



# THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

## Resist Anti Labour Black Bills

**T**HE National Campaign Committee in its meeting held on June 4 at New Delhi denounced the policy of the Government of India to take away the trade union rights of the workers by introduction of anti-labour bills one after another in the last session of the Parliament. It unanimously rejected the four bills and called upon the working class to observe July 8, the opening day of the Parliament as Anti-labour Black Bills Day throughout the country. The four bills, viz. Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, Trade Union (Amendment) Bill, Hospitals and Other Institutions (Settlement of Disputes) Bill and Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill were virtual repetitions of the erstwhile Industrial Relations Bill, which was rejected by all the Central Trade Unions including the INTUC. The INTUC joined the united platform that time to utilise it against the Janata Government. It has exposed its black face now by supporting the black bills. In its exuberance to show loyalty to the Congress (I) Government, it has betrayed the working class once again.

The National Campaign Committee called upon its constituents to organise a massive demonstration before the Parliament at Delhi on July 8 and organise rallies and demonstrations in all State Capitals and industrial centres in the country.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted by the National Campaign Committee in its June 4 meeting on observance of Anti-labour Black Bills Day:

“The National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions condemns and strongly denounces the utterly anti-worker and anti-trade union amendment Bills introduced at the last session of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha more particularly the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1982 and the Trade Union (Amendment) Bill 1982. The amendments proposed are almost copied from the infamous Industrial Relations Bill of 1978 which had met with fierce opposition of the entire trade union movement including the INTUC and could not be pursued.

The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill brazenly flouts the Supreme Court verdict of February 1978 amplifying the definition of ‘Industry’ to cover hospitals, educational institutions etc., for the purposes of Industrial Disputes Act. The amendment Bill specifically excludes all these institutions from the purview of the ID Act and a new Bill, as was done by the Janata Government has been introduced prohibiting strikes, imposing compulsory arbitration and so on, in these institutions.

Both these amendment Bills seek to impose increasingly stringent restrictions on the trade unions right from their very formation to their functioning and activities in defence of workers’ interest. Punitive measures are threatened in the name of unfair labour practice, even registration of unions are liable to be cancelled on the plea of participation in “illegal” strike and powers of breaucracy are sought to be widened to enable it to interfere into the internal affairs of trade unions.

The National Campaign Committee notes with indignation that before introducing the Bills the Trade Unions were not consulted. Coupled with the notorious ESMA and the National Security Act, these reactionary amendments are aimed at throttling the working class and their trade unions and constitute an all-round attack on the fundamental trade union rights at the behest of Big Business, both Indian and foreign.

The National Campaign Committee calls upon its affiliates to launch a vigorous campaign against these Bills and to expose them to the widest sections of the workers and employees. The NCC calls upon workers and trade unions all over the country to observe the opening day of Parliament as “Anti-Labour Black Bills Day” by holding demonstrations in all industrial centres, state capitals and before the Parliament in Delhi, so that the strong opposition of the workers and the trade unions against these reactionary Bills are effectively voiced and the Government is forced eventually to withdraw these Black Bills.”

# DEMONSTRATE ON JULY 8

## Textile Workers Strike

The National Campaign Committee adopted a resolution condemning the Central and the Maharashtra State Governments for their adamant stand towards the textile workers' strike in Bombay which entered the sixth month on June 19. It congratulated the two and half lakhs striking workers and called upon all sections of the working people, particularly the textile workers in the country to demonstrate their solidarity in support of the long drawn strike.

CITU has called upon its unions to send telegrams to the Maharashtra Labour Minister demanding negotiations with the striking unions. It has also asked the unions to collect struggle funds for the striking workers and send these to its Maharashtra State Committee.

## Rajasthan Electricity Workers' Strike

In another resolution the National Campaign Committee expressed its solidarity with the striking workers of the Rajasthan Electricity Board and demanded of the Rajasthan Government to withdraw all vindictive measures against the workers and open immediate negotiations with the Joint Action Committee to settle the dispute.

In a statement issued to the Press on June 1, B.T. Ranadive, President of CITU denounced the Rajasthan Government for the mass arrest of over two thousand striking workers and threatening to dismiss over forty thousand workers on the ground of absence from work. He said that treating the strike for just demands as absence from work is perverse and brutal in nature, reminiscent of repressions in the pre-independence days. He demanded of the Government for immediate negotiations and congratulated the workers for their valiant struggle.

## Joint Conventions in Public Sector Undertakings

As decided in its meeting of April 16, joint conventions in BHEL and Steel is scheduled to be held respectively on June 21, 22 at Bhopal and July 17, 18 at Bokaro. The joint convention in Coal industry is scheduled to be held on August 21, 22 at Dhanbad. The meeting reviewed the progress to make the conventions successful.

## June 4 Protest Day

The All India Protest Day against the Anti-labour policies of the Government was observed on June 4. Joint mass rallies and demonstrations were held in the states. A large number of unions and federations also held meetings and demonstrations demanding repeal of NSA and ESMA. Various CITU affiliated unions like Industrial Mazdoor Union, Jamshedpur, Vishakha Co-operative Employees' Union, HSCL Employees' Union and Steel Plant Contract Labour Union of Vishakhapatnam,

etc., held joint rallies and meetings with other unions denouncing the anti-labour policies of the Government. The Meghalaya State Campaign Committee held a mass rally at Shillong and demanded scrapping of all anti-labour enactments and bringing down prices of the essential commodities. Copies of the resolution adopted in the rally were sent to the President, Prime Minister, Home Minister and the Labour Minister of India.

In West Bengal gate meetings were held in various factories. Joint rallies were held in various industrial sectors in Durgapur, Asansol, Barrackpur, Hooghly, Howrah etc.

In Tripura rallies and processions were held in the entire state. A central rally was held in Agartala which was addressed by CITU leaders and others.

## Central TUs Boycott Productivity Meet

The constituent Central Trade Unions of the National Campaign Committee boycotted the meeting on productivity convened by the Union Labour Ministry on June 15.

The Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Labour had convened the meeting to consider the Prime Minister's call for observing 1982 as the Year of Productivity.

Rejecting the call, the leaders of the Central Trade Unions jointly issued a reply to the Secretary stating that the Prime Minister never consulted the Central TUs before declaring 1982 as the Productivity Year. Moreover, convening such a meeting when the year was already half way through, did not show any concern for any meaningful consultation with the unions. Criticising the Government's reference to the industrial harmony as an essential requirement for economic progress, the Central TUs said that the manner the Government introduced the four black bills in the Parliament does not reflect its genuine intentions to maintain industrial harmony. Neither the trade unions were consulted before, nor the Indian Labour Conference was called for this purpose as assured before, prior to the introduction of the Bills. In the same manner the NSA and ESMA were enacted, putting a blanket ban on strikes in the so-called essential services. All these actions of the Government made a mockery of the entire process of consultations with the trade unions. Thus rejecting the so-called meeting, the letter demanded convening of the Indian Labour Conference before the Bills are considered in the Parliament.

## Central Trade Unions Complain Regarding Workers Delegation to I.L.O. Session

The eight constituent Central Trade Unions of the National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions have sent the following telegram to Mr. Louis Blanchard, Director General I.L.O. regarding composition of the workers' delegation to the I.L.O. Session:

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## Birth Centenary of Georgi Dimitrov

**T**HE birth centenary of Georgi Dimitrov, the great international proletarian leader was observed around the world on June 18. Dimitrov started his trade union activities as a press worker in Bulgaria. Experiencing the irreconcilable contradictions between the working class and the capitalist class, he soon became a leading luminary in the socialist movement in the country and was elected to the General Council of the Revolutionary Trade Union of Bulgaria and represented the same in the international conferences. He was repeatedly arrested and jailed for his bold exposure of the Government policies and leading massive strike actions.

Working first with Lenin and then with Stalin, Dimitrov's indomitable struggle against capitalism, imperialism and fascism raised him to the frontline position of an international leader of the proletariat and he was elected to the Executive Committee of the Third International. He was implicated in the Riechstag conspiracy by the Nazi Party in Germany. But his bold defence of the revolutionary movement of the proletariat totally shattered the

Nazi conspiracy and earned him world-wide fame. He was elected as the General Secretary of the Communist International in 1935.

The teachings of Dimitrov are of great importance to the present conditions in India. The situation under the growing authoritarianism on the part of the Congress(I) Government and attack on the trade union and democratic rights of the workers, demands trade union unity and broadest mobilisation of the democratic forces to struggle against it. In the international situation also, the danger of war and nuclear holocaust created by the US imperialism aimed against the Soviet Union and the Socialist countries, demand maximum consolidation of the working class and the revolutionary forces in the defence of peace and the socialist camp, upholding the banner of proletarian internationalism.

CITU pays homage to the memory of Dimitrov and pledges to carry forward the struggles according to his teachings applying them correctly to the concrete conditions in India and in the international arena.

### CITU Denounces Israeli Aggression in Western Asia

Com. B.T. Ranadive, President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement on June 22.

The CITU denounces the full scale aggression launched by the Zionist rulers of Israel in Lebanon with the PLO strongholds as its special target. Backed by the US imperialists, who want their control over the oil producing western Asian region, the Zionist aggressors have repeatedly attacked and annexed the Arab territories bit by bit defying the entire world opinion and violating all international norms. Their present exercise is to destroy the Palestenian Liberation forces who are fighting for a country of their own. In the process they have annexed Arab territories, attacked the all-Syrian Arab Deterrent Force stationed in Lebanon and destroyed several thousands of peace-loving ordinary citizens and caused serious damages.

The CITU, on behalf of the Indian working class expresses solidarity with the Arab people, especially the Palestine Liberation organisation and demands that the Govt. of India, in close co-operation with the non-aligned, socialist and peace loving forces of the world, take steps to force the Israeli aggressors to stop this unjust war and quit the occupied territory forthwith.

The CITU directs its affiliated unions and appeals to other trade union Centres to raise their powerful voice of protest against the US-backed Israeli aggression in West Asia and extend full support to the PLO's struggle for their own home land.

### Rush Help to the Palestinian People

In a circular CITU Centre has urged immediate collection of money, medicines etc to be sent to CITU Centre for handing over to the Embassy of Palestine Liberation Organisation at Delhi.

### Mines Development Workers on Struggle

The authorities of the U.P. State Mines Development Corp. acquired 200 bighas of land from the poor harijan peasants in the village Billi without any compensation. After a bitter struggle an agreement was reached to recruit the affected people in the corporation. But violating the agreement the management called interviews for recruitment on April 11 at its office in Obra. Led by CITU, a massive demonstration was organised, which was participated by peasants and workers from all unions except INTUC. The police and the anti-socials swooped on the demonstrators and severely injured several. Charges of dacoity were framed against a number of workers. One worker was dismissed, eight suspended and four were transferred. The workers fought back with a 500 strong demonstration on April 17. Mass meetings were held on May 28 and June 6. Relay fast has started from June 10.

# BHEL Workers Prepare for All India Movement

OVER 300 delegates from all the BHEL plants, offices and sites who participated in the All India BHEL Workers' Convention at Bhopal on 21-22 June, have unanimously approved the Charter of Demands to be submitted to the BHEL management for the forthcoming wage negotiation.

The Convention was organised as per decision of the National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions. All the Central Trade Unions in the Joint Committee for BHEL except the INTUC participated in the Convention.

The Convention elected a Presidium consisting of N.V. Bhaskara Rao (CITU), Suresh Sharma (BMS), Abdul Rasak (AITUC) and M.W. Siddiqui (HMS) to conduct its deliberation.

The Convention adopted resolution paying homage to the martyrs who laid down their lives during working class struggles and the leaders of the trade union movement who passed away during the recent past.

M.K. Pandhe, Secretary-CITU in his speech welcomed the unity witnessed in the Convention. He criticised the functioning of the Joint Committee of BHEL as not a single pending issue of BHEL employees was settled through the Joint Committee. The directives of the BPE regarding linking of wages with productivity came under sharp criticism. He emphasised the need for broadbased united movement of all BHEL employees to force the management and the Government to give up the wage freeze policy.

Homi Daji (AITUC), O.P. Aghi (BMS) and D.P. Shastri (HMS) spoke on behalf of their organisations and stressed the need for united movement all over India.

Twenty delegates from different unions participated in the discussion. They highlighted several issues of BHEL employees which were kept pending for several years and they stressed the need for united struggles which alone would snatch concessions from the unwilling hands of the managements. Some of the speakers pointed out series of malpractices prevailing in the BHEL Undertaking.

The 33-point Charter of Demands adopted by the Convention was thoroughly discussed clause by clause and all the delegates participated in the discussion. The Charter demanded a minimum wage of Rs. 1000/- and D.A. of Rs. 2.50 per point rise in consumer price index numbers, conveyance allowance, housing facilities or 25% to 35% house-rent allowance, improved medical and educational facilities, higher city compensatory allowance, better promotional facilities, further liberalisation of LTC, higher gratuity and P.F. benefits and abolition of contract labour system among other issues.

M.N. Jha, moved a resolution congratulating Bombay textile workers for their glorious strike and condemned the Government for the policy of negotiating only with the INTUC union which has lost all the base among the workers. The resolution demanded immediate negotiations with the unions leading the strike and settlement of all the outstanding disputes. It was adopted unanimously.

By another resolution the Convention condemned the 4 Anti-Labour Black Bills introduced in the last session of Parliament. This resolution which was moved by O.P. Aghi called upon all the BHEL workers to organise demonstration and rallies on 8 July, the opening Day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament to protest against these Bills as per call of the National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions.

The resolution of Programme of Joint Movement of BHEL employees was moved by M.K. Pandhe. It called upon the BHEL workers to observe 15 July as the Charter of Demands Day by holding demonstrations in all the plants, offices and sites and popularise the demands among the workers. The resolution also provided for formation of an Action Committee of BHEL Workers consisting of 2 representatives of Central Trade Unions and one representative of each of some independent unions to decide further programme of movement from time to time.

The Convention ended in an atmosphere of unity and determination to carry forward united struggle of the BHEL employees.

A well attended rally was held on 22 June at Pip-lani Market which was addressed by M.K. Pandhe (CITU), Homi Daji (AITUC), O.P. Aghi (BMS), and Brij Mohan Toofan (HMS).

## Comrade Pankaj Acharya

The Working Class expresses its deep sorrow at the passing away of Comrade Pankaj Acharya on June 11, at the age of 58.

She started as a trade union worker and later on joined the democratic women's movement in early forties. She held the post of the General Secretary of Paschim Banga Ganatantrik Mahila Samity and was elected as Vice-President of All India Democratic Women's Association in the first Conference held in Madras last year. She firmly upheld the doctrine of class struggle and proletarian internationalism and was elected as a member of the West Bengal State Committee of CPI (M). At her death the democratic movement has lost a valued comrade.

The Working Class sends its heartfelt condolences to the members of her bereaved family.

# Government Refuses to Fix Criteria for Minimum Wages

THE long awaited meeting of the Minimum Wages (Central) Advisory Board was held on May 25. On behalf of CITU, R. Umanath attended the meeting. Following the decision taken earlier, he had also submitted a detailed memorandum covering all issues to be discussed in the meeting.

Union Labour Minister, in his opening speech claimed that some advance has been registered in fixing minimum wages in several states and in 28 mining employments and 4 others. He also claimed that instructions have been issued to strengthen the inspecting machinery and take action if a workman in a scheduled employment is paid less than the minimum wages fixed. Umanath, while speaking on the agenda proved that some of these claims were bogus.

The meeting had 14 items on the agenda, of which 4 of them were suggested by CITU and two were suggested by the representatives of the management. The entire discussion was closed within 4 hours and the main item i.e. fixing criteria for minimum wage remained as before, because the Govt. refused to honour the norms laid down by the 15th Indian Labour Conference for fixation of need-based minimum wage. On the otherhand the Govt. tried to bring in a new concept of "minimum wage to subsist upon" which was even lower than the "poverty line wage" which the Planning Commission had commended and the entire trade union movement had rejected earlier.

The two items proposed by the management sought to virtually re-open the earlier decisions of the Board that claim for minimum wages, where not implemented, must be paid with arrears upto one year from the date of claim. Umanath strongly opposed this and said that the managements are legally bound to pay the same from the date of revision. They cannot take the plea that the workers had not claimed revision in minimum wage and evade their responsibility. The decision to pay arrears upto one year itself is a concession to the owners which was taken when he could not attend the meeting. As there was no valid ground, it would be a bad precedent to re-open the decision and thus the agenda was closed.

Another item proposed by the management was intended to take away the right of the State Govts to fix minimum wages in industries which have branches in several states on the ground that higher quantum of wages fixed by one state gives cause for labour unrest. This was intended to depress the wages on the line of backward regions. Umanath opposed this concept and demanded that following an upward revision in minimum wage,

the industry must bring the other units also at par. He argued that the owners want the prices of steel, coal and other inputs at uniform prices, but refuse to grant equal pay for equal work, which means that they want to take advantage of the huge unemployment situation in the country to depress wages. This view was supported by many and a consensus emerged that minimum wages in such industries must be national in character by upward revision of minimum wages.

On the question of criteria for fixing minimum wage, there was a discussion. But no decision could be taken due to opposition by the management while the workers' representatives unanimously demanded 15th I.L.C. norms. The Govt refused to take a decision, or accept the suggestion of CITU to form a sub-committee to recommend the criteria. The Govt also refused to accept the demand of the CITU to grant Rs. 500/- as minimum wages per month as an interim measure.

On the question of variable dearness allowance different rates were found to prevail. The Govt. having found that as in many states the existing formula is more than 0.02 paise per day as proposed by them, it refused to take a decision in the meeting and left it to be sorted out by the other Board on Minimum Wages, in which Chandi Prasad is the nominee of CITU.

CITU exposed the hollowness of the claim that implementation of the Minimum Wages Act has helped the workers to improve their wages. Umanath pointed out that bitter struggles had to be fought for increase of every paisa. The attitude of the management of not implementing the minimum wages fixed under the Act is manifest from the agenda papers itself (para 4 above). He further pointed out that Govt's failure to prosecute the management for not implementing the minimum wages fixed under the Act has created this situation. He demanded that some wideranging changes would have to be brought in the Act itself. It was decided that members of the Board shall suggest the amendments which they would like to be introduced.

The Govt admitted that several states have claimed more funds for creation of an adequate machinery for implementation of the Act. It was decided that the Labour Secretary would take up the question of allocation of more funds. The demand of CITU for creation of a tripartite machinery to ensure implementation was not accepted by the Govt.

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## CITU Observes Foundation Day

The thirteenth foundation day of CITU was observed at the Central Office at New Delhi on May 30. About five hundred workers from Delhi and the adjoining industrial areas including a large number of women workers attended the celebration. Groups of workers marched to the Central Office holding high the banner of CITU, raising slogans against the anti-labour policies of the Government of India and demanding repeal of the draconian Acts like NSA and ESMA.

The entire premises were decorated with red festoons and chains. Thirteen CITU flags fluttered at the Central lawn. The middle and large CITU flag was hoisted by Samar Mukherjee M.P., Treasurer-CITU. The meeting was preceded by songs performed by the PARCHAM group, Delhi.

Addressing the meeting, B.T. Ranadive, President of CITU, explained the objective and policy of CITU and traced the development of CITU through intense struggles during the last twelve years. He called upon the workers to strive for trade union unity and joint struggles, while gearing up independent activities of CITU to mobilise the democratic forces against the growing authoritarianism of the Congress (I) Government, to work for the alliance with the peasantry and the agricultural labourers and to raise the banner of proletarian internationalism and develop struggles in defence of peace and the socialist camp against the war machinations of the U.S. imperialism.

The celebrations ended with two dramas performed by Jana Natya Manch, Delhi. The Foundation Day was observed by the State Committees also at different State Capitals. Various CITU Unions likewise observed the Foundation Day in the country which was attended by different sections of workers.

## All India Protest Day By Cement Workers

Ninety thousand cement workers in sixty factories all over India will observe July 12 as the All India Protest Day against the underhand dealing between Cement Manufacturers' Association and the INTUC. A meeting of CITU, AITUC and BMS unions held in New Delhi on May 31 decided the programme of joint movement in Cement industry.

Ignoring the Charter of Demands submitted by the CITU, AITUC, BMS and other unions, the CMA-INTUC conspiracy forced an arbitration on all the workers with the Charter of Demands submitted by INTUC only. The Government of India gave its approval to the clandestine deal and issued notifications accordingly. Despite the fantastic profits earned by the manufacturers due to the dual pricing system introduced by the Government, the arbitrators consisting of Ramanujam, General Secretary of INTUC and Nivetia gave an interim relief of a paltry Rs. 80/- to the workers, while the officers were given an additional benefit of Rs. 300/- by the managements.

The meeting decided to issue joint leaflets highlighting the demands of the cement workers and exposing the role of the INTUC and the CMA. The meeting also decided to hold three regional conventions in the Southern, Northern and the Eastern regions to mobilise the workers in the joint movement against the cement barons.

The meeting further decided to prepare for one day's strike the date of which would be finalised in the next meeting to be held in August.

The CITU called upon all its unions in the cement industry to make full preparations for launching the countrywide movement and mobilise the workers with the following demands: constitute all India bipartite committee to consider the Charter of Demands

submitted by all the unions; scrap the Ramanujam-Nivetia arbitration no rise in, work-load due to the interim relief.

## Coal Miners Prepare For Countrywide Movement

THE All India Coal Workers Federation in its meeting held in Calcutta on 15-16 June decided to prepare for a united countrywide movement of six lakhs coal miners in co-operation with other Central Trade Unions and mine workers' federations.

The meeting condemned the CIL management for non-implementation of several clauses of the last bipartite settlement such as construction of houses, provision of drinking water facilities, medical and educational facilities etc. When Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI) was going into the question of non-implementation the INTUC withdrew all its nominees from the bipartite forums to help the CIL management. The INTUC leaders contacted the Union Energy Minister, A.B.A Ghani Khan Chowdhury and Union Labour Minister, Bhagwat Jha Azad demanding reorganisation of the bipartite forum with more representatives from INTUC. The Union Labour Ministry has started conducting verification promptly to help the INTUC in achieving its nefarious objective. The CITU, AITUC and HMS unions have decided to boycott the verification and demanded immediate convening of the JBCCI.

The meeting finalised the Charter of Demands of the Coal mine workers for the forthcoming wage negotiations. The previous agreement expires on 31 December. All the affiliated unions will submit the Charter of Demands to the management on July 19 by organising demonstrations before all the mine offices.

As per decision of the constituents of the National Campaign  
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# Lock-out in Guntupalli Wagon Workshop S.C. Rly.

**R**EPORTED malpractice in recruitment in Guntupalli Wagon Workshop (S.C. Rly) enraged the workers to such an extent that on publication of the list there was spontaneous protest on April 23 last. The mood of the workers was such that all six unions in the workshop, both recognised and unrecognised, jointly formulated a 13-point charter of demands. The authorities talked to the representatives of the workers in the afternoon but no settlement could be arrived at.

The authorities with the aims of dividing the workers invited the leaders of two recognised unions affiliated to AIRF and NFIR for talks and these two branches dissociated themselves from the movement. It is alleged that some of the relatives of the office-bearers of these two unions were accommodated in the list of recruitment and hence their dissociation. But the struggle continued creating a very tense situation in the entire locality and the civil authorities intervened. At their behest, the unrecognised unions were called by the authorities for negotiations on April 26.

Even before this negotiation, the authorities had pasted a notice declaring lock-out from April 27. The result of the negotiation was therefore obvious. Although a settlement was reached during negotiations, the authorities refused to enter into any written settlement. A lock-out was imposed from the morning of April 27, which was blatantly illegal. The authorities insisted that the said lock-out would be lifted only when the workers express regret in writing and give an undertaking of good behaviour in future.

While the recognised unions helped the authorities in order to create a fear psychosis among workers, the S.C. Rly Employees Union (CITU) took up the matter.

Samar Mukherjee M.P. as well as the CITU Central Office intervened and once again the authorities were forced to negotiate with the four unrecognised unions on May 3. These unions could prove that the workers are with them, as the workers accepted the terms of settlement negotiated by the unions. Finally the lock-out was lifted on May 5, as an enquiry into the list of candidates was to be undertaken and the victimisation was to be reviewed.

In order to frustrate this enquiry and also to penalise the workers for their spontaneous outburst of anger, the authorities imposed a break-in service

from May 19. This was a clear going-back on the agreement. The S.C. Rly Employees Union has once again taken up the matter with the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) at Hyderabad and the Central Office of the CITU is pursuing the matter. The workers are continuing their struggle to secure justice.

### AIRF Calls for Sustained Struggle

The General Council of AIRF which met at Waltair from May 29 to June 1, 1982 unanimously resolved to mobilise railwaymen for sustained struggle. Listing various demands which have not been fulfilled and some agreements which have not been implemented, the resolution came to the conclusion that "Now there is neither any utility nor any sense in carrying on negotiations with the Railway Board". This was because apart from these demands, the Railway Board has started doing things "in an arbitrary and unilateral manner" and started a new offensive of victimisation. The resolution says "Use of ESMA and NSA and Rule 14 (ii) to suppress the trade union activities, delay in conceding the just and legitimate demands of railwaymen will justify immediate direct action". But the AIRF has only decided to mobilise railwaymen in demonstration before the Divisional Offices on July 2 and General Managers Office on August 8. The AIRF decided that after judging the organisational preparedness, the annual convention of AIRF, to be held on October 9-12 next, would take a final decision on struggle.

There was, however, no mention of the necessity to unite with other organisations of railwaymen and other Central Govt. employees.

### DREU Conference

The annual conference of Dakshin Railway Employees Union was held at ERODE on April 17-18, 1982. Over 350 delegates participated. Sukomal Sen M.P. leader of the State Government Employees Federation, inaugurated the conference. He dwelt on the history of the railway trade union movement and the glorious tradition which the DREU had been carrying forward. The fact that this union had been carrying on its activities for over three decades without any recognition showed how the railwaymen were attached to it. The Conference re-elected K. Anandan Nambiar and P.V. Ramdas as President and General Secretary. The executive committee was strengthened by inducting some new cadres for building up around activities. □

# Whither Organisation of Safety in Indian Mines

**C**ALLOUSNESS shown by the Govt. of India and the Mines Managements, both in Public and Private Sectors, has been criticised on several occasions by the Trade Unions. Yet the Government has not taken any serious step to improve the organisation of safety in mines.

The question was raised by the Trade Unions during the 5th Conference on the Safety in Mines held in New Delhi in December 1980 and the Government agreed to review the working of the safety organisation in the Mines. The Govt. of India has now constituted a special committee. This committee has prepared a questionnaire covering various aspects of working of the office of the Director General of Mines and Safety. M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU, appeared before the Committee on May 22 to explain the view-points of the CITU.

One of the major defects of the Safety Organisation is the inadequate staff of the D.G.M.S. Office when there are about one million workers working in the mines spread all over the country. With only 143 technical officers with a skeleton staff it is practically not possible to inspect the 500 coal mines and 5000 other mines even once in a year. Moreover, the officers of the D.G.M.S have to depend on the Mines Management for hospitality, transport facilities, residential accommodation etc. Naturally the obliged officers quite often ignore the non-observance of the safety rules. The wage scales of the D.G.M.S. office are governed by the Third Pay Commission which are much below the wage scales prevailing in the coal mines. The CITU demanded improvement in the conditions of the employees of the DGMS as an essential requirement for improvement in the working of the Safety organisation in mines.

The CITU also criticised the proposal to detach the Mines Rescue Station Organisation from the D.G.M.S. and handing them over to the managements of mines, as the mines managements do not pay adequate attention to this question. There should be more powers to the D.G.M.S organisation to take strong action against the recalcitrant mines management. The present penalties are just symbolic and do not have much impact on the present mines managements.

The CITU emphasised the need for surprise checks of the mines to ensure proper implementation of the safety rules. Despite the observations of the Jitpur Court of Enquiry in 1973 that there should be atleast quarterly inspection of mechanised units of the mines, no such machinery has been evolved even after a lapse of nine years.

The plans of the Coal Mines are also not properly inspected by the D.G.M.S office. The glaring Chasnala incident could have been averted if the plans of the mines were correct.

The study of the accidents has also not been carried out in a thorough manner and the reliability of the mines records are not properly verified. Quite often the accidents are also not reported. The differentiation of reportable and non-reportable accidents has also done immense harm to the question of mine safety. It was therefore, suggested that all the accidents should be thoroughly analysed with a view to take steps to avert similar occurrences in the same or in other mines.

Today, the Internal Safety Organisation exist only in paper in several mines. Though the Safety Officers have been appointed, they do not discharge the responsibilities properly. At the first instance, selection of sub-standard timber for Props is one of the major causes of mines accidents. But the Safety Officers allow such timbers despite the opposition of the workers.

The pit safety committees, wherever they exist also do not function properly. They meet once in a while at the whims of the management and the meetings are concluded without transacting much business. Though the proposal of appointment of workers' inspectors was advanced by the special committee appointed for the purpose, the Govt. has not yet taken any step to implement the report. The committee recommended that the workers' inspectors should be elected through secret ballot. But no where such inspectors have been elected with the result that the workers have practically no right to inspect the mines and to demand the observation of safety rules. CITU urged for immediate steps to be taken to appoint such workers' inspectors in all the mines.

CITU also opposed mechanisation in mines to ensure safety as advocated by the mines managements and demanded that the whole policy of mechanisation should be reviewed since it is causing lot of unemployment and social tensions in the mines for want of additional evidence of employment.

The CITU criticised the manner in which the standards for Manager's Competency Certificate have been brought down, affecting the efficiency of the management. It further criticised the utter neglect of health and environment in coal and other mines. The ILO PIAC Mission has pointed out that there has been no systematic study of the occupational diseases in coal mines. The conditions

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## Retrograde "Understanding" by T.L.A.

THE Textile Labour Association (TLA) triumphantly announced in the journal "National Labour Review" of April that in conformity with its programme for women's welfare, it has arrived at an "understanding" with the Ahmedabad Textile Mills Association (ATMA) "to expand the orbit of employment of women in the textile industry". When the process will be complete it will augment the number of women workers from 3000 to 6000. The TLA said that during the International Year of Women, 1975, it had arrived at an agreement with the ATMA to replace women by women workers only.

It claims that the present understanding is a further improvement since the managements of the textile mills will reserve "a few" Blue Blouse jobs for the women only, at present in Ahmedabad. Then the "understanding" will be extended to the textile mills in the entire state of Gujarat where affiliates of NLO are representative unions under the BIR Act".

From the above "understanding" reached by the TLA, it seems that they have achieved the emancipation of the women workers. The real picture of the women workers is however, different. The "understanding" does not mention anywhere as to when the process of expansion of the orbit of employment of women will be complete. With the alarmingly growing unemployment of both men and women and discrimination of women under a bourgeois-landlord system, one can well imagine what will be the position of women's unemployment in particular in the years to come.

While the TLA fancied to expand the orbit of women's employment, they never bothered about the dismissals of the women workers from the mills of Ahmedabad itself, nor about their agitations. Arvind Mills, Ahmedabad terminated the services of 24 women workers with one to sixteen years of service. They have been agitating and giving dharnas with the male workers at the mill gate since May. Besides reinstatement of the victimised employees, their other demands include benefits of leave, P.F., Bonus, abolition of contract system etc. But TLA's "emancipation of women" understanding is surreptitiously silent over these issues. The All India Co-ordination Committee of Working Women has pointed out that the women about whom the TLA is so much concerned are all contract labourers working on low wages of Rs. 5-6 per day for more than ten hours without any job security.

The "Understanding" of TLA moreover openly discriminates against the women workers by making provisions for them only in certain sections of employment like in Reeling, Winding, Doubling, Water room and Sweepers' job. It thus puts a bar against them for Mukadams, Oilers, Fitters or any other supervisory posts. The "understanding" is thus in full conformity with the practice of the Congress rule of not promoting women to skilled jobs. Also contrary to the previous agreement by the TLA during the International Women's Year, there are records to show that in textile mills women workers are being replaced by men workers. While the general recruitment age group for women is 18 to 25, the TLA's understanding with the management to recruit women of the age group between 28 to 35 and that too as "Badli" workers, serves the ulterior motive of the management. Maternity benefits and provision of creche for babies are among the main demands of the working women. The age limit of 28 to 35 has been well thought of by the management since in this age group women workers would not like to have further children, nor they may have any children below six years of age. So the question of maternity benefits and creche are being crossed over in a well calculated manner. Recruitment as "Badli" worker only provides the extra safety for the management, for in case of any "mishap" beyond the calculations, the "Badli" worker can be thrown out in one stroke.

The last nail which has been put into the coffin is that the understanding will be extended to all the textile mills in Gujarat where the affiliates of NLO are "representative" unions according to the BIR Act. The working class is still witnessing the gift of the BIR Act in the Bombay textile mills. While one of the main demands of five month old strike of the two and half lakh textile workers of Bombay is repeal of the Act, TLA with its reactionary understanding with the management has stabbed the workers from behind and made the position of the women workers more vulnerable.

The All India Co-ordination Committee of Working Women has condemned this understanding.

The workers of the Gujarat textile mills must reject this "understanding" lock, stock and barrel and build up united trade union movement to make common cause with the rightful demands of the women workers.

# Resist Anti-Labour Black Bills

(from page two)

“Strongly protest at Government of India’s decision to nominate only INTUC selected workers’ delegation to the sixty-eighth session of ILO stop only twentyfive per cent organised Working Class is represented in the session and the workers’ delegation not truly representative stop Government of India granted veto power to INTUC without making efforts for a unified delegation stop we record our strong objection to the worker delegation and lodge complaint at the manner of selection of this delegation P. Ramamurti M.P. General Secretary CITU Indrajit Gupta M.P. General Secretary AITUC Ram Naresh Singh General Secretary BMS D.D. Vasist General Secretary HMS Jatin Chakravarty General Secretary UTUC Pritish Chandra General Secretary UTUC-LS J.S. Dara President Rashtriya Mazdoor Congress A.P. Chakravarti General Secretary TUCC.”

## Solidarity Actions in Support of Textile Strike

THE non-INTUC unions in the textile industry in Maharashtra decided to go in for one day’s strike in the entire state on July 8 expressing solidarity with the two and half lakhs striking textile workers of Bombay. The resolution adopted in their conference on June 19 at Bombay said that the one day’s strike will be a warning strike as a prelude to an indefinite strike in the entire state if the Govt. fails to open negotiations with the striking unions. Over one thousand delegates from Bombay, Nagpur, Kolhapur, Solapur, Ichalkarnji, Sangli, Srirampur, Dhule, Jalgaon and Hinganghat attended the Conference. P.K. Kurane (CITU), G.V. Chitnis (AITUC), Somnath Dube, Prabhakar More (HMS), Yeshawant Chavan, D.S Kulkarni (Sarva Shramik Sangh) and T.S. Borde of Maharashtra Girni Kamgarh union addressed the Conference.

Delhi units of CITU, AITUC, HMS, UTUC and BMS staged a day long dharna before the Prime Minister’s residence of June 21. A memorandum demanding negotiations with the striking unions was submitted to the Prime Minister which was received by her Secretary.

### CITU Calls for Further Solidarity

B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU has issued the following statement to the press on June 21.

“The CITU congratulates the Bombay textile workers whose struggle has now entered into the sixth month. Their unity and determination has laid bare the attempt of the Govt to impose the INTUC union over the workers against their will. Their struggle has therefore acquired importance not merely because of the just economic demands

of the workers but also for safeguarding the right of freedom of association and right to collective bargaining and against the policy of imposing unwanted unions.

The CITU denounces the Govt’s stubborn refusal to open dialogue with the struggling workers, even when repression and all attempts by the INTUC union to break the strike through black-legs have failed. The Govt’s vague assurance of sympathetic consideration of workers’ demands after they resume work, is nothing but an open call for unconditional surrender which the workers have rightly rejected.

The CITU demands that the Govt. must open negotiations with the leaders of the struggling workers for arriving at a negotiated settlement. The CITU appreciates the solidarity action like the dharna by the Delhi Textile workers before the Prime Minister’s house today, the decision of the entire textile workers of Maharashtra for one day’s warning strike on 8th July ’82 and indefinite strike later and many others through out the country and calls upon its affiliated unions for intensification of further solidarity action all over the country to force the Govt. to come to a settlement without further delay.”

## Safety in Indian Mines

(from page Eight)

in other mines are worse. The workers suffering from occupational diseases have to lose their jobs instead of getting adequate protection from the management. The workers are afraid of facing medical examination for fear of losing job. It is, therefore necessary to make serious efforts to study the occupational diseases and ensure full protection to the workers who became the victims of those diseases as a result of their work in mines.

The CITU also emphasised the need for trade unions to acquire powers to prosecute the mines management for violation of safety rules. In this connection, the CITU strongly criticised the scuttling of the report of the Select Committee of Parliament in 1973 which recommended several amendments to the Mines Act. Despite repeated assurances of the Labour Minister the bill has not seen the light of the day. The CITU demanded introduction of a comprehensive bill before the Parliament after consulting with the trade unions so that the provisions of safety rules can be properly ensured in mines.

The CITU denounced the attitude of the Govt. which argued of paucity of funds to strengthen the safety organisation in the mines. In the end, it demanded that a suitable machinery should be established at the DGMS level to periodically review the working of the DGMS organisation in co-operation with the trade unions so that proper improvement can be effected in this organisation. □

### KERALA

#### Grim Struggle of the P&T Employees

The Post and Telegraph employees are on a grim struggle against the mass scale victimisations inflicted in the wake of the January 19 strike. In a state of undeclared emergency all sorts of obstructions are being created in the normal functioning of the unions opposed to the anti-labour policies of the Government. The Office-bearers and activists of the NFPTE have been transferred to distant places, permissions to hold meetings have been refused and punitive measures are being adopted for holding peaceful demonstrations. Even recovery of an amount of Rs 987.60 was ordered from the salary of an employee for alleged pasting of posters on the eve of the strike.

The picture of victimisations can be gauged from the following massive figures:

Rule 5 terminations	11
Rule 5 notices	18
Suspensions	30
Rule 37 transfers	85
Transfer to distant places	398
Rule 16 Charge Sheets	165
Rule 14 Chargesheets	26
Court Cases	30
Break in Service	2,850
Diesnon	Over 7,000

The circle unions launched mass campaigns among the public to expose the authoritarian attitude of the regime. Hundreds of Pada Yatras and Corner meetings were organised. Dharnas and relay — fasts were observed before the circle offices. But the Govt. remained adamant and tried to instigate its stooge unions to disrupt the movement. The workers however, remained united and started non-cooperation movement from May 1. Issuing a statement in the press, the Union Communication Minister, Stephen said that he would

not talk with the unions even if the entire communication system came to a standstill. The non-cooperation movement did in fact bring the communication system to a standstill. It was however suspended on May 16, because of the forthcoming elections. The NFPTE is determined to carry forward the struggle till the victimisations are withdrawn.

### MADHYA PRADESH

#### Lathi Charge on SIMCO Workers

The Police made a brutal lathi charge on the workers of Simco Steel Foundry, a Birla firm in Gwalior on June 16, seriously injuring fifteen workers. The workers under the joint trade union front, with CITU as its convenor have been on a bitter struggle since more than seventy five days demanding reinstatement of forty four victimised employees. At the instance of the management the police swooped down upon the workers who were staging a peaceful dharna at the gate. The police arrested sixteen workers and clamped down Section 144. The undaunted workers however have stepped up the agitation.

#### Struggle in Vinode Vimal Mills

Eight thousand workers are on a grim struggle for more than nine months against the closure of the mill at Ujjain. Promises given by the Madhya Pradesh Government have proved to be fake. Solidarity actions by various trade unions are coming forth. Morale of the workers are however high and they are carrying forward the struggle, determined to compel the Government to take over the mill.

In a statement issued to the press on June 7, the Mill Mazdoor Union (CITU) has charged the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the NTC management for hatching a conspiracy to close down the Hira Mills of Ujjain like the Vinode Mills. Various looms have already been closed down. The management has unleashed repressions on the workers. Half a day lay off has become an usual affair in various sections. Any protest is met with threat of closure. Repeated representation to the Labour Department have fetched no results. The Mill Mazdoor Union has called upon the workers to remain united and prepare for bitter struggles against the threat of closure.

### RAJASTHAN

#### Solidarity with the Electricity Workers

Solidarity actions including courting arrests by various trade unions and workers supporting the indefinite strike by the State Electricity Board Workers are being held in all parts of the state. The Government with the help of INTUC and anti socials have let loose repressions on the workers with massive arrests and threat of dismissals. But the undeterred workers have stuck to their guns continuing strike with complete success.

#### Victimisation in Hindusthan Zinc

No sooner than a CITU union was formed in Hindusthan Zinc at Udaipur, the management combined with the INTUC to unleash a reign of repressions on the workers. Having failed to wean away the workers from CITU, they dismissed three workers without any charge sheet or domestic enquiry. Led by CITU, the workers in the factory have started agitations demanding reinstatement of the victimised employees.

## **CITU Union Formed in Dongarpur**

Angered by the pro-management activities of the previous union, the workers of Syntex factory in Dongarpur, the majority of whom are Adivasis, called a gate meeting on May 31 and invited the CITU leader, Ayaldas to address them. The management hired goondas to terrorise the workers, but they were driven away by the vast gathering. After the meeting, the workers formed the CITU union and raised slogans hailing the CITU. Ayaldas called upon the workers to remain undeterred against the attacks of the management and its hirelings and launch united struggles for mitigation of their demands.

## **Dharna in Udaipur Cotton Mill**

Led by CITU, the workers of Udaipur Cotton Mills (NTC) staged indefinite dharna and relay hunger strike at the gate demanding secret ballot for recognition of the union and installation of diesel engine for electricity to make up against the power shortage.

After one month of the agitation the Labour Department was forced to give a written assurance to take steps to meet the demands. In the wake of the struggle a large number of followers of the INTUC union joined the CITU union making INTUC an absolutely insignificant force in the mill.

## **WEST BENGAL**

### **Nationalise the Jute Industry**

Denouncing the proposal of the jute barons to keep the jute mills closed for one week in a month, Krishnapada Ghosh, the Labour Minister of W. Bengal reiterated the demand for nationalisation of the jute industry. Speaking to the press on June 11, he said that the plea of crisis as projected by

the jute barons was only to extract more financial assistance from the Centre. Making a scathing criticism against the Central Govt. he said that instead of forcing the jute barons to reopen the fifteen closed mills, which have affected more than fifty thousand workers, the Central Govt. had granted a massive assistance to them to the tune of one hundred crores of rupees during the tenure of Pranab Mukherjee as the Commerce Minister for purchase of raw jute and modernisation. Knowing fully well that the money was never utilised for the purpose, the Centre has remained silent over it. The attitude of the Centre has given filip to the jute barons to intensify their anti-labour actions and remain adamant even to open talks on the closed mills.

Tracing the nefarious anti-labour plans of the jute barons, Niren Ghosh, M.P., President and Kamal Sarkar, MLA, General Secretary of Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union (CITU), said in a press statement on June 8 that having blatantly violated the agreement reached in 1979 on grades and scales and on work-load, the jute barons under the advice of the IJMA Chairman deliberately started locking out the jute mills and effect production cut in all the mills. The statement further said that jute unions had jointly conducted five general strikes during the last decade. Any indefinite strike at the moment would not serve any purpose. The Left Front Government had already declared the lock-outs illegal. But in spite of the assurances given by the Union Finance Minister and the Commerce Minister, the Central Government has not intervened in the matter. To take the issues to the people at large, the BCMU have proposed for one day's strike and a mass rally at Calcutta. It also demanded more powers to the State Govt. to effectively deal with the misdeeds of the jute barons. BCMU called upon all jute workers to come together to prepare for an united mass movement to compel the Government of India to

nationalise the jute industry including raw jute trade.

## **Trade Unions Condemn RBI Management**

In a joint statement issued to the press on June 18 at Calcutta, the CITU, BPTUC, TUCC, 12th July Committee, Central Govt. Employees' Co ordination Committee, Mercantile Federation and Bank Employees' Federation, W. Bengal have condemned the action of the management of Reserve Bank of India to withdraw from the clearing house and transfer its statutory functions to other banks. The statement said that the action of the management was only to vilify the struggling employees, as if they had resorted to go-slow, although, as per their programme, they had only boycotted overtime. Moreover, by such action the management has added to the difficulties and harassment to the public and the State Govt. The statement charged the management for closing all doors of negotiations and unleashing a series of vindictive steps like summary dismissals, suspensions, chargesheets, obtaining injunction from Court prohibiting all normal trade union activities and arbitrary wage cuts. The trade unions demanded of the management to immediately withdraw all punitive measures and to open negotiations with the All India Reserve Bank Employees' Association to settle all disputed issues.

## **UTTAR PRADESH**

### **Protest Week Against Govt's Anti-labour Policies**

The United Trade Union Co-ordination Committee of U.P. in its meeting at Lucknow on June 8 decided to observe a protest week from July 8-14 throughout the state against the anti-labour and repressive policies of Congress(I) Govt. at the Centre and in the State. The meeting was of unanimous opinion that the Govt. of U.P., in pursuance of the

policies of the Central Govt. have unleashed unprecedented repressions on all non-INTUC unions and other struggling trade unions, in collaboration with the employers. Goonda attacks are being launched with the help of the police to break the united movements and strike actions. Conciliation proceedings are being turned into a farce, agreements violated and dismissals and arrests of the union activists have become the order of the day. The State Committee condemned the action of police who arrested Harsahay Singh, President of the State Committee while he was staging dharna along with other workers in Bareilly to protest against police excesses. The CITU State Com-

mittee in its meeting on June 12 and 13 decided to mobilise maximum number of workers for participation in the programmes of the protest week, which will include wearing of black badges, demonstrations, dharnas, relay-hunger strikes, processions and mass rallies.

### Anti-labour Black Bills Day

The State Committee of CITU started preparations for the success of the anti-labour black bills day on July 8. A meeting of the United Co-ordination Committee will be convened to mobilise the various trade unions for demonstrations and rallies in the state capital and at all industrial centres.

### Coal Miners

(from page six)

Committee the All India Coal Workers' Convention will be held at Dhanbad on 21 and 22 August to decide the future course of all India action. The AICWF welcomed the decision to have such a convention and gave a call to all the unions to make the convention a grand success.

The meeting further condemned the Eastern Coal fields management for not honouring the two agreements signed with the Central Trade Unions in the wake of their decision to go on strike. It demanded immediate implementation of all clauses of the agreements failing which the trade unions will have to resort to another strike in ECL.

### Working Committee meeting of CITU

The Working Committee meeting of CITU will be held at Bangalore from July 23 to 25. Regarding arrival at Bangalore and return reservations inform:

C. Nanjundappa, General Secretary, Karnataka State Committee of CITU, Room No. 4, Ratan Mahal, 4th Cross, Sampegi Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560 003.

The meeting strongly criticised the callousness of the CIL management in ignoring environmental problems in coal mines, as a result scores of villages have been declared unsafe for habitation by the Government. Sand stowing is not done after extraction of coal with the result that the land caves in causing serious threat to the lives of persons. The lack of attention to the safety of workers has resulted in several accidents and loss of life. The decision of the Committee on Workers Inspectors has not been implemented while trade union suggestions for improvement of safety are not being attended to. The meeting decided to educate the workers on these issues so that movements can be built up to pressurise the managements.

The meeting condemned the BPE directive regarding linking wages with productivity and warned the managements that it will have to face countrywide strikes if they persist in implementing the directive.

The meeting condemned the four anti-working class black Bills introduced in the last session of Parliament and appealed to all coal workers to organise demonstrations in all the coal mines on July 8 as per the call

### Solidarity with the Bombay Textile Workers

The United Co-ordination Committee decided to hold solidarity actions in support of the Bombay textile workers' strike. A day will be fixed at the end of the month in consultation with other trade unions, when demonstrations, dharnas, relay fast and rallies will be held demanding negotiation with the striking unions. The State Committee of CITU called upon the affiliated unions to send protest telegrams to the Maharashtra Labour Minister and also to raise struggle funds for the striking workers.

of the National Campaign Committee.

It was decided to hold the meeting of the Working Committee of AICWF at Dhanbad on August 20.

A deputation on behalf of the federation met the Chairman, CIL, and drew his attention to the prevailing discontent among the coal workers. A memorandum submitted on behalf of the federation pointed out the major issues agitating the minds of coal workers. The delegation consisted of M.K. Pandhe, Sunil Basu Roy, Bamapada Mukherjee, Haradhan Roy, Santosh Datta, Gopinath Day, S. Sudevan and Raju.

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# YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT—MAIN CONCERN

**I**N his report to the 68th session of International Labour Conference, the Director General ILO, expressed concern at the growing unemployment particularly amongst the youth. It is stated that "One inhabitant out of five in the world today is between 15 and 24 years of age. Over three-quarters of them or 665 million are concentrated in the developing regions, with 60 per cent living in Asia. They include 451 million adolescents under the age of 20 (53 per cent) and 406 million young adults."

The report also states "The fact remains that the problems caused by the influx of young people on the employment market are far more acute in developing countries than in the industrialised world. At the present moment, four times more adolescents and almost three times more young adults are working or looking for work in the former than in the latter."

The figures quoted in the report indicate the number of young persons in India, as 139 millions. Child labour in India has acquired a menacing proportion. Similarly the number of registered unemployed in the Employment Exchanges has reached the colossal figure of 18 million in January 1982. The figures of youth unemployment in 1980 as percentage of total unemployment show that India is the third highest in the field with 67.2 per cent.

## Neo-Colonialist Exploitation

The report however failed to pin-point the reason for such state of affairs. The character of I.L.O. remains a handicap in calling "Spade-a-spade". The situation in developing countries has come to this pass because the ruling classes in these countries mostly have sought to develop capitalism in the present era of its decay. In the process they have landed themselves in the clutches of the imperialist countries, who, through their protectionist policies, adverse trade relations, World Bank/I.M.F. loans etc, have forced these countries to change their policies, and open doors of their country for the unlimited exploitation of cheap labour and loot of the natural resources by the multinationals. We in India are facing the burden of these policies.

## Cause of Alarm

The report states "The employment problems facing young people, whether they are the victims of forced inactivity or are simply resigned to accepting an unsatisfactory job are altogether alarming, both because of the human and social costs involved and because of the long term consequences". It further states "They are more directly and more immediately affected than others by an increase in the job supply. Being the last hired, they are inevitably the first fired; yet, at the same time, they are invariably the last hired because, as soon as the employment situation improved, the employers look first for experienced workers."

The report also states "In many countries whether

industrialised or developing, the number of qualified young people out of work is taking on alarming proportions. ... The level of employment varies and certain categories are more seriously affected than others, for instance, those from poor families, those with very little schooling or training, young migrants, the handicapped and young women... Because of the economic crises and structural shortcomings, moreover, the traditional wage-earning sector is less and less able to absorb the young workers coming on to the employment market."

## System of Education

The report states that "There is the criticism that the skills acquired by young people do not correspond to requirements which of course raises the whole question of training. The education system, especially at the secondary level, has in fact come in for a good deal of criticism for failing to equip young people properly for their role in working life."

The situation in India is not different. Out of 16 million unemployed in the live register of Employment Exchanges in December 1980, educated unemployed was about 7.5 million, over 24 thousand of whom were Engineering Graduates and Post Graduates. Unable to find employment for them, the Govt. of India has taken recourse to curtail higher education against which policy the people are fighting now.

## Sharp Contrast

The report highlights a sharp contrast between the capitalist and Socialist worlds. It states that "Youth unemployment in the 25 market-economy industrialised countries of the OECD stood at 6.5 million compared with 1 million some ten years before, an altogether alarming increase". It also states "The problems are altogether different in countries with centrally planned economics (read socialist countries-Ed). Officially, there is no unemployment

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## MINIMUM WAGE (from page five)

About the CITU's demand that the Govt. should ratify Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery Convention of I.L.O. (No: 26) which was adopted on 30th May 1928 and also I.L.O. Convention No: 131 the Govt said they would not ratify the same unless they are able to implement them.

Summing up his experience, Umanath said that despite efforts, no criteria for fixing minimum wage could be fixed. The anarchy in minimum wages which range between Rs. 210/- per month (Madhya Pradesh) and Rs. 340/- p.m. (Haryana) and variable dearness allowance ranging from Rs. 0.45 p. per point per month to Rs. 1.20 p. per point p.m. still continues. A powerful movement for need-based minimum wage on the 15th I.L.C. norms therefore, is necessary. □

and there can not be any because the right to work is guaranteed by the Constitution." Is it therefore a wonder that the Youth of every country is demanding that "Right to work" should be recognised as "justiciable fundamental right" of the people? If the capitalist rulers cannot guarantee this, the people would strive for ushering in socialism to eradicate the menace of unemployment.

### Violation of Freedom of Association

The report of the Director General expresses concern also about the reports of growing violation of the right of "Freedom of Association and "Right to Collective Bargaining". It states, "There has been

a dramatic increase in recent years in the number of complaints received (86 newcases since April 1981) ...Thus, at its Nov. '81 session the Committee had before it 108 cases concerning 41 countries.

Several complaints have been lodged from India, too. Unable to resolve the growing crisis in their economy, the ruling classes, have resorted to curb all trade union activities. ESMA, NSA and the new four Amendment Bill constitutes the authoritarian drive in India. While fighting at each step, the working class in India and also of other countries are keeping the world bodies informed of the attack.

(The report contains other aspects too, which could not be given due to want of space. Ed.)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

P.K.S. Prasad, Chairman of Andaman & Nicobar Government Employees' and Workers' Federation was arrested at Port Blair on May 11. The arrest was a part of the planned conspiracy hatched by the Government to subjugate the growing struggles of the Government employees in the island. As a member of the Andaman & Nicobar Contract Labour Advisory Board, Prasad went to attend a meeting of the Board on May 10 and raised his voice for the abolition of contract system in various Government undertakings. On being insulted in a most savage manner by the Labour Secretary, the Chairman of the meeting, he walked out in protest. The next day he was arrested along with other leaders on fabricated charges. An widespread agitation followed in the entire island. Ultimately he was released on May 19. CITU has made representation to the Union Minister of Home and Labour demanding enquiry into the matter.

Ten thousand E.S.I. employees went on one day's strike on June 10. The call for the strike was given by the All India E.S.I. Employees' Federation demanding pay scales as recommended by the Expert Committee. The federation said that the employees would launch an indefinite strike from November 18 if the demands are not met with.

The workers of Mica Trading Corporation, Gudur (A.P.), a Government of India Undertaking, went on an indefinite strike from June 14. The call for strike was given by the Mica Trading

Workers' Union (CITU) demanding higher wages. The present wages are as low as Rs. 6.75 for males and Rs. 3.60 for women.

About 25-30 armed hoodlums of the management of Rourkela Steel Plant entered the room of the site-in-charge on May 29 and severely assaulted a General Council member of Steel Employees' Trade Union (CITU), who is a suspended employee. On May 31 again, another 30 armed goondas entered the room of the Personnel Manager and beat up the Asstt. Secretary of the union. Armed hooliganism against the union activists has been going on since long. CITU organised a mass meeting in conjunction with AITUC, BMS and other unions and demanded immediate arrest of the hooligans.

Majority of the workers in Salem Steel Plant resigned from the INTUC union and joined the Steel Plant Employees' Union (CITU). The CITU union compelled the management to scrap the overlapping shifts which were in vogue for many years past.

Led by CITU, a stubborn fight waged by the workers of HMT factory at Srinagar forced the management to lift the lockout on May 14. The HMT Employees' Union had launched an agitation demanding reinstatement of two victimised employees. The management tried to divide the workers on communal basis. Having failed to break the dogged unity, they declared a lockout of the factory. Workers including women went on a hunger strike.

was let loose by the police who even dismantled the tent exposing the workers in severe cold under heavy rains. But undeterred, they continued the hunger strike and ultimately forced the management to concede. According to the agreement a High Court judge will arbitrate on the termination issue as well as on the legality of the lockout.

The Municipal Workers' Lal Jhanda Union (CITU) held its Twelfth Annual Conference on May 30 and 31 at Delhi. The conference who inaugurated by Sushil Bhattacharya, M.P., General Secretary of Delhi State Committee of CITU, who called upon the workers to consolidate trade union unity and launch coordinated struggles with all other sections of workers against the growing authoritarianism of the Congress(I) regime. Chacha Shadi Ram and Bachan Singh were elected President and General Secretary, respectively.

Led by CITU, the Hotel Mazdoor Union, Simla launched an indefinite strike against the management of Victory Hotel from March 8, demanding reinstatement of four victimised employees. After forty-two days of successful strike they compelled the management to come down and reinstate all the victimised workers.

The indefinite strike by sixteen thousand University teachers of Bihar entered the third month on June 13. The universities which had advanced the summer vacation had to close down again after re-opening. In the sweep of repression the Govt. arrested all the thirteen members of the Joint Action Committee, but had to release them due to the pressure

# International Struggles Against Repression, For Jobs and Against War

## Turkey

THE Military Junta has swept down a wave of repression on all social groups since its takeover. Three hundred officers have been arrested for "Sympathising with the Communists". Fifty two leaders of the trade union centre, DISK are under trial in Istanbul. But despite the reign of terror the trade union movement is mounting up pressures against the military junta.

## Morocco

After brutally killing six hundred activists during the June 20, 1981 general strike in Casablanca, the reactionary regime of Rabat has opened a new trial of six leaders of the Democratic Confederation of Labour and the Socialist Union of Popular Forces on May 17. Fifteen hundred workers have already been jailed. Despite the barbarous repressions, united trade union movement is stepping up against the Rabat regime pursuing the interests of the big imperialist monopolies.

## Spain

Over two lakhs industrial workers struck work from April 16 in Astoria. The strike call was given by the Workers' Commissions and the General Federation of Workers (UGT) with the demand to maintain jobs. During the last two years 267 enterprises closed down, throwing 17, 373 workers into unemployment.

## Belgium

About thirty thousand young men and women from all regions of the country demonstrated before the Brussels Parliament on April 24 demanding jobs. The Police violently rushed upon the demonstrators to drive them away. The demonstrators however replied with showers of stones and Molotov cocktails.

Young people constitute 37 per cent of the total unemployed in Belgium.

## Canada

Five thousand hospital employees at Saskatchewan held mass demonstration against the Government recently for declaring their 16 day old strike illegal. The strike was called by the Moose Jaw Labour Council demanding more jobs. The unemployment in Canada reached 9 per cent in March, the highest in thirty six years since 1946.

## Brazil

Six days' strike by fifty four thousand car workers forced the transnational and Brazilian Corporations to accede to the economic demands of the workers. The enterprises affected were Mercedes Benz, Ford, Volkswagen, Saab Scania, Autopartes Fabrim, etc.,

in the big industrial complex at Sao Bernado do Campo.

## Peru

Five lakh workers went on an indefinite strike from May 31 demanding revocation of the new industrial law eliminating workers' participation in management and share in profits.

## Australia

Forty thousand marchers in Sydney converged at Hyde Park condemning the allowance of U.S. strategic bases in Australia. Another forty thousand strong rally in Melbourne denounced the NATO plans and policies.

## Britain

A two and half lakh strong rally organised by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament jammed the Hyde Park, London on June 6, on the eve of Reagan's visit. It condemned Reagan and Thatcher as warmongers.

## W. Germany: France

Violence rocked W. Berlin on June 11 during Reagan's European tour as the police and thousands of anti-Reagan demonstrators fought pitched battles in the street. At Bonn an American Flag was burnt down by the demonstrators.

A similar clash occurred at the Palace de la Bastille in France.

## USA

In the biggest ever demonstration in US history on June 12, over half a million people marched to the United Nations Head Qrs in New York, holding the special session on disarmament. The marchers later held a rally in the Central Park, where three huge banners were hung up reading; "Freeze the Arms Race", "Abolish Nuclear Weapons", "Fund Human Needs". On June 15 the Police arrested 1700 demonstrators, the largest in New York's history.

### Message of CITU to CGT Congress, Paris

Warm greetings to delegates participating in your forty first congress to be held in Lille from 13-18 June 1982 stop Wish all success in the struggle for improvement in working and living conditions of French workers and against imperialist conspiracies to throw the world in nuclear war stop Long live friendship between Indian and French workers stop Long live friendship between CITU and CGT.