opined – It was triumph of orthodoxy. Then he raises a question – who will pay for this triumph. His answer was – "tens of millions of unemployed workers many of whom will go jobless and some of whom never work again."

At the international level, it is not recovery from crisis whatever be the optimistic declarations being made. Class struggles are bound to develop in various parts of the world, though in

various degrees, due to the intensification of crisis. The claim of no alternative to capitalism has been severely dented by the developments during the last few years.

It is for us to learn the lessons from the current developments and act accordingly to intensify our struggles. Even Dr. Man Mohan Singh in the G-20 conference gave a warning of the danger of 'double dip recession', which he says "will have very negative effect on developing countries". He is also reported to have said that "developing countries should rely less upon exports and more on domestic demands by giving a boost to investment especially in infrastructure". But the Govt's. own investments in these sectors will create a current account deficit and there had to be an expansion in both multilateral and private capital flows!

This, our learned Prime Minister says when various studies have brought out that the expectation that all infrastructure development will be done by market, has been belied. Even the World Bank had to admit that "their guidance for infrastructure development has failed. It pulled back the developing countries by 10 years".

We do not expect our ruling classes to learn their lessons on their own and our capacity has to be increased manifold to see that they are taught proper lessons.

I would like to refer to some developments in our neighbouring countries. After the General Elections in his country, the Sri Lankan President had recently visited India. It is our expectation that at least now, a proper political solution to all the issues will be found out through discussions and implemented properly. There should be an end to the suffering of the Tamils in that country. Govt. of India has announced certain assistance to the Sri Lankan Govt. on rehabilitation, but they should be able to see that the efforts for political solution become fruitful. Bilateral relations with Bangladesh had improved after the new Govt. has been elected to office. The opposition parties have by the end of June, observed countrywide Hartal protesting against price rise etc, and also demanding annulment of all agreements with India. The efforts for strengthening cordial relations should be continued. Talks have begun with Pakistan at various higher levels of administration and this will have to be seriously conducted by both Govts. so as to maintain and strengthen good neighbourly relations. In Nepal, though the differences with the ruling combination and the opposition CPN (Maoist) continues, the term of the Constituent Assembly has been extended at the last minute. All expectations of a better situation in the country are being belied.

Comrades,

CITU had in last December, organised various programmes in connection with the 25th anniversary of Bhopal Gas Tragedy. Now, when we have assembled here, new rounds of discussions are going on, after a local court in Bhopal has given its Judgement in the criminal case where 7 officials of UCIL have been given a nominal punishment, details of which are all well known to you all. This Judgement of 'too late and too little' has shocked the whole world. Many skeletons are being brought out from the cupboard – allowing Warren Anderson to go scot free after being let out on bail, those in power, still play the game of helping not only Union

Carbide but also Dow Chemical who has taken over the UCL. The roles played by ever obliging Prime Ministers, Chief Ministers, Ministers, Beaucrats and High Level Judicial Officers in this game of helping the killer MNC, forgetting the more than 20,000 people killed and the thousands who continue to suffer are getting exposed. We should continue our campaign and struggle so that all those who are responsible for the Bhopal tragedy and their accomplices are punished and the affected people are properly compensated.

Cruelty perpetrated on the poor people of Bhopal has been summarised by the noted Journalist Dr. Sainath of The Hindu as follows – “Over 20,000 killed. Over half a million victims maimed, disabled or otherwise affected. Compensation of around Rs. 12,414 per victim on average on the 1989 value of the rupees. (\$ 470 million or Rs. 713 crore. And that divided among 574,367 victims.) Over a quarter-of-a-century’s wait. To see seven former official of Union Carbide Corporation’s Indian subsidiary sentenced to two years in prison and fined Rs. 1 Lakh each. Not a single person from the far more responsible parent U.S. company punished.

Yet, the notion that the main injustice to Bhopal is the failure to extradite then UCC chief Warren Anderson from America is mildly ridiculous. Trying to evade the lessons the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster threw up on the tyranny of giant corporations is completely so. Well over two decades after its MIC gas slaughtered 20,000 (mostly very poor) human beings, Bhopal still pays the price of Carbide’s criminality.” (Hindu 15th June, 2010)

This episode has again brought out another facet of the Indian ruling classes obliging to the US diktats. Our Chandigarh Conference had discussed about the proposed Nuclear Liability Bill. The fate of the affected people in Bhopal has revived the discussion as the GOI is hell bent in finalising the bill to satisfy all the demands of the US equipment manufacturers. We should be able to continue our campaign on this issue to have a proper enactment with full liability and also to see that private sector is not allowed in the Nuclear Power sector. As part of further opening up, private participation in Nuclear Power Sector is being given priority, the reports say. The news emanating from Gulf of Mexico of 40 thousand barrels of oil flowing into the sea, from 22nd April creating a very severe ecological disaster is another serious issue to ponder over. While discussions on ecology and environment goes on all over the world, the reports that British Petroleum in their thirst for higher profit had disregarded all safety precautions with the direct help of those in the US administration, who were responsible for maintaining safety standards, are of great concern. We should also note that the British Govt. frankly spoke about the gains ‘BP’ brings to them and any excessive criticism will damage investments including huge pension funds in BP’s shares! Even when Rome is burning, the fiddling goes on! The questions of industrial safety have to be taken up by us seriously. Various incidents in different parts of the country, involving various industrial sectors in the recent period had resulted in loss of lives and also ecological disasters.

After our conference, a lot of campaigns and struggles have taken place in the country. Though I do not want to go into the details, one issue which continues to seriously affect the lives of the

Indian working people has to be noted. There have been country wide struggles against price rise and issues related to food security. Our conference was held a few days after the country wide Jail Bharo on 5th March 2010 in which more than 10 lakh workers had courted arrest. On 12 March Left Parties had organised an impressive rally in Delhi, which was one of the largest mobilizations in the capital in the recent period. On 8th April 2010 lakhs, of people had courted arrest in all parts of the country, at the call of the Left parties.

On 27th April 2010 the Left and some other non congress secular parties organised a country wide hartal, in which CITU had also participated in big way, as decided in our All India Conference.

Prices of essential commodities continue to rise but the GOI continue to pour oil into the flames of hunger. Not prepared to take any steps to stop the future trading in essential commodities, Govt. has increased the prices of petroleum products, and left the petrol prices decontrolled. Prices of all essential commodities are bound to increase. Though the decision of the Govt. is in the name of protecting the Public Sector oil marketing companies, this act of decontrol of petrol and expected decontrol of diesel will result in the upper hand of private oil barons like Reliance, Essar in an open market and end in crisis to oil PSUs.

CITU congratulates all the unions and various other organisations for their immediate protest actions all over the country over the price increase in petroleum products and decontrol of petrol. In West Bengal, CITU had called for a transport strike and in Kerala CITU unions responded well to the LDF called hartal.

The Left and secular Parties have continued their struggle through a countrywide hartal on 5th July.

In the light of 'end of the war' between Ambani brothers, GOI had already increased the prices of natural gases and this, in addition to the aforesaid, is bound to increase prices of power, fertilisers and costs of transport. The questions of price rise and connected issues have to be taken up seriously and in a sustained manner so that a massive movement is built up, by projecting the alternate policies. As the UPA II wants to go ahead with their own agenda forgetting the 'aam admi' on whom they swear, price rise had its impact on industrial production also. FICCI has commented that "Since small producers contribute significantly to exports, price increase adversely affects Indian exports'. Over all, the impact of price rise on the people is drastic.

The country wide strike of BSNL workers and officers on 20th April 2010, the one day strike of coal workers led by CITU on 5th May, and the struggles of anganwadi employees and ASHAs and various other sections have been notable actions during this period. BSNL and coal workers' strikes were against the attempts of privatisation. The Govt. has come out with its proposal of making it mandatory for all the listed companies including PSUs to make atleast 25% shares available to public. This will mean that 35 PSUs including all Navaratnas and

Maharatnas will have to disinvest 25% by which Govt. is to get Rs. 1.5 lakh crores.

The Govt's. anti PSU and anti worker policies have come to the fore in the case of Air India. GOI has been following a policy of destruction of the so called 'National Carrier', disregarding all the recommendations of the Standing Committees of Parliament. The management was not even prepared to pay the wages to the employees on due date. But there was no dearth of victimisations. The unions were conducting campaigns and struggles. The Govt. took some disciplinary actions provoking the engineers and employees to go for a flash strike. Govt. and the management have come down heavily on the workers in Air India with dismissal of 54 and derecognition of 2 prominent unions and also sealing their union offices. Even the Chief Labour Commissioner had to comment that these dismissals are illegal as conciliation proceedings were on. The attack against Air India employees has to be understood in the correct perspective and resisted. We should raise our voice against these arbitrary actions of the Air India management with the blessings of the Civil Aviation Minister, who is hell bent to destroy the PSU and help the private players in the sector.

The Govt. of India's efforts to be in line with the thinking of the US Govt. and acting as a loyal ally, has actually sullied the image of the country. The recent incidence was the Israeli attack on the Freedom Flotilla carrying relief materials for the people in the Gaza strip of Palestine who are under an economic blockade for the last 3 years. UN says 60% of here families do not get enough food – 75% of people depend on the food items being sent by other countries. 60% do not get enough drinking water. All this means nearly 15 lakh people are under arrest. It was to expose these and extend relief to people, that international efforts of mobilising materials were undertaken involving writers, Noble Laureates, social activists etc. Israeli attacked the flotilla of six ships in the international waters, killing 9 volunteers in the leading ship - Mavi Marmara – These attacks led to world wide protests on an unprecedented scale. But it was unfortunate that the statement by MEA of Govt. of India had no mention of Israel. This is the extent to which the Govt. of India has gone. Even the new conservative led Govt. of UK had vehemently protested against these attacks by Israel, at the same time declaring that UK continues to be a friend of Israel. Even USA had to be a party to the protest against the Israeli action, in a unanimous resolution of the UN Security Council. It is the task of the working people of this country to take note of the results of the growing 'strategic' relations of the UPA Govt. with USA and its allies like Israel and conduct powerful mass movements to oppose succumbing to US pressure and for upholding an independent foreign policy and also to uphold the country's great tradition of anti-imperialist policies.

It is also unfortunate that the GOI is not prepared to take the people and their representatives in the Parliament into confidence while concluding various treaties and agreements. While the country is still discussing the negative impacts of ASEAN treaty, discussions are going on for an FTA with the European Union, which is sure to damage our agriculture and industry. Its impact on the pharmaceutical industry and drug availability is going to be severe, if the GOI accepts the various demands of European Union on patent related Issues. It is evident that more than the interests of the people of India, the interests of investors, Indian and foreign are

given priority by the Govt.

What is happening in the public domain should also be taken note of. The recent controversy on IPL, reflects a situation where in the name of cricket, a lot of things unworthy of the sports world, have been happening. The details are now known to an extent and much more remain hidden. One minister had to resign and some others still remain. The 'Spectrum' has already become a looting ground with the loss to the nation now calculated at Rs. 1,90,000/- crores. The perpetrators and their supporters continue to remain as Hon'ble Ministers.

If we take into consideration only those issues which are currently in the media, we see a long list of Cabinet Ministers, Chief Justices, High Ranking Police and Army Officers, and Bureaucrats involved in cases of loot of public money and natural resources, land grabbing and umpteen cases of immoral and corrupt activities. The cases of The Chief of the Medical Council of India and the Chairman of the Railway Recruitment Board are a national shame! It is high time that people are mobilised against these atrocious deeds of those who are in high public positions. With the never-ending corruption and huge money at their disposal, our democratic system itself is being ruined. We should be able to raise our voice against corruption in public life and to put an end to the money power in the country's democratic process. It is noteworthy that even the U.S. President Obama had to decry the impact of corporate money and their deeds in the dark that are detrimental to democracy in his country. He also had to add, 'sunlight is the best disinfectant' taking note of the manipulations going on. So much for the 'second biggest democracy' and why not more for the biggest of all, may be the position of our rulers.

I am not going into all the issues that confront us in the present situation. I have only touched upon some of the important issues, which confirms the various decisions taken at our Chandigarh conference.

Our responsibility of taking up peoples' issues, issues connected with the day to day life of the working people and relate it to the policies of the present day Govt. has to be kept in mind. On such issues and also on some of the important social issues, we have to educate our cadres and members, so that our campaigns and struggles are conducted in a sustained manner.

Everyday, we hear about the atrocities committed on the oppressed sections of the society. The 'Mirchpur' killings of one young girl and an aged person, just because they belonged to 'lower caste' by the so called upper castes and looting and burning of all houses belonging to these oppressed section is only a part of the sordid affairs in the country. Despite all the rhetoric, caste related violence and oppression continues unabated. Added to this are the cruel and mindless murders of young men and women as outcome of Khap Panchayats.

It is highly necessary that we the working class and Trade Unions should be able to intervene in such instances. It is heartening that at least in some states, we have started taking up these

issues of social oppression in a systematic manner.

Reports from Tamilnadu show that during the last 3 years, the Tamilnadu Untouchability Eradication Front (TNUEF), a platform of various mass organisations including CITU, middle class employees' organisations and organisations of various Dalit sections was able to mobilise vast sections of people and conduct various successful struggles. They were able to expose the realities in a 'progressive' state. Details of various atrocities being committed are really shocking. The efforts of united struggle give confidence to these oppressed people and they are coming forward to join in the united struggles in a massive way. In Andhra Pradesh also, the struggles against Dalit oppressions and on social issues have been going ahead with the participation of CITU and new affiliated unions.

We should also be able to bring out to the people, the fact that in India, West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura – the Left ruled states are the only exceptions to the caste related oppressions. We should understand that the casteist oppressions and communal flare ups are the biggest hindrance in building up unity of the class that is required in the present situation to face the neoliberal offensive against the working people. Added to this is 'ideological war' against the working class that has been unleashed in the International level and also being taken up powerfully in our country also.

With these present day offensive in our mind, we should go ahead with our day to day work. The change in our style of functioning which Com. BTR had referred to in the foundation conference of CITU, forty years ago, is still to be remembered and carried out. The all out efforts of the ruling class to denigrate Trade Unions, our struggles and our ideology have to be met squarely. This can only be done by preparing our cadres and members as well as the whole working class through continuous educative campaigns and struggles.

As we have noted in our Chandigarh conference, the attack and vilification campaign that go on against West Bengal Left Front Govt. is a project aimed at weakening the total Left movement in the country. The achievements of the Left led Govts. in the three states of West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura have to be taken up to the masses. Along with this, the alternate policies that are presented by the Left in the country should also be taken to the masses. Our Chandigarh conference had noted the weakness of not being able take to the masses the successful blocking of various anti-people policies of the UPA Govt. This has to be understood, and the alternative policies of the Left should be taken to the masses. On the occasion of the completion of 33 years Left front rule in West Bengal, and completion of 4 years of the present L.D.F. govt. in Kerala, we greet these Govts. In Tripura, the Left Front has repeated its glorious victory in the ADC elections. We convey our warmest greetings to the People of Tripura and to the Left front.

Comrades,

We are here just after the conclusion of the National Convention organised by the Central

Trade Unions. The importance of this unity has been stressed in our resolution in the 13th conference itself. The importance of this National Convention and decision on struggle should be taken to the mass of workers at the grass root level and to the general public, so that we are able to go ahead successfully in implementing the decisions of this convention.

Before I conclude, I would like to remind that in the coming month of August, the whole world will be remembering the holocaust in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Let us never forget the barbarism of U.S. imperialism, which is still sitting on the top of huge collection of atomic weapons and is threatening the mankind. A recent report said that there are more than 20,000 – plus nuclear weapons in USA and Russia. Beyond this, experts estimate that world wide there is roughly 2100 tons of material that altogether could be used to make some 1,20,000 bombs. Most of that material is held by USA and Russia and there are also stocks in other weapon States. Let us pay homage to the memory of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and join the international campaign for an atomic weapon free world.

After all, the world is still left with something to celebrate also. Billions of men and women, enjoyed the thrill of the popular game of football – The World Cup in South Africa, even at this time of high deprivations and cruelty experienced in day to day life and also the higher and higher commercialisation of sports and games! Let us congratulate all – the losers and winners for their high spirits of sportsmanship and fraternity.

Comrades,

I do hope that through our deliberations on these three days, we will be able to take decisions necessary to go forward in the implementation the tasks laid down by the 13th Congress.

One of the major tasks we have undertaken is the building up of Com. P.Ramamurti Memorial Trade Union School which was also a task close to his heart. This school, in addition to being a fitting memorial to our beloved founder General Secretary, will be a centre for educating our cadres and members so that we can build a powerful Trade Union movement in this country.

With greetings to you all I conclude.

Long Live CITU!

Working Class Unity - ZINDABAD!

A K PADMANABHAN
President

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dear Comrades,

CITU Working Committee is meeting here around four months after the conclusion of our 13th Conference in March 2010.

During the intervening period certain important developments have taken place both at national and international arena. We have to consider them in depth and decide our approach to these developments.

2. INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

2.1 The Presidential Address will deal on the international developments during the intervening period in detail. However, it is to be noted in particular that US imperialism and its allies have been desperately pursuing their hegemonic and aggressionist policy in economic, political and military spheres. The unprovoked and barbaric attack by the Israeli soldiers on a convoy of six ships carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza in international waters killing many people and seizing the ships in utter violation of the international law is its latest manifestation. Israeli troops attacked the flotilla carrying some 10,000 tons of aid for the isolated sea side territory, which has been blockaded by Israel for years.

2.2 In the international context another point needs to be noted in particular. In the background of global economic crisis, a kind of optimism is being sought to be played by the international agencies at the behest of the international finance capital and imperialism that the world economy is gradually coming back to the track of recovery. The IMF in its latest update of the economic outlook in January 2010 has expressed optimism about the recovery of the world economy. But what is being witnessed is nothing but a partial as well as temporary slowing down of the pace of decline owing to huge bail-out packages and fiscal measures funded by the public exchequer, which cannot be characterised as recovery as such. The industrial output in USA in December 2009 was 2 per cent less than that in December 2008. GDP in the Euro area contracted by 4 per cent between November 2008 and 2009. Unemployment rate is still quite high in both the US and Euro area at 10 per cent –almost doubled in two years period.

2.3 Moreover since early 2010 the Eurozone economies, particularly the comparatively weaker economies like Greece, Spain, Portugal etc have been facing aggravation of the debt-crisis which in turn is also affecting the stronger economies of the Euro-zone. This ought to be the case since the major economic powers appeared to have been pursuing the same neoliberal model seeking to create artificial bubbles here and there for quick profit instead of containing the dominance of finance capital termed sometimes as casino economy over the real economy. In fact the same IMF in its Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) published in

April 2010 termed the so called recovery as of fragile nature but at the same time suggested that control on the monetary economy in the form of 'capital control' "may delay necessary macroeconomic adjustments.....prevent the global rebalancing of demand and thus hinder global recovery and growth." Indication is clear, IMF seeks to pursue deregulation of the financial sector in the developing countries to ensure global rebalancing in favour of the crisis ridden economies of the rich industrialised nations. There is nothing to contain the dominance of speculation-prone finance capital. There is nothing to directly attack the recession-stricken economy through channelising resources to real economy through public investment.

2.4 The crisis in the Eurozone economies also led to hectic effort of the concerned governments to reduce their burgeoning fiscal deficit by way of cutting down public investments, subsidies, wages, social security benefits etc resulting in spread of mass discontents demonstrated by waves of strikes Greece, France and other countries and other from of struggles by the working class and the people at large mocking at all talks of recovery.

3. THE NATIONAL SITUATION

3.1.1 The period following the 13th Conference of CITU has witnessed initiative by the Left parties to channelise the growing discontent among the mass of the people against continuing price rise and other fall-outs of the neoliberal regime through countrywide mobilisation and struggle. The Jail-bharo agitation of 8th April 2010 led by the Left parties and country-wide hartal on 27th April called by 13 non-UPA and non-NDA parties at the initiative of the Left received magnificent response from the people throughout the country. Similarly, the bandh call given separately by the Left and non-BJP opposition parties on 5th July against the price-hike of petroleum products also received massive response throughout the country. Notable is that the magnificent response to 27th April bandh organised by the Left and other non-BJP opposition parties has created a compulsion for the BJP also to give Bharat bandh call on 5th July 2010 against petroleum price-hike following the announcement of call of countrywide hartal given by the Left parties on the same day. The spontaneity of response to the bandh call of 27th April and 5th July 2010 across the states revealed the depth of discontent against price-rise among the mass of the people and calls for more aggressive initiative by the Left parties as well as the working class movement to mobilise the people and intensify the struggle against neoliberal policies.

3.1.2 Despite participating in the bandh call owing to the compulsion created by widespread popular discontent against price rise, some of the political parties like RJD, SP and BSP displayed the worst kind of opportunism at the political level. They supported the UPA Govt inside the Parliament opposing the cut motion moved by the Left demanding withdrawal of the tax/duty hike in petroleum and crude oil. On the other hand the Congress left no stone unturned in displaying rabid unprincipled opportunism and immorality to take advantage of the opportunist vacillations of those political parties. Govt's control over CBI was utilised to keep away those parties from voting for the cut motion. On the other hand the UPA-II stuck an unholy compromise in not bringing the Women's Reservation Bill in Lok Sabha after it was

passed by Rajya Sabha. The country witnessed a competition of unprincipled opportunism and immorality among the all major political formations except the Left. Such opportunism and vacillation among different non-Left political formations have to be kept into account while carrying on effort for developing a bigger and broader struggle against price rise and the economic policy regime in the days to come. This demands greater and more vigorous independent initiative by the Left forces and the working class movement to sensitise people against the anti-people policies.

3.1.3 The severe set back of the Left Front in the recently held elections of corporations and municipalities in West Bengal is matter a serious concern which reflected the continuity of the trend set in by the 15th Lok Sabha elections with marginal variations here and there. The set back is noticeable particularly in the working class belt. This reflects our weakness as well to effectively rally the working people in favour of the Left front and raise their consciousness on the severe implication of the weakening of the Left forces in its strongest bastion in West Bengal for the working class and the democratic movement. Such development is indicative of fiercer attack on the rights and livelihood of the working class and the common people in the days to come. In this background the decisive victory of the Left front in the elections of Autonomous District Council of Tripura is welcome development reflecting the successful combat by the tribal people of Tripura against the continuing anti-Left tirade by the reactionary forces.

3.1.4 The intervening period also witnessed more aggressive and desperate initiative by the UPA-II Govt to push through the policies of deregulation and privatisation. The defeat of the Left in the civic poll in West Bengal has emboldened them further in this direction. The administrative price of the natural gas being supplied to the priority sectors of the economy like power, fertilisers etc have been more than doubled in one stroke.

Simultaneously total decontrol of the prices of the petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG to align them with the international prices in line with the recommendation of Kirit Parekh Committee have been decided by the Govt which led to increase of the prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene have been increased by Rs 3.50, Rs2/-and Rs Rs 3/- per litre and LPG price has gone up by Rs35/- a cylinder. This has come within 4 months of increase of the price of petrol and diesel by Rs 2.70 per litre in the last budget. Such a heavy burden on the common people already suffering from spiralling inflation has been imposed by the Govt with an unbelievable nonchalance and arrogance.

3.1.5 Disinvestment of shares in blue chip PSUs is being carried on and already shares are being off-loaded at a price much below the price ruling in the share market in all cases disinvested so far. The Govt has already entered into free trade agreement with the ASEAN countries and recently similar free trade agreement is being negotiated with the European Union. Both together will mean almost total and unrestricted opening of our market for both industrial and agricultural products from abroad which is going to severely affect the domestic industries and already crisis-ridden agriculture. Hundred per cent FDI in retail trade including multi-brand products is also being actively considered by the Govt.

3.1.6 All these are going to create grievous consequences for the national economy and many more such steps for deregulation of the financial sector are on the anvil as the trend indicates. The trend indicates that the ruling polity in India is in a hurry to completely deregulate the national economy and the domestic market to force upon similar opening and deregulation in other developing economies—all to facilitate a quicker recovery of the crisis ridden economies of the rich industrialised nations. The project of strategic alliance of Indian ruling polity with imperialism is in action through such hectic move of deregulation and disinvestments which needs to be understood comprehensively and propagated intensively among the people.

3.1.7 The exposure of scandals indulged by those in governance also has been the important events during the intervening period. The IPL scam involving leading politicians from almost all the major political parties except the Left is one such example. The experience of the auction of 3G spectrum confirmed how big had been the scam in the sale of 2G spectrum silently digested by the UPA-II by bringing back the same person in the same position of telecom minister. Such scams and scandals have to be looked into not in isolation but as an inseparable feature of speculation driven neoliberal economic model authored by imperialist powers and agencies.

3.1.8 The spectre of the strategic-alliance-project of the ruling polity with the US imperialism is casting its impact on almost all the policy decisions of the day, be it on economic, political or foreign policy front. The utterly shameful and belated verdict of the Bhopal Court to imprison only for two years some of the then Indian managers of Union Carbide responsible for the mass genocide at the Union Carbide Plant killing 25000 people 26 years ago and setting free the-then Chief of the Union Carbide, Warren Anderson is before us. As the events are unfolding, the role of then governments at the centre and the state in letting Anderson escape scot free got thoroughly exposed. But more shameful is, in the face of such an experience, the Govt of India's ploy to plead for and push through the Nuclear Liability Bill in Parliament which seeks to put a cap on the compensation liability for a nuclear plant accident much below to even what was decided for the Bhopal gas accident 26 years ago, and more dangerously, seeks to insulate the American nuclear-reactor supplier from any liability arising out of accident from the reactors supplied by them. The Govt of India has already placed the order of nuclear reactors for 10000 mw with the US manufacturer company and now at the instance of US administration, has been redesigning its laws to suit the interests of US suppliers at the cost of the interests and safety of the people. Such heinous and treacherous game of the ruling polity needs to be thoroughly exposed. CITU had demanded that views of the trade unions must be heard by the Parliamentary Standing Committee examining the Bill and the same has been acceded to. Countrywide intensive campaign against the Nuclear Liability Bill is to be taken up as immediate task.

3.1.9 The Left movement and the working class struggles together have been the only stumbling block to such hectic imperialist driven project of deregulation. The telecom disinvestment has to be halted for the time being in the face of united opposition by the employees

movement in BSNL and coal workers have also recorded their opposition to disinvestment through countrywide strike. In financial sector as well the Govt will have to face stiff opposition to its project of deregulation, disinvestment and privatisation. All the trade union centres in the country had to come together to oppose price rise, labour-law violation, contractorisation and disinvestment and demanding allocation of adequate resources for comprehensive social security coverage to all unorganised sector workers and a countrywide united strike action is in the offing. The rising opposition by the working class to the ruling polity's game plan of deregulation, speculation and privatisation is being voiced only by the Left forces at the political level.

3.1.10 On the other hand the Left Front Govts in West Bengal and Tripura and Left Democratic Front Govt in Kerala, in the face of anti-people policies of the Central Govt and their grievous fall out in the form of terminal price rise of essential commodities, massive unemployment and joblessness etc, have been taking various pro-people measures despite severe financial limitations. In the background of almost dismantled public distribution system in most of the states in the country, the PDS has been much better administered in the Left ruled states giving some relief to people despite non-cooperation of the centre in making foodgrains available. Relief and social security benefits given to unorganised sector and agricultural workers, increased relief for the workers of closed industrial units etc are some of the examples of such pro-people policies of the Left ruled Govts. Notable is that when privatisation has become the buzzword of central govt industrial policy measures, the LDF Govt in Kerala have been able to revive 12 State –PSUs and have taken steps to add three more units in their state-PSU network. These measures demarcate Left ruled govts from other non-Left state Govts as well as reflects pro-people demarcation in economic policy approach of the Left forces vis-à-vis other non-Left govts at the centre and the states. We have to focus such demarcations of the Left before the mass of the people through intensive campaign.

3.2 Attack on the Left Forces

3.2.1 The physical onslaught on the Left and the democratic movement by the so called Maoist and Trinamool Congress combine in West Bengal has been still continuing taking away precious lives almost every day. After the set back of the Left in the recent municipal elections in West Bengal, such physical onslaught against the Left and democratic forces has further increased. During the intervening period there are numerous incidents of offices of CITU other democratic organisations having been attacked and activists of trade union and democratic movement killed or severely injured. At different areas in the state, the Trinamool Congress goons have been trying to create a situation of anarchy and terror while so called Maoists are continuing to kill poor people. The entire project of the right-reactionary-extremist combine is to continue to create and nourish a situation of unmanageable anarchy and discredit the Left forces and the Left front Govt in the state. The so called Maoist-Trinamool Congress are the direct frontline operators of such project of the right reaction while their electoral partner playing role of silent accomplice. Since last Lok Sabha Elections till 30th June 2010, 252 comrades working in various mass organisations of workers, peasants,

agricultural workers, women, students, youth, teachers etc were killed by the so called Maoist-Trinamool attacks. In such a situation, vigorous solidarity campaign on the one hand with the struggling comrades and democratic people of West Bengal and political struggle against the conspiracy of the right reactionary and the so called ultra-Left combine must continue countrywide and the working class movement has to take the lead.

3.2.2 The attack on West Bengal is an integral part of the project of the forces of right reaction aided by imperialist agencies to marginalise and weaken the opposition to neoliberal and pro-imperialist policies. The intervening and deterring capability of the Left is crucial for defending the national economy from the imperialist's grip, saving the country's national assets and resources from the greedy targeting by the international finance capital, for building resistance to capitulation by the ruling polity to US imperialist's politico-economic hegemonist strategy and for defending the rights of the working class thereby defending democracy as such.

3.2.3 It is but natural that all the anti-Left right reactionary forces aided by imperialist agencies would be up in arms in its malicious campaign against the Left.

3.2.4 In this context we have to take note of certain basic issues. The malicious campaign against the Left Forces and the Left Front Govts are initiated and mainly being built up even by the right wing parties, media and a section of so called intellectuals in the veil of so called left wing slogans which need to be exposed while combating such attacks. The so called Maoists in India who have refused to abandon the path of ruthless acts of terror and individual assassination, have since long been indulging in nefarious activities like extortion, robbery and money laundering. Their so called "liberation struggle" never raised finger against worst violator of human rights of the workers and tribal residents in the widespread mining areas of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh or Madhya Pradesh by the private contractors and mining operators because they are their source of finance. Reports are coming they are also building a link with the divisive forces in Assam and north-eastern areas. They are trying to blockade all developmental activities and also mainstream democratic movement where they usually operate because the developmental activities by the Left Front Govt simultaneously empower the poor and the commoners which may pose a challenge to so called Maoist goons to carry on their depredations on the people.

3.2.5 The real anti-people face of the so called Maoist mouthing the pro-poor slogans and postures need to be exposed. The so called Maoists have to be fought on ideological front as well. We have to organise and campaign among the people and combat the extremist menace along with the people. In fact, while doing so our comrades are laying down their lives. In the veil of ultra left postures these so called Maoists are actually serving the interests of extreme right reaction governing the world capitalist order and seeking for corporate-take over of the Indian economic and political system. They are acting for weakening the mainstream Left which alone can build up resistance struggle against neoliberal imperialist format of the present capitalist order. In that sense, the so called Maoist are ultimately serving the

interests of neoliberalism and abetting the project of imperialist agencies against the mainstream Left.

3.3 Role of Communal and Divisive Forces

3.3.1 The BJP has not yet been able to come out of the disarray after the successive losses in the Parliament elections, even after its new president, the nominee of the communal fascist organisation RSS has taken charge of the organisation. As the main opposition party, it has not been able to oppose most of the anti people economic policies of the UPA II government. It is to be recalled that the BJP led NDA has implemented equally if not more zealously the same policies while in power at the Centre. The BJP led governments in several states too are implementing the same anti people policies and as deeply mired in corruption as the Congress governments. This is nothing but natural given the class character of the BJP, that represents the interests of the big business and corporate houses and traders.

3.3.2 At the same time, the BJP is trying to utilise and benefit from the discontent among the people against the incessant price rise. While it has been mostly confined to symbolic opposition till recently, it has given a call and actively participated in the all India bandh on 5th July 2010.

3.3.3 The ruling classes favour the development of the two party system of either the Congress or the BJP being in power at the centre so that they can continue the policies of neoliberal globalisation without any interruption. We must keep in mind the machinations to project the BJP as the alternative to the Congress while making all attempts to discredit the Left parties and Left trade unions, which have been opposing the anti people policies from the beginning. This situation is detrimental to the interests of the working class and other sections of the toiling people and should not be allowed.

3.3.4 We must remember that the BJP continues to pursue its communal agenda of dividing the working class. Narendra Modi, who is responsible to the Gujarat carnage, is being projected and promoted to play central role in the organisation. When open communal calls do not yield the desired results, the BJP tries to camouflage its plans under the guise of opposition to terrorism and threat to internal security, as was witnessed several times in the past. We must continue to create awareness about the danger of communalism and divisive forces while carrying on other campaigns and agitations; we must prepare the working class to be vigilant against any attempts to divide it and weaken the struggle against the policies that attack its livelihood and the living conditions of the common people.

3.3.5 Recent period has also seen a spurt in the so called 'honour killings' of young men and women who preferred to marry as per their own choice. This phenomenon is not only confined to the northern parts of the country, but also witnessed in the southern states. The Khap panchayats are even putting forward certain demands like bringing down the age of marriage unconcerned about its implications on the health of the young girls and the children that

they would bear. They are also demanding retrograde amendments to the Hindu Marriage Act. It is highly condemnable that in stead of denouncing such demands, several ministers and leaders of the ruling parties directly support the khap panchayats. We must oppose such retrograde practices and support the campaigns against the attempts to control the lives of the people by the khap panchayats.

3.3.6 On the whole, we must note that while working for uniting the working class in the struggle against anti-people policies, we have to simultaneously take conscious initiative to combat and expose all the forces of disruption—communalism, casteism and parochialism both organisationally and ideologically. Both these struggles must be carried on simultaneously, aiming at broadening the unity of class in the field of struggle. The unification of the class and defeat of the disruptive forces can be best achieved through sharpening of the class struggle only. Fight against the communal and other disruptive forces must be construed as an organic part of the working class struggle.

4. ECONOMIC SITUATION

4.1 The General Secretary's Report adopted by the 13th Conference of CITU held around four months ago dealt in detail the economic situation in the country and since then not much change has taken place and the same process of gradual impoverishment of the working class and the toiling people in general and enrichment of the rich and affluent class has been continuing owing to anti-people policies of the Govt.

4.2 Price rise of essential commodities has been continuing and the Govt at the centre remained totally unconcerned over the miseries of the people except the Prime Minister making occasional statement assuring that prices of the essentials will be contained soon, may be within next 100 days. Many such 100 days have already passed mocking at the Prime Ministerial forecast and adding salt to the miseries of the common people.

4.3 Despite concrete demands from all quarters, the Govt is refusing to ban the speculation in the commodities market, at least in respect of all essential commodities, which is one of the crucial factors fanning the ongoing inflationary trend. In fact, speculation in commodity market is the single biggest encouraging factor for hoarding and black-marketing in foodgrains and other essential commodities and the Govt of the day has itself been acting as a facilitator for such process by way of allowing the corporates, both domestic and foreign to make procurements of agri-produce sidelining the FCI. The Govt of the day made it hey day for the traders lobby, the big-corporate traders in particular ensuring for them windfall gains in the speculative trade on essential commodities riding on the wave of rising prices. The rising prices and speculation in commodities market are feeding each other making life of the common people miserable on the one hand and ensuring huge profit for big corporate traders on the other. The Govt is facilitating this process by refusing to universalise the PDS and increasing price of foodgrains for APL category.

ers basic rights and decent livelihood.

4.7 The Govt is also patting itself citing the increasing growth in GDP. No doubt GDP is increasing but what does it mean to mass of the people ? During the same period the GDP has grown, people turn poorer as the gains of GDP growth was wholly appropriated by the capitalist lobby. Never before such wild distortion in distributive mechanism was visible. As per a study conducted by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the gross profit earned by the private corporate sector companies was 44 per cent of the total wage bill of those companies in 2001. In 2008 their gross profit has risen to 176 per cent of their total wage bill. This clearly exposes the extreme distortion that took place in the distributive pattern in the economy with the active patronage of those in governance. That is why even after the break out of the global financial melt down in 2008 affecting also the Indian economy, profit earning by the private corporate sector had gone substantially up although more than fifty lakh workers lost their job.

5. MAJOR STRUGGLES

5.1.1 The intervening period since the 13th Conference of CITU witnessed certain major events of struggles and mobilisation by the working class in certain sector.

5.1.2 The country witnessed spontaneous countrywide protest action immediately following the hike in prices of petroleum product on 25th June 2010 by the Govt of India. On 25th June itself, demonstration, road-blockade and burning of effigy was organised at ITO Chawk, New Delhi by CITU Centre in association with the available comrades in Delhi. Subsequent days witnessed protest demonstrations all over the country, in all the states covering almost all districts at the initiative of CITU. Transport workers staged one day strike in West Bengal. Kerala and Tripura witnessed massive statewide bandh and strike action. In Assam, Motor Transport workers' strike paralysed the normal transport system in the entire state. Orissa also witnessed transport workers' strike. On 5th July, 2010, CITU units joined the call of Hartal given by the Left and non-BJP opposition parties in a big way throughout the country.

5.1.3 The mahapadav organised by the All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers by way of a two day long mobilisation of around eighteen thousand anganwadi workers and helpers at New Delhi on 4th and 5th May 2010 on their demands for payment minimum wages, social security and retiral benefits etc happens to be biggest ever mobilisation by a single federation, that too comprising all women workers, at the national capital which must be taken note of. From 230 districts of the country from 20 states except West Bengal, Tripura and Pondicherry, workers participated in the programme. This mahapadav had been a culmination of district and state level mobilisations by the anganwadi workers and helpers during the preceding months which had also seen the participation of more than 1.5 lakh of anganwadi employees in the district level mobilisations on 19th February. This shows that by a serious and consistent organisational effort and follow-up at all levels of organisation, the Federation has been able to actively mobilise majority of its membership in action and a

sizable section of its membership in the central mobilisation at Delhi.

5.1.4 Around 7000 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA)—all women workers, could also be mobilised in a demonstration before Parliament on 4th May 2010 demanding system of monthly wages and other benefits. This has also been an independent initiative of CITU and we have started coordinating in this segment hardly a year ago.

5.1.5 During 4th to 6th May 2010, a dharna was also organised before Parliament by the All India Road Transport Workers Federation which was attended by around 1700 workers from all over the country.

5.1.6 From 6th June 2010 onwards, the workers of Hyundai Motors at Chennai had to go for indefinite sit in strike under the leadership of CITU to oppose vindictive suspension of four leading workers. The strike was total and the police arrested 238 striking workers squatting in the workplace and sent to jail. The Hyundai management had been arrogantly refusing to implement the recommendation of state labour deptt for reinstating 35 workers dismissed earlier on which conciliation has been going on. Ultimately, at the intervention of Labour Minister, Govt of Tamilnadu, on 9th June a settlement was arrived at which envisages withdrawal of the suspension orders and formation of tripartite committee to deal on the previous cases of dismissals. The workers of ATC Tyre Company at Tirunelveli district also had been on struggle against the denial of entry to 80 workers who are all union activists in the factory from 1st May. The majority of the workers stayed away from work on protest which is still continuing. The Factory was designated under SEZ and owned by a Israeli company. And under the leadership of CITU union workers are on struggle. Around 15000 powerloom workers in Virudhunagar district in the state were also on indefinite strike including indefinite hunger strike by a section of workers in May 2010 for wage rise under the leadership of CITU. Finally the local minister had to give assurance for an early wage revision to get the strike called off. The workers of Neyveli Lignite Corporation staged one day strike on 2nd June 2010 on the issue of wage revision. And again, the workers of NLC have been on indefinite strike from 1st July 2010 onward demanding retrospective effect on increase of allowances.

5.1.7 The tea garden workers in West Bengal has staged an all in united strike action in the month of June 2010 demanding interim relief for the workers in view of abnormal rise in prices. All the trade unions functioning in tea gardens irrespective of affiliations joined in the same platform to organise this strike action. Despite prevalence of disturbing situation in the tea-garden areas created by the disruptive and divisive forces, response to this all in united strike action was fairly good.

5.1.8 During the intervening period number of strike struggles were organised in various states. In Himachal Pradesh, successful strikes were organised in number of hydel projects and in most of the cases workers could achieve their demands. The Anganwadi workers in the state also staged a one day statewide successful strike on 2nd June 2010. In Punjab, 65000 employees of Punjab State Electricity Board went for a two day strike action on 15th

and 16th April 2010 against the move of unbundling of PSEB.

5.1.9 At the initiative of BSNL Employees Union, the Joint Action Committee of BSNL employees comprising all the unions of employees and officers of BSNL went on indefinite strike from 20th April 2010 throughout the country against disinvestment, outsourcing and the move of the govt to allow the private telecom companies to share the BSNL's infrastructure. On the first day of the all in united strike action, which was almost total, the Govt had been compelled to call the unions for negotiation and had to backtrack from disinvestment and other retrograde moves with a written commitment that "all the stakeholders will be taken into confidence before taking a final policy decision" on all those issues.

5.2 Attack on Labour Rights

5.2.1 All these struggles are being fought in the face of rampant attacks on the trade union rights and desperate violation of all basic labour laws throughout the country. We have already noted that the workers of Hyundai and ATC Tyre at Tamilnadu had been on strike action mainly against unlawful victimisation by the employers. Similarly the General Secretary and President of the workers union in a big Plywood Factory in Assam have been summarily dismissed immediately after formation of the union. The labour department remained a mere onlooker. In Assam itself, the district administration of Tinsukia denied permission for assembly of workers for holding the union conference at the instance of the management of Hindustan Lever company. In Haryana, workers of Mark Exhaust System factory at Gurgaon had to agitate and fight for many days in the month of May against unlawful dismissal of a big section of workers and could finally make the labour department intervene for getting back majority of the dismissed workers to job.

5.2.2 Around a thousand sanitary workers deployed on contract by the Gulbarga Municipality at Karnataka have been on indefinite hunger strike against non-payment of wages for last 36 months since May 2010. Workers are all hailing from the most downtrodden dalit community. One of the workers died while on hunger strike on 23rd May 2010. Instead of paying the workers their unpaid wages, the concerned municipal minister of the Govt of Karnataka threatened the struggling workers urging them to form self help group and get their service transferred to that group. Shri S Kantha, former Janata Dal minister of Karnataka who was associated with the movement was arrested and put in jail. CITU staged solidarity demonstration throughout the state in support of that struggle but the issue is still lying unresolved owing to arrogance of the govt.

5.2.3 Similar onslaught on workers' basic rights along with violations of all basic labour laws pertaining to minimum wages, working hours, social security, safety etc has become the order of the day in many of the workplaces throughout the country and in most of the cases the state administration and the labour department have been acting as patrons to such inhuman onslaught on the working people. Arrogant intolerance towards trade unions, rather any form of collective expressions of the workers has become a pattern of managerial function in most

of the workplaces in the country, particularly in private sector braving which the trade union movement has to carry on their activities.

5.2.4 The recent mass scale victimisation of the engineers and employees of Air India in the face of strike action is a matter of serious concern. Although the strike was withdrawn following the order of High Court, 58 engineers and employees have been dismissed and many more suspended by the management in an arrogant display of vengeance and vindictiveness against the employees and the recognition of unions was withdrawn and union offices were sealed in all the places in the country. CITU immediately protested such vindictive action by the management and demanded upon the Govt immediate withdrawal of all victimisation and restoration of recognition of the unions. Recently the Delhi High Court granted a stay against the sealing of union offices but the NACIL management has petitioned for review of the said stay-order.

5.2.5 One thing must be noted in this context. The public sector airlines company have been thrown in serious crisis by irresponsible and reckless policies of the Govt against which even Committee of Public Undertaking (COPU) has given strong and critical observation and both the Govt and the Civil Aviation Ministry in particular have been indicted. In such a situation the atrocious attack against the employees and engineers is a ploy to divert the attention of the people from the failure of the Ministry and the Govt to the industrial disharmony in Air India. The need of the hour is the well-planned organised resistance by the working class against the conspiracy to destroy the public sector airlines to favour the private airlines, instead of being driven by spontaneity.

5.3 Coal Workers Strike Against Disinvestment

5.3.1 Against disinvestment, the coal workers staged countrywide strike action on 5th May 2010 at the independent initiative of CITU. 60 per cent coal workers or around three lakh workers which is much above the CITU membership in the industry have joined the strike action. This has also been an interesting experience. Originally this had been a joint initiative for industrywide strike action against disinvestment, outsourcing and handing over coal blocks to private hands. All the five major federations in coal industry jointly decided for three day strike in coal industry against disinvestment and other demands on 5-7 May 2010 from a joint convention held at Ranchi on 27th March 2010. The date of serving strike notice was jointly decided to be on 19th April. In a meeting between the coal minister and the federations held on 16th April 2010, the Coal Minister insisted that disinvestment is a must for retaining the Navaratna status for Coal India Ltd and the unions should agree to that. Unfortunately the leadership of INTUC, BMS and the AITUC federations agreed to Minister and signed the minutes withdrawing from strike. CITU and HMS leadership opposed the Minister's plea and refused to sign the minutes. Subsequently CITU and HMS unions jointly served the strike notice on 19th April 2010 and carried on joint campaign for the strike action. On the last day, national leadership of HMS, at the active persuasion by the AITUC leadership in particular instructed their federation leadership to withdraw from the strike action just two days before

the strike date. In the face of clear-cut statement both by the Coal Minister and also the Finance Minister before all the federations that disinvestment in Coal industry is a must, CITU decided to stick to the strike action and in view of desertion by all other federations, CITU decided to stage strike action for one day on 5th May 2010. The strike situation revealed that although leadership of all other federations deserted from the joint decision of strike, a big section of their following joined the strike action finally led by CITU.

5.3.2 As a follow up of the strike action a massive all India convention of coal workers was organised on 2nd July 2010 at Asansol in West Bengal by All India Coal Workers' Federation which was attended by around 1000 workers from all over the country. The Convention stressed upon the urgency for further broadening the unity of the coal workers and preparing for a bigger strike in the coal industry to resist the disinvestment move. The convention appealed to all the trade unions in coal industry to strengthen the united platform of struggle.

5.3.3 Experience of coal strike reveals that for developing sustainable class unity for struggle against policy issues, it is important that basic principle is not compromised and situation may come sometimes when CITU may have to single-handedly uphold the principled stand to be taken by the working class. In the present case, had CITU not stuck to strike decision even running the risk of being alone in the field, it would tantamount to a consensus on the decision of disinvestment between the trade unions and the Govt. By sticking to strike decision alone, CITU saved the situation and this itself would pave the way for further united struggle in coal industry itself. Without such principled stand on certain issues facing the movement and consistent struggle based on those principles, trade union movement cannot be kept on right track, nor the unity based on unprincipled compromise can ever be sustained.

✓ **5.4. Public Sector Wage Negotiations**

5.4.1 In this context, we must take note of the recent developments in the wage negotiations in the public sector units. Situation had so arisen in the current phase of wage negotiations in steel industry where CITU single-handedly had to go for two days strike in public sector steel plants against pro-management MOU signed by some other unions in 2009. The strike call received overwhelming response from the mass of the workers which finally led to marked improvement in the wage agreement. Simultaneously, the contract workers' wages in the public sector steel plants have to increased substantially owing to united struggle of the regular and contract workers in the industry on the demands of the contract workers.

✓ In the current phase of wage negotiations in PSUs, joint struggle by the public sector unions under the banner of CPSTU compelled the Govt of India to change their directive for 10 year tenure of wage agreement for the workers in the face of unanimous demand of all the unions for five-year tenure. In steel, Coal, Port & Dock, NMDC, HAL, Garden Reach Shipyard, Neyveli Lignite Corporation etc, five year agreement could be achieved. But in some other industry level negotiations, like BHEL, NTPC, BEL etc., some of the unions in the respective apex negotiating forums, succumbed to the pressure of management for signing agreement with

10 year tenure. CITU refrained from signing such agreement with 10 years tenure in most of the places. In BHEL, AITUC and BMS representatives could be persuaded not to sign the 10-years settlement. In NTPC till now, BMS also stood firm with CITU in not signing the 10 year-tenure MOU but some vacillations are being noticed among them. In petroleum sector, till now owing to firm stand of the CITU unions for a five-year settlement, agreement could not yet take place but situation is becoming difficult there as well. CITU considers signing of ten-year agreement a surrender to management's ploy and also surrender of the achievement earned through united struggle. CITU prefers not to compromise on such principle issues even running the risk of temporary set-back and is confident that the vacillating unions will ultimately realise the blunder committed by them.

5.4.2 CITU will have to initiate intense organisational exercise with its affiliate and associate public sector unions to develop unified understanding on the above issue. In view of the offensive of mass scale disinvestment in the PSUs looming large, we have also to intensify the anti-disinvestment struggle in public sector units and for that also all out preparation is needed.

5.5 Wage negotiation in Cement Industry

5.5.1 On expiry of the last wage settlement in the industry, the fresh negotiation between the Cement Manufacturers Association (CMA) and the Central Trade Unions has just started. From CITU Centre, reports of the joint meeting with CMA are being regularly sent to the concerned State Committees. The state committees have also been requested to send certain information about the status of implementation of the last wage agreements including for contract workers and other details on the industry for effective negotiation with the management but unfortunately none of the state committees except Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh has responded to that request.

5.5.2 In the current round of negotiations, the issue of implementation of the agreement for the contract workers and also for the workers in grinding units have been forcefully taken up by CITU. However, our presence in the industry on all India scale is limited. Still, at CITU's intervention, the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) issued directions to the all Regional Labour Commissioners' Office for taking steps for enforcement and implementation of wages and other benefits as per industry level settlement also in respect of the contract workers. The CLC(C) also clearly opined in writing that the workers of grinding units will also be covered by the national wage settlement. But the employers in the grinding units are stoutly refusing to extend the benefit of the national wage settlement to the workers of the grinding units. In West Bengal, Cement Works at Durgapur, M/s Ultra Tech has refused to accept the CLC's opinion on grinding units inspite of intervention by Labour Minister, Govt of West Bengal and the strike by the workers of Ultra Tech is continuing since 27-04-2010. There is a need for pressure by unions from other grinding units in the country.

5.5.3 The copies of both the communications from CLC(C) were sent to all the concerned state committee with the request to involve the cement unions in taking up the issue of imple-

mentation and coverage of all the cement plants, grinding units and also the contract workers working there by the national industry level settlement with the concerned RLC office and also through mobilisations at the industry level. We are yet to get feed-back on the initiatives taken in this regard.

6. UNITED MOVEMENT

6.1 The all in united movement of trade unions is going to enter a new phase. After the success of mass scale jail-bharo on 5th March 2010, All the Central Trade Unions met on 13th April 2010 and jointly called upon the working class to prepare for massive countrywide industrial action including strike. The Central Trade Unions again met on 4th May 2010 and decided to hold a joint all India Convention on 15th July 2010 at New Delhi to decide and declare the strike action to be observed sometimes in September. If the strike action materialises, this is going to be the first ever all in united strike action by all the trade unions in the country against the anti-people policy of the Govt. We must carry on intensive independent campaign at the grass root level to carry the message of unity to the widest section of the people and also unify the workers on the issues being pressed for by the united strike action.

6.2 In this context, we have to note that the present phase of all in united movement is the culmination of decades long united struggle by the trade union movement against the neoliberal policies and its fall out on the people. The ground created by such united struggles in the background of deepening economic crisis and resultant miseries faced by the workers and people has given rise to a situation that all the central trade unions in the country have to come together in the joint platform of struggle. They have jointly formulated five point demands to cover the basic gamut of the neoliberal policies for joint trade union actions and mobilisations. Thus, united move at the leadership level of the Central Trade Unions and issues identified need to taken at the grass root level and unified understanding among the mass of the workers of all affiliations on the issues and demands have to be built up to make the action effective and broadbased and also to sustain this process of united struggle towards further advancement.

6.3 Therefore, along with joint campaign programmes with other unions, CITU has to take independent initiative for campaign among the workers to develop such unified understanding on the issues reach the widest possible for making the forthcoming strike programmes a total success and thereby opening a new chapter in the history of united struggle of the working class.

6.4 Secondly, coming together of all the trade union centres to fight on the most burning issues before the working class itself generates enthusiasm among the workers in general, even those not yet unionised. Serious organisational effort to reach those yet non-unionised sections of workers with the call for all in united struggle would definitely get a good response and unionisation can be broadened in a big way. CITU must take this opportunity in broadening the horizon of its organisational reach.

7. OBSERVANCE OF WEST BENGAL SOLIDARITY WEEK

7.1 The 13th Conference of CITU had given a call for observance of West Bengal Solidarity Week from 18th to 24th April 2010 through intensive countrywide campaign against the onslaught and attack on the Left and the working class in West Bengal by the Trinamool Congress hoodlums along with the so called Maoist goons. The CITU Centre has sent articles and campaign materials on the subject to all the states for publishing pamphlets in local languages and widespread circulation.

7.2 As per reports received from different states, the Solidarity week was observed through week long campaign in all the states through group meetings, seminars, conventions, rallies etc at district and union levels and pamphlets/folders/leaflets were published in local languages and circulated in lakhs. As communicated by different state committees, 10000 pamphlets/leaflets were circulated in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana 28000, Delhi 25000, Orissa 25000, Tamilnadu 20000 pamphlets besides leaflets circulated at district level, Andhra Pradesh 86000, Uttarakhand 10000, Assam 30000, Karnataka 20000. Tripura witnessed holding of massively attended public rallies throughout the state and circulation of thousands of leaflets. In Kerala campaign was organised through circulation of lakhs of leaflets among the people, circulation of campaign literatures to district level leadership and holding of numerous meetings/seminars etc throughout the states covering all industrial centres, towns and districts.

7.3 However we must note that the solidarity campaign in support of the struggle by the Left and democratic forces in West Bengal against the physical onslaught by the Trinamool Congress and so called Maoist combine have to continue along with other activities since the attack on the Left and democratic forces in West Bengal are continuing and comrades are being killed almost every day and such attack is slated to become fiercer in the coming days following the boost received by the Trinamool Congress in the recent municipal elections.

8. OBSERVANCE OF 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF CITU

8.1 13th Conference of CITU called upon all the units to observe the 40th Anniversary year of CITU through year long education campaign among the cadres, activists and mass of the workers. CITU Centre published a booklet titled "40 Years of CITU" written by Com M K Pandhe in English and Hindi and sent the text to all the state committees for wide circulation in local languages. As per reports collected from the states, the foundation day were observed on 30th/31st May in all the states through hoisting of flag and gate meetings, rallies, conventions etc. Some of the state committees like Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka have already decided the programme of state level Trade Union Classes. Electricity Employees Federation of India has also organised their central trade union class during the intervening period.

8.2 In this context we must note that CITU was formed in 1970 in the process of struggle

against the derailment of the-then mainstream trade union movement toward class collaboration and cooperation with the anti-people policies. Formation of CITU had been in the process of grim ideological struggle within the working class movement about the leading role of working class in the society and the task before the trade union movement in the then prevailing situation. Therefore, observance of 40th anniversary of year of CITU should mark a visible all round initiative for strengthening CITU ideologically and organisationally at all levels of the organisation at all levels of the organisation, keeping in vision the aims and objectives of CITU, enshrined in its constitution.

8.3 As per reports received from the states, the booklet on 40 years of CITU was translated in Assamese, Marathi, Telegu, Tamil, karnadiga, Malayalam, Oriya and circulated in respective states. Hindi booklets were circulated in Uttarakhand, UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Delhi. The detail reports on plans for observance of the 40th anniversary year and also circulation of the booklet from other states is yet to be received.

9. OBSERVANCE OF CENTENARY YEAR OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

9.1 It was also decided by the CITU Secretariat and reiterated by the 13th Conference that on the occasion of the centenary year of the International Women's Day, the Centenary year will be observed through yearlong educative campaign on various issues facing the women in the society and the working women in particular. Already a booklet on the International Women's Day has been published by the CITU Centre and some more booklets will be published in phases. The State Committees and Industry-wise Federations have to draw concrete plan for this year-long programme.

10. OBSERVANCE OF CENTENARY YEAR OF COM MANORANJAN ROY IN WEST BENGAL

10.1 West Bengal State Committee of CITU has drawn up a detail programme of observance of Centenary Year of Com Manoranjan Roy, a stalwart of working class movement, former General Secretary of the West Bengal State Committee of CITU and one of the founding leaders of CITU through statewide popular-lecturing, seminar, publication of literature etc.

11. INDEPENDENT INITIATIVE

11.1 Along with the united movements with other trade unions on common issues, CITU has to take up the burning issues facing the working class in different segments for independent campaign and mobilisation to pave the way for united movement on those issues.

11.2 One of the most pressing issues is the Employees Pension Scheme imposed on the workers through Employees Pension Scheme 1995. CITU opposed the scheme at the time of its introduction as the scheme was designed to take away much bigger amount from the

workers provident fund accumulation for the pension fund but provided for a small part of the same as pension. CITU also cautioned that the scheme will not be sustainable in the long run.

11.3 Unfortunately all the major central trade unions supported the scheme and got the enabling legislation for amendment of the Employees Provident Fund Act passed by Parliament. CITU protested such imposition through countrywide strike action which received good response from the workers. CITU also challenged the Scheme in High Court and Supreme Court demanding right to option for the workers through some of its federations but ultimately Supreme Court upheld the scheme.

11.4 To allure the unions in support of the schemes, the then Govt provided for a minimum pension of Rs 500/- and also committed for upward evaluation of the pension amount every year. But after four consecutive evaluations resulting in 4% rise in pension amount every year, the same was discontinued. Last 11 years, there has been no increase in pension amount despite continuous rise in prices. Moreover the provision of minimum pension amount of Rs 500/- was withdrawn unilaterally. The benefit of commutation was unilaterally withdrawn. The rate of deduction/discount per year in the pension amount for the premature retirees was increased and at the same time penalty chargeable to employers for default was drastically reduced ignoring total opposition by the workers' representatives in the Central Board of Trustees. The situation has so arisen that the pension amount as per the scheme has become so meagre that there are cases where the low-wage workers are getting a ridiculously low pension of Rs 10/- or Rs 15/- whereas under old age pension scheme payment is a minimum of Rs 300/- in many states.

11.5 The Govt is now making a plea that the Employees Pension Scheme under existing investment pattern in Govt securities is not sustainable and hence the pension fund should be allowed to be invested in stock market.

11.6 CITU has to take up this issue for independent campaign and agitation and demand reformulation of the Employees Pension scheme to ensure a guaranteed minimum pension amount linked with the price index without any further increase in employees contribution in the pension fund. CITU propose to publish a booklet on the subject for wide circulation and campaign.

12. ON CITU'S RELATIONS WITH WFTU

12.1 Since its inception, CITU preferred not to affiliate with World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) based on the-then developments and WFTU's class-collaborationist policies in the seventies and eighties. But CITU always cooperated with the WFTU activities in respect of international solidarity of the working class and its role in support of the socialist countries while remaining critical on its anti-class-struggle approach and its refusal to take an assertive anti-imperialist stand. Despite remaining unaffiliated, CITU participated in all the WFTU Congresses and meetings of TUIs held during the intervening period.

12.2 After the collapse of Soviet Union, which had been the main financial support behind WFTU, it became virtually dormant and non-functional for quite some time. Some of its sectoral wings like TUI-Public Service, TUI-Metal, TUI-Construction made effort to remain active in the concerned sectors and maintain coordination and solidarity within the concerned sectoral unions of different countries. CITU fully associated and cooperated with these TUI initiatives and also headed some of the TUIs as main office bearers while not formally affiliating with WFTU.

12.3 A major initiative was taken to revive WFTU with the leading role of Cuban trade union and in the Havana Congress of WFTU held in 2007 a new leadership was elected. It may be mentioned here that on the eve of that conference at Havana, CITU was repeatedly pursued for formal affiliation with WFTU. But, while fully cooperating with WFTU in all its activities, we decided to maintain status quo in the matter of affiliation.

12.4 After Havana Congress, WFTU has also become more forthright in asserting a clear anti-imperialist stand and improved its activities and coordination to a considerable extent. Of course in the organisational front, WFTU is yet to consolidate and properly structure itself by way of ensuring regularity in affiliations, proper coordination, wider headway in the movement-in Europe and other advanced industrialised countries, and some major developing countries as well.

12.5 CITU's international relations has considerably increased during the intervening period and also its participation in various international trade union events, conferences, seminars etc. The most recent has been the conference of Southern Initiative on Globalisation & Trade Union Rights (SIGTUR) held at Sao Paolo. 16 member delegation from India participated in the conference and played important role there. CITU took active initiative to hold the international conference of coal workers in India involving most of the major coalminers unions in the world affiliated to ICFTU and WFTU besides independents which underlines the need for united movement by all unions irrespective of affiliations against privatisation, globalisation and contractorisation. Meantime pro-capitalist international trade union forums like ICFTU and WCL got merged to form ICTU and in that process, CITU was again and again insisted and persuaded by ICFTU and WCL to join the merged entity-the ITUC, which we firmly declined in view of their class collaborationist policies.

12.6 In view of the changes in the international scenario, perhaps a time has come when we should re-look and review our stand regarding the character of our relations with WFTU with a positive approach. Present global economic crisis is going to be prolonged and a recurring one. The world capitalist order has been put on somewhat defensive and the imperialist forces have become more desperate in its hegemonist design, obviously in its hell bent bid to tide over the crisis. Such a situation is having a serious bearing on the working class movement and warrants consolidation of the working class movement on firm ideological and anti-imperialist platform. CITU has to play more active role in strengthening that platform in view of its wide exposure to international fraternity in the trade union movement.

12.7 The next Congress of WFTU is slated to be held in sometimes in April next year. Sometimes in the month of October or November, a CITU delegation is slated to meet the WFTU leadership in Athens to have bilateral interaction on issues of common interests and WFTU-CITU cooperation. In the light of our discussion with the WFTU leaders, we should seriously consider the issue of our affiliation with WFTU and take decision in the next meeting of General Council.

13. WORKSHOP ON BHUBANESWAR DOCUMENT ON ORGANISATION

13.1.1 The 13th Conference of CITU has adopted one of the tasks as under:

“Reorient our work as per the guidelines in the ‘Bhubaneswar Document’ on organisation; Organise a national workshop on organisation to review its implementation and update.”

13.1.2 We have to hold a workshop on organisation to prepare a document on review of implementation of the Bhubaneswar Document and updating the same if required, based on experience of implementation. Preparatory to such workshop a base paper on the organisational situation need to be developed for which necessary feedback must come from the states and federations. Unfortunately, we could not receive the response to the questionnaire on organisation sent as per decision of the CITU General Council held on August 2009 at Tirupati from majority of the state committees. We may again update that questionnaire and send to the state committees and federations for a quick response. CITU Secretariat may again meet to finalise the paper after receipt of feedback from the states. Thereafter the workshop date may be finalised.

13.1.3 It is proposed that the questionnaire on organisation may be updated further and sent to state committees and federations for a response to be received from the states within a month's time or so. Most of the state committees have already held their conference and they should not have much problem in responding to the questionnaire in time. Based on the response CITU Secretariat should prepare the paper for the organisational workshop and we must target to hold the workshop by the end of this year.

13.2 ORGANISATION

13.2.1 The 13th conference has undertaken a moderate target of increasing the membership of CITU to 75 lakh by the time of next conference. We should concretely plan to achieve the target and accordingly the state committees have to decide their own target. Some state committees have already taken a target of membership in their respective state conferences. CITU secretariat/Working Committee must adopt the statewise targets for increasing membership and comrades are requested to give their views on the same.

13.2.2 In the matter of organisation, the 13th conference expressed serious concern over gradual weakening of the movement in the organised sector covering the strategic and core

sector of the economy and holding the key to the operation of the capitalist production system. There is a clear trend of stagnation, rather decline in the organized sector. This cannot just be explained away by the shrinkage of the organized sector employment alone which we often try to do to cover up our failure. Moreover, our organizational presence in the newly emerging modern industries in the organized sector is minimal. And not much serious and planned effort is being made to enter into these areas which also requires updating the understanding and improving the organisational skill at the leadership level as well. What is being noticed is the absence of the very agenda of advancing in the organised sector in our programmes in most of the places in the country.

13.2.3 Public sector units occupy a major place in the organised sector which receive least attention in most of the states barring a few exceptions. In organised private sector also situation is even more precarious and our initiative is mostly limited to small and some medium size segments in most of the places except in 4/5 states. And such neglect is arising out of lack of political-ideological understanding about the need to organise the basic class operating at the heart of the capitalist system. Effective intervening capacity in these crucial sectors requires consistent upgradation of our organisational skill and political-ideological capabilities at all levels which remains a victim of perpetual neglect. For a breakthrough we need to bring about improvement in all these aspects with a planned and conscious effort.

13.2.4 Recent defeat of CITU unions in the secret ballot elections in BHEL-Bhopal, BEL-Ghaziabad and in the recent past in BHEL-Hardwar, Jhansi and Ranipet and Hyderabad, defeat of CITU leaders in HAL, Hyderabad are some of the examples of our decline in vital organised sectors. Of the recent successes in such elections, notables are our victory in NTPC-Farakka and Vindhyachal, Powergrid Corporation and Vizag Steel. Basic problems are that neither the state committees are paying adequate attention to the unions in their states nor it is becoming possible for the comrades coordinating from centre to guide the unions in their day-to-day work which is crucial for sustaining the support base. We must have to address these problems with all seriousness if we are to retain and expand our influence and organisation in these vital sectors of the economy.

13.2.5 13th Conference has dealt at length the tasks to be undertaken in expanding our organisation in the organised sector which we must take up with all seriousness.

13.2.6 In the unorganised sector as well, despite substantial increase in our membership, we could reach only a small segment of the entire workforce. Moreover, it has been noted by the 13th conference documents that our initiative in the unorganised sector must be more focussed on micro-level –with a trade/occupation-wise concentration on the one hand instead of generalised approach and segment-specific concrete initiative for the implementation of the existing welfare schemes both of centre and the state govts and delivering benefits to the concerned workers on the other and developing movement and mobilisations around those issues. This will help developing activists and leadership from among the unorganised sector workers which is crucial for further expansion of our base in this constantly expanding sector.

This would also help developing reliable data-base on actual implementation of various welfare scheme which is of crucial importance for bargaining with the Govt on all these issues and also exposing them appropriately.

13.2.7 The exercise on Bhubaneswar document must also have to address all these aspects.

14. P RAMAMURTI MEMORIAL TU SCHOOL & RESEARCH CENTRE

14.1 As reported in the 13th Conference, land for the school has been procured. Architect has been appointed and building plan is under preparation. We have to start construction work latest by September and have to complete the work within a year's time. The architect and contractor have already been appointed and work of preparing the plan is in progress. The 13th Conference already has given a call for collection of fund at the rate of Rs 5/- per member to be deposited within June 2010. All the state committees and federations are urged upon to send their contribution at the earliest to enable us to start the construction work and complete the same on time. The State committees and federations may take time to complete their collections as per quota but they need not wait till the collection is completed and start sending their collections to CITU Centre from a month's period from now in order to enable us to commence construction work by September. CITU Secretariat has decided that Com Sukomal Sen will be the Director of the PR TU School & Research Centre.

14.2 Meantime, a central TU class may be organised for the hindi-speaking states after the strike and the date may be finalised in the meeting with the leadership of Hindi speaking states to be held on 24th July 2010.

15. CHALLENGES AHEAD

15.1 We have already noted that the political situation turned difficult after the last Lok Sabha elections which has got serious bearing for the working people at large. Set back suffered by the Left forces led to a distinct tilt in the ruling political correlation towards further right-reactionary pro-imperialist direction. It is the working class movement which has to take on itself the responsibility of fighting back the challenges rallying the people from all sections of the society in countrywide struggle to bring about a change for the better.

15.2 The malicious campaign against the Left movement by the ruling class comprising the corporate class, the media controlled by them and all hues of right reactionary forces together has to be conceived as an attack to be combated with the leadership of working class movement only.

15.3 The cause of the working class movement and their basic class related issues are being seriously voiced only by the Left forces at the political level. The attack on the Left is thus synonymous to attack on the working class and mass of the people. On the other hand,

consistent determined opposition in action to the neoliberal capitalist order and its fall out is the source of strength both for the Left and the working class movement. This basic understanding should guide us in gradually heightening the trade union movement against the policies to pave the way for developing a peoples movement against the very right-wing class politics behind the neoliberal policy regime.

15.4 The post-Lok Sabha elections developments have made it clear as to how the life and livelihood of the toiling class are being subjected to more aggressive onslaughts by the UPA-II regime in all respects which have been already detailed in this report in the foregoing paragraphs. Never before, complete captivity of the Govt's policy making in all aspects to the sole interests of private corporate lobby, both domestic and foreign has been so brazenly visible. This corporate-ruling polity nexus needs to be thoroughly exposed through our campaign if we are to train the guns against the right wing class politics and capitulation to imperialist interests by the ruling polity from which the neoliberal economic order emanates. CITU must equip and continue to update its leadership and activists for effective discharging of this crucial political-ideological task.

15.5 The resentment among the mass of the workers and people is increasing with every passing day and brought forth a new opportunity before the working class movement to rouse the people against the arrogant pursuit of the pro-imperialist, corporate-captive policies of the Govt at the centre.

15.6 The working class movement has to seize the opportunity to build countrywide widest mobilisation of toiling masses in the struggle against the pro-imperialist neoliberal policies being pursued by the corporate captive Govt with a resolve to reverse the anti-people policy regime defeat the politics underlying such policy regime.

15.7 CITU has to take the pioneering role in carrying the working class movement in that direction. The five point demands formulated jointly by all Central Trade Unions embrace the entire gamut of the neoliberal policy regime and these are not merely the demands of the workers but cover the demands of the entire people from all walks of life. The emergence of all in united platform of action and the enthusiasm generated by such all in unity among the mass of the workers must be fully harnessed by CITU to develop unity as well as unified understanding on the politics behind the economic policies of the Govt among the mass of the working people. We have to carry the struggle, both at workplace level movements and countrywide actions, to further height for reversal of the policies and thereby challenging the very politics behind such policies.

16. IMMEDIATE TASKS

16.1 The Tasks formulated by the 13th Conference of CITU must guide all future activities in the days to come. Within that framework the immediate tasks may be formulated as under:

1. All out efforts to organise joint countrywide campaign for making the ensuing General Strike a total success. Simultaneously independent campaign has to be undertaken to reach the yet un-reached section of workers with the campaign on the issues and organise them into action.
2. Attack on trade union right, violation of labour laws, mass scale contractorisation and disinvestment must be focussed as central to all our workplace level campaign along with the issue of price rise and other economic policy measures.
3. The state Committees and Federations must respond promptly, within a month's time to the questionnaires on organisation to enable CITU to effectively prepare for the organisational workshop decided by the conference.
4. Independent initiatives to be taken for mobilisation and movement on Employees Pension Scheme and other and social security issues.
5. Year-long education-activities as a part of observance of 40th Anniversary Year of CITU have to be planned and undertaken to cover up to the workplace level leadership of our organisation.
6. For observance of Centenary year of International Women Day as decided by 13th Conference of CITU, all CITU State Committees should plan to undertake campaign on the major issues of the working women which should culminate in state-level mobilisation on 8th March 2011.
7. Complete the collection for the P Ramamurti Bhawan at the earliest and send to CITU Centre
8. Urgent steps for increasing the membership to overfulfil the target taken by the 13th conference to be taken at all levels.

17. Conclusion

17.1 Let us recall the call given by the 13th Conference of CITU concluded four month ago. "In the changed political scenario, the ruling class will be aggressively pushing through their project for developing a consensus for their neoliberal and pro-imperialist policies among the bourgeois non-Left political forces in the face of an apparently weakened Left in Parliament. The working class movement being the life line of the Left movement have to combat the challenge through ensuring broadest mobilization of the toiling class and intensifying class action against the flawed policy regime which alone can foil the game of ruling class.

The challenge is stupendous, no doubt but our ideology and its serious pursuit in the field of

mobilization and action is the greatest weapon at our command. We must expand and consolidate our organization in that direction with the determination to combat.....”

“The inhuman face of the present capitalist order - the imperialist globalisation – stands thoroughly exposed. It can in no way be camouflaged by any talk of giving it a human face. History will move in the direction it is destined to, and its driving force – the class struggle - will grow in strength and spread, transcending the roadblocks that the ruling classes may attempt to place in its path. The working class must imbibe this dynamics of socio-economic development and direct its energy towards replacing this inhuman social order, defeating all adversaries and those who advocate capitulation and compromise.”

17.2 We are confident, we will be able to definitely overcome all hurdles to carry the working class struggle to a new height.

With greetings,

Long live unity of the working class !

Long Live CITU !

TAPAN SEN
General Secretary

ON CONDOLENCE

Working Committee meeting of CITU held in New Delhi on 15-17 July 2010 expresses its deep sense of sorrow at the passing away of Com. Moni Bose, a veteran leader in Telecom movement. He was a dedicated revolutionary trade union leader with immense sacrifice who was dismissed from services in 1949 for organizing strike.

The meeting condoles the death of Com. Tanu Lal Mandalwar, Vice President of All India Beedi Workers Federation and founder General Secretary of Madhya Pradesh Beedi Federation, who dedicated more than forty years in organizing trade union movement in Balaghat area of Madhya Pradesh. The meeting expresses deep grief at the passing away of Com. B.P. Sonia, former Vice President M.P. State CITU and Com. Lal Bahadur Tiwari, member of U.P. State Committee of CITU. The meeting also mourns the demise of Com. Varkala Radhakrishnan, former speaker of Kerala State Assembly and former Member of Parliament.

The meeting deeply condoles the death of comrade. Ajit Basu, Ex-MLA and West Bengal CITU state council member, comrade Kamal Sengupta, comrade Ila Bhattacharya, Ex.Mp, both AIDWA leaders, Kanu Sanyal, naxalite leader, Nilkantha Sengupta, actor and dramatician and Nirmal Sengupta, left intellectual and author.

The meeting condoles the killing of Madan Tamang, the respected Gorkha league leader in Darjeeling by GJM goons. The meeting deeply condoles the murder of Comrade Ananda Das, Ex-MLA by TMC. The meeting also expresses deep grief over the death of Bapi Dhar, democratic activist by police bullet. The meeting condoles the killing of Hemanta Pradhan, Basir Ahmed and Hembram.

The meeting deeply condoles the death of more than 150 people in Gyaneswari Railway Express accident in West Bengal on May 22, 2010. The meeting expresses its deepest sympathy to near and dear ones of those who lost their lives because of the heinous crime committed by the so called Maoist.

The committee also deeply condoles the death of more than 160 passengers and crew members of Air India flight at Mangalore Airport on May 22, 2010.

On Homage to Martyrs

Working Committee Meeting of CITU held at New Delhi on 15-17 July, 2010 pays its respectful homage to all the leaders, cadres and activist of the working class and democratic movement who have laid down their lives facing police atrocities or murderous attacks by police reactionary forces in different parts of the country.

The Working Committees salutes and pays respectful homage to the comrades who laid down their lives in West Bengal braving the brutal attack of the Trinamool-Maoist combine. They will continue to be a constant source of inspiration to the working class in their struggle against exploitation and for the cause of the people against neo-fascist attacks of reactionary forces of every hue and colour.