

Centre of Indian Trade Unions

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING

Agartala

3 - 5 December, 2004

AGENDA

1. Condolence
2. Presidential Address
3. General Secretary's Report
4. Presentation of Accounts for the year 2003, 2004
4. Verification of Membership
5. Review of collection of funds for
P Ramamurthy Trade Union School
6. Any other issue with the permission of Chair

PROGRAMME

03.12.2004	11:00 am to 11:30 am	Flag Hoisting Homage at Martyrs Column
	12 noon to 01:30 pm	Inaugural Session Presidential Address Resolution on Greetings to the People of Tripura
	03:30 pm to 05:30 pm	Introduction of General Secretary's Report Condolence Resolution Presentation of Accounts
	06:00 pm to 08:00 pm	Debate on General Secretary's Report
04.12.2004	09:30 am to 11:30 am	Debate on General Secretary's Report
	12:00 noon to 01:30 pm	" "
	03:30 pm to 05:30 pm	Discussion on Membership Verification
	06:00 pm to 07:00 pm	Discussion on P Ramamurthy TU School
05.12.2004	09:30 am to 11:30 am	Summing up
	12:00 noon to 01:30 pm	Adoption of reports/ Accounts Resolutions Credential Report
		Concluding Address by the President
	04:00 pm	Mass Rally

Tea Break
11:30 am to 12 noon
05:30 pm to 06:00 pm

Lunch Break
01:30 pm to 03:30 pm

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dear Comrades,

The sweep of the developments in international and national arena has been faster since our last General Council meeting held at Nasik (Maharashtra) on 17-20 July, 2004. The Working Committee meeting has to review them and evolve a common understanding on these developments, which will enable us to chalk out action programme in the forthcoming period.

For the first time since the foundation of our organisation, we are holding our national level meeting in Tripura. Our Comrades will be able to get first hand information about the remarkable achievements made by the left front in fighting against anti-national extremists operating from Bangladesh and disrupting the democratic movement. The CITU has also made big advance in organising the working class in defence of their working and living conditions and for trade union rights. The role of the left front Government in championing the cause of the toiling people and for economic advance of the State is extremely significant. Our comrades will certainly return with added enthusiasm and inspiration to strengthen our all India united movement.

PARTIAL RECOVERY OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM

Recent developments in world economy are showing signs of partial recovery of capitalism. As reported by World Bank Report on Global Development Finance (2004), "World economic growth accelerated from an annual rate of 1.8 per cent in 2002 to 2.6 per cent in 2003. It is forecast to jump to 3.7 per cent in 2004. With profit margins rising - and interest rates low - global investment is recovering strongly ...". The projections for the growth in the near future is estimated at an average of 3 per cent. It is however, to be seen how far this recovery actually materialises or is sustained.

The growth of the economy in developed country was however slower than the world average. According to the World Bank the economic growth in developed countries stood at 1.4 per cent in 2002, which increased to 2.1 per cent in 2003 and further to 3.2 per cent in 2004. The future growth is estimated at 2.5 per cent. In percentage terms though the growth rate of developed countries appears to be faster but its impact on the world economy was only marginal. The developing countries during 2002 the economic growth was 3.4 per cent, which rose to 4.8 per cent in 2003, and 5.4 per cent in 2004. The estimated growth in the near future is likely to be about 5 per cent. The spectacular rate of growth in China in this period was 8 to 9 per cent per annum while it is likely to continue that rate in future also. Chinese economy has been able to reflect higher percentage in the data of world economic growth as well as developing countries' growth mentioned above.

The global exports during 2002 according to World Bank were \$6,314 billions out of which share of developing countries was only \$1821 billion. If data of China is excluded from that of developing countries it would be only 1,492 during 2002. In 2004 the growth of exports from developed countries increased by 16 per cent while developing countries it rose by only 12.3 per cent. If China is excluded it would be only 10.5 per cent.

COMPROMISE IN WTO TALKS AT GENEVA

The five-day talks at Geneva from July 31, 2004 resulted in WTO framework agreement. It was a compromise among the developed and developing countries regarding tariff and subsidies reduction. Though Indian Commerce Ministry called it victory for the developing countries, the Business Standard dated September 20 pointed out: "But as soon as the details were analysed, it became clear that the developing countries had not only been duped but robbed in broad daylight".

As per the agreement, while India and other developing countries will have to reduce the import tariff drastically the advanced countries will not be much affected. As quoted by U.S. Trade Representative, Robert Zoellick "The new global trade agreement protects US farm subsidies when prices of wheat, corn or soybeans drop." He further noted: "A pledge by the U.S. to reduce farm subsidies by 20 per cent won't undercut payments Congress promised in a \$125 billion bill in 2002". The U.S. is already giving \$300 billion worth subsidies and 20 per cent cut would not affect much in the first year. The European Union does not need to make any cut in agricultural subsidies from the existing level. Its export subsidies would remain for about 10 years! It is estimated that EU gives about \$300 billion as subsidies. Developing countries will have to face dumping of agricultural products from the advanced countries while their agricultural subsidies would be drastically reduced. Indian farmers will be hit hard by this agreement and many will face ruin. The protection offered to "Special Products" in the developing countries will have limited protection. As noted by financial journals in India, while farm subsidies will be reduced drastically, EU and US farmers will be greatly benefited by the level of their subsidies. The cow in EU and US would continue to get a subsidy of \$3 per day (Rs.140). The WTO table of subsidies contained in blue, green and Amber boxes is heavily loaded in favour of highly developed countries and unfavourable to the Third World countries. The Economic Times correctly noted in its report dated August 4, 2004: "...the threat to Indian agriculture from the subsidies in rich countries appeared to remain largely as earlier. It does not go much further than Doha declaration in cutting trade distorting domestic support". The TU movement in India will have to rally behind our Kisan brothers in their struggle to protect their conditions.

GLOBAL RISE IN OIL PRICES

The highly cartelised oil industry in the world was responsible for the continuous rise in oil prices. In the international market crude oil which was available at \$35 per barrel in 2003 showed a sustained spurt in oil prices to above \$ 40 per barrel during first half of 2004 and further pushed up to \$50 per barrel in late August 2004. In middle of October 2004 it further pushed up to \$55 per barrel.

The spurt in oil prices will add to the inflationary spiral at a global level and reduce the projected rate of growth in the economy. As noted by the Chief Economist of the World Bank, Fracois Bourguignon, its impact on the developing countries by adversely affecting foreign exchange reserves and consumer prices may reduce the rate of growth by 2 to 5 per cent range depending on its requirement of imported oil. Since import of oil will consume large part of the export earnings of developing countries it would adversely affect import of other commodities needed for economic development. Indian economy is already under great pressure due to this high cost of imported oil.

The marginal reduction of price of petrol on 16 November did not give much relief to the people. On the plea of the concept of Import Parity Price of crude, the prices of diesel and LPG gas remained at a higher level. The oil prices in the world are not governed by the cost of production but by the capacity of the oil cartels to corner the market for speculative gains. During my recent visit to China I found that the petrol was available at Rs.11 per litre. This was possible only because of the attempts by the Government of China to achieve self-reliance in the matter of oil production.

DETERIORATING LIVING CONDITIONS OF U.S WORKERS

The myth of US Government's claim of helping poorer countries to eliminate poverty has been exploded by a recent report published in second week of October this year. The 36 page report titled "Working Hard Falling Short" was sponsored by Ford, Rockefeller and Casey Foundations, which has pointed out that one in four working families in USA "earn so low they have difficulty surviving financially". The report found that 9.2 million US families with 39 million members, including 20 million children are locked in ranks of "working poor" toiling at minimum wage jobs without benefits and with little hopes of rising from poverty.

The outsourcing of jobs by U.S. companies to other countries having low wage levles has added to the problem of unemployment in USA. The Economic Policy Institute in US has challenged the official data of unemployment rate of 5.4 per cent in last September and claimed that it stood at 7.2 per cent, highest during the last 42 months.

BUSH DOCTRINE TO CONTINUE

The re-election of George Bush as President of USA in the recent elections has enthused the US imperialists. They have become more aggressive and are threatening the world. Already the talks of intensification of war in Iraq and engaging more troops in the war zones are going on. Though U.S. Government failed to find out any weapon of mass distruction the Bush administration jsutified the heinous attack on Iraq and overthrow of Saddam Hussain regime. The Bush doctrine visualises an unhindered right of the superpower to attck any country in the world which U.S. imperialists cousider as supporter of terrorism. The so called "war against terrorism" was a shameless jsutification of the US Government's policy of aggression.

U.S. military bases all over the world are threatening the people in all continents and with the help of military might, the sovereignty of several countries is under jeopardy. With his re-election President Bush will pose a serious threat to world peace since he will carry forward his policy of strengthening missiles defence project. Bush has clearly emerged as the foremost global terrorist and world-wide resistance to this dangerous doctrine is bound to emerge.

It is apprehended that after his re-election, there will be further push towards extreme rightist economy that will call for end of all welfare measures and subsidies for the people. To tackle phenomenol rise in deficit in trade balance of the US, President Bush is going to thrust upon other countries harmful and severe conditions in the matters of trade and commerce just to extricate US economy from this crisis. The developing countries are likely to be worst affected in that scenario.

The last 4 years of President Bush's tenure had witnessed scant disregard shown by U.S. imperilaists towards United Nations and international law. He wll continue to show this disregard with more impunity in the forthcoming period.

Under these circumstances, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's congratulatory message indicated India's desire to strengthen strategic partnerhsip with U.S. imperialists which goes against India's traditional policy of non-alignment and the concept of independent foreign policy. The second largest populated country in the world cannot make a common cause with U.S. imperilaists in the fight against terrorism. People of India will have to join the democratic masses all over the world in the struggle against hegemonic policies of U.S. imperialism.

The US brutalities in Iraq has surpassed all historical records and can be compared only to that of notorious Adolf Hitler. In 15 months of brutal war over one lakh Iraqi civilians have been murdered most of whom were women and children. The total US casualties have reached 1106 till the end of

October, which means per one U.S. soldier one hundred Iraqi citizens have lost their life in the most cruel manner. The sadistic torture of Iraqi prisoners have shocked the world and strong reaction have been expressed all over the world.

The Iyad Allawi Government acting on orders of U.S. imperialists no more enjoys any authority in Iraq. The heroic resistance organised by the popular resistance forces in Falluja despite US forces using most modern armaments has received worldwide acclamation. It is US which claimed to be searching weapons for mass destruction is resorting to the heinous use of weapons of mass destruction against the innocent people of Iraq. Despite, Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, characterising US aggression in Iraq as illegal the Bush administration is non-chalantly going ahead with killing men, women and children every day.

Bush administration has already spent officially over \$150 billion on the war in Iraq while it has asked for \$70 billion as additional funding to carry forward the war. At present the U.S. imperialists alone had a strength of 1 lakh 30 thousand troops while additional 20,000 mercenaries are helping the US army. Over and above this, more than 30 thousand troops belonging to UK, Australia and other countries, are operating in Iraq. However, even this is considered to be inadequate to deal with the situation there.

The loosening grip of the US army in the war torn country was clearly exposed when New York Times reported on October 25 the shocking story of missing 380 tonnes of explosives guarded by the US troops.

The US imperialists are planning to postpone the January 2005 drama of elections in view of growing insurgency developing in several parts of Iraq.

GROWING RESISTANCE OF PEOPLE OF PALESTINE

The heroic struggle of the people of Palestine is evoking increasing military attacks since 28th September by the Zionist Israel. The struggle continues with more determination despite brutal killing of over 100 men, women and children in Gaza Strip alone. The open support of US imperialists to Sharon Government was witnessed once again when US vetoed overwhelming majority UN Resolution calling for halt on military operations in Gaza Strip. The so-called plan of Sharon to vacate the settlements at Gaza Strip was a device to hoodwink world public opinion. All the repressive measures taken by his Govt. against the people of Palestine is exposing his own plans. The UPA Government despite commitment to the cause of the people of Palestine in NCMP is strengthening strategic ties with Israel. We must demand review of this ties by the Govt. of India so that India firmly supports the people of Palestine.

The sudden passing away of President Yasser Arafat has created a big void in the Palestine Liberation Organisation movement. He was a symbol of resistance to the Israel's occupation and a pioneer of the struggle of the homeland of the people of Palestine. The fond hope of Israeli aggressors and US imperialists to settle the Palestine problem on the basis to their proposals will not succeed since the people of Palestine are determined to carry forward their liberation struggle till they achieve their final goal. The CITU has sent a condolence message to the Palestine Federation of Trade Unions and expressed its support to the liberation struggle of the people of Palestine.

The remarkable victory of the left wing Progressive Encounter Broad Front New-Majority Coalition in Uruguay on October 31 was a powerful blow to the US imperialists in Latin America. The election of Dr. Tabaré Vázquez, son of a oil refinery worker reflected strong opposition prevailing in Uruguay against World Bank dictated policies of globalisation. The Left Wing coalition includes several important leaders of guerilla movement against US stooges in Uruguay. As noted by New York Times, "As in the

last Presidential votes in Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador and Argentina the candidate most opposed to American supported free-market policies has defeated backers of those policies”.

The 44 year unjust blockade of Cuba by US imperialists has become more vigorous despite 12 times condemnation by the UN General Assembly. Cuban economy suffered a loss of \$79 billion as a result of this blockade. Spectacular achievements of the people of Cuba despite this blockade are unparalleled in the annals of global history. Cuban people under the leadership of Fidel Castro have been building a socialist economy which has become a matter of pride for all the peace loving people in the world.

For 12th consecutive time US General Assembly rejected the blockade of Cuba while the US Government used its veto as usual. The only country which supported the US was Israel. The resolution moved in the third week of October 2004 stated that the US administration had blatantly violated “the principles of international law, multilateralism and the will of the international community”.

Not satisfied with the occupation of Iraq, US is posing a serious threat to Syria and Iran. US sanctions against Syria is a blatant attempt to cripple the economy of that country. At the instigation of US, Israel bombed Syria on the plea of its encouragement of terrorism. Iran is being threatened on the plea of its development of nuclear programme.

Using internal struggle in Sudan the US imperialists are interfering in internal affairs of that country and trying to bring it under its US subjugation.

US occupation of Afghanistan continues despite elections in the landlocked country held under UN supervision. People of Afghanistan desired an independent economic development but US imperialists are seeking to strengthen their grip in the country which is evoking resistance to US occupation.

In Sri Lanka, the peace talks have unfortunately reached to a road block. The contentious issues are whether to recognise the LTTE held area as legal authority by the government of Sri Lanka. To end the suffering of the people we can expect that both sides will show spirit of accommodation and find solution in the federal structure of this island state.

The spectacular victory of President Chavez in Venezuela referendum held in the middle of August this year was a powerful challenge to all the vile machinations of US imperialists in Latin America. Despite earlier electoral victory of Chavez US administration bolstered coup d’etat and tried to install a military dictator through the CIA. However the upsurge of the people in this major oil producing country defeated the US conspiracy and Chavez was successfully allowed to occupy the presidency of Venezuela.

The people of Venezuela foiled the attempts of oil cartels and reactionary trade unions to organise long drawn strike to sabotage oil production. Under Chavez’s leadership Venezuela witnessed pro-people reform and sizeable improvement in their standard of living. However, the reactionaries in the country through a virulent campaign of false signatures tried to impose referendum on the country using the constitutional provision of right to recall of the President. Chavez accepted challenge and went ahead with referendum and once again defeated the US imperialists design against the people of Venezuela. This victory has created favourable atmosphere in the entire Latin America to strengthen the popular resistance to US imperialist attempt to control Latin American continent. Venezuela has today become a bulwork of solidarity with the heroic people of Cuba and other Latin American countries.

INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

Recent developments in India-Pakistan relations indicates the possibility of improving the ties of good neighbourly relations between the two countries. Meeting of Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan

Singh and Pakistan President Musharraf at Washington created a favourable atmosphere for a dialogue on outstanding issues between the two countries. India's proposal to reduce the strength of army in Kashmir has added to the favourable atmosphere. Feelers given from both sides have added to the generation of confidence between the two countries.

Settlement of issues between the two countries without third party intervention is an important aspect of the dialogue. US Administration is making frantic efforts to impose its solution on the two countries which will only strengthen the area of influence of US imperialists.

Strengthening of people to people contact between the two countries has a positive role to play in improving the ties of friendship between the two countries. The continued terrorist attacks in J&K is vitiating the atmosphere of friendly dialogue and henceforth the Government should help the process of normalisation of relations between the two countries. The improvement in trade relations between the two countries will benefit economy of both the countries.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY - POOR BECOMING POORER

The international trade under the regime of globalisation has not helped in any manner the developing countries all over the world. Even the official data trotted out by the World Bank outfits have clearly underlined this growing phenomenon.

It is admitted that 85 per cent of the world population is residing in the poor countries but they account for only 25 per cent of the international trade. The external debt of these countries stood at \$50 billion in 1964 when UNCTAD came into existence. However, now the debt has gone up to a staggering figure of \$2.6 trillion. (\$1 billion = Rs 4500 crores, \$1 trillion = Rs 45 lakh crores) The data available for the last 2 decades clearly indicates that the developing countries have paid \$5.4 trillion in debt service. Thus the developing countries have paid more than twice the existing debt to the developed capitalist countries. One African delegate speaking in UNCTAD conference pointed out this phenomenon by stating that it was "blood transfusion in reverse".

The indebtedness of the developing countries continue to rise year by year due to the policies of globalisation. The total external debt of developing countries stood at \$1,990.3 billion during 1995 which rose to \$2,433.3 billion in 2003. As a result of the World Bank policies the state to state debt remained almost stagnant (rise from \$867.3 billion to \$872.1 billion in 2002 the growth of private debt rose from \$1123.0 billion in 1995 to \$1519.1 billion in 2003. Major indebted developing countries during 2002 were. Brazil (\$227.9 billion), Argentina (\$132.3 billion), Indonesia (\$132.3 billion), Russian Federation (\$147.5 billion), Turkey (\$131.6 billion), Mexico (\$141.3 billion), India (\$104.4 billion). In some of the developing countries the external debt is more than their GDP viz. Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissan and Guyana.

This highlights the ghastly exploitation of the economies of the developing countries by the advanced capitalist countries. This exposes the hollow claim made by the World Bank that their programme is aimed at elimination of poverty at a global level.

World Development summit held in Copenhagen promised the poor countries that developed countries would help the poor countries with 0.7 per cent of the GDP of advanced countries. This aid never reached the developing countries in genuine terms. If it would have reached properly the developing countries would have received \$175 billion every year. The so-called development assistance received by the developing countries amounted to \$54 billion during 2003. However, during the same year the developing countries have paid to the advanced capitalist countries \$436 billion in debt service, thus the development assistance is a small part of the return of debt service by the developing countries.

There is no wonder that 25 years ago 500 million people in the world were starving whose ranks have swelled to 800 million today. 325 million children all over the world have no chance of going to school while many of them are forced to work as child labourers. World Health Organisation has noted that 33 thousand children die every day in developing countries due to curable illnesses while the profit hungry pharmaceutical MNCs are minting money by increasing the cost of medicines! The lack of access to energy to the people in poor countries has become more glaring. 85 per cent of the world population is consuming only 3 per cent of the world energy.

Fidel Castro, in his message to UNCTAD conference had stated, "The imperialist system that prevails today, towards which the developed capitalist society unavoidably evolved, has already come to such a ruthlessly irrational and unfair world economic and neo-liberal order that it is unsustainable. Many people will rebel against it. In fact, they have already began to rebel." He further noted, "for the first time in history man have created the technical capacity for its own destruction. However, it has not been capable of creating a minimum guarantee for the safety and integrity of every country on equal footing".

Castro, therefore, expressed his confidence about the future of humanity, "The people will become ungovernable, and no repression, torture, disappearances or massive murders will stop them. Not only will the hungry of the Third World be in the struggle for their own survival and that of their children, but also the conscious people from the rich world, both manual and intellectual workers".

NATIONAL SITUATION

According to the World Bank report on "Country strategy for India (2004)" it would lend loans to the states directly who would act "as a catalyst to the state level reform process". At the dictate of the World Bank the Government "guidelines" provide that "any state that is considered to be implementing a comprehensive reform effort would be eligible for adjustment lending". However, the guideline further visualise that "any previously reforming state that discontinues comprehensive reform implementation would no longer be eligible for adjustment lending for as long as it remains off track".

The conditionalities of the external financing are thus clear. The state Governments will have to accept the World Bank package of structural adjustment programme. The elements of the programme are also spelled out in the guidelines. The first element is "progressive deficit reduction in State Government budget with the objective of wiping out the deficit." The state governments will have to end all the subsidies and welfare measures for the poor. The second element is "power sector reform" which means privatisation and disinvestment of power industry. The third element is "improve governance" which in practice means, the state administration must be amenable to all the dictates of the World Bank including taking anti-people measures. The fourth element is "the investment climate" which means fabulous concessions to industrial houses and implementing the concept of hire and fire in industrial undertakings and the fifth being "improved service delivery" which will ensure timely implementation of the dictates of the World Bank and the IMF. The external financing cannot be used by any state to reduce budgetary deficit. Hence it would only be in the form of refinancing or substituting higher cost debt.

It is not clear whether the guidelines were issued during NDA regime or under UPA regime. However, the World Bank document is published during UPA Government on September 15, 2004 it is clear that UPA Government has not objected to them either. Thus the "guidelines" issued by government accept all the conditionalities of the World Bank and attempts to impose these guidelines on the state governments. Some state governments have fallen victims to these guidelines and are obtaining external financing accordingly. It is necessary to oppose the conditionalities with a view to preserve the sovereign right of the state government to decide its economic policies and also its policies to the people.

PREPARE FOR INTENSIFIED STRUGGLE

Formation of the UPA Government had raised some hopes that there would be at least some relief from the all out attack on the working class by the erstwhile NDA Govt. It was hoped by many that taking lessons from the last electoral results the UPA Govt would change their attitude towards labour and refrain from taking completely anti-labour policies. But in reality such hopes have been belied. Our experience in the last few months is that attack on working class is increasing. The cases of serious attacks in Baramullah (J&K), in parts of Himachal, in Ferozabad (UP) and other places have been very glaring but in general laying off, retrenchment, removal from service, forced retirement and denial of even minimum wage are continuing as before or are increasing.

Recently, I visited Kashmir along with 3 Members of Parliament when brutal police repression was going on against the railway construction workers near Banihal (Doda District). The Hindustan Cosntruction Company which was given contract by the Railways was not paying minimum wages and other statutory benefits to wokers. The construction company did not tolerate the formation of CITU union in the area. The J&K police openly sided with contractor and sub-contractor and let loose a reign of terror in the entire area. A lawyer who tried to help the workers has been arrested. We saw elderly women showing us their boold stained and torn clothes. It is shocking that the Govt. used army to terrorise the workers. There are several such cases of repression found in J&K during legitimate TU activity. Registration of a union after completing all formalities are denied to many unions. The trade union activity in this state is treated at par with terrorism which is resulting in alienation of the people.

Another shocking development I saw in the case of NIT Srinagar. The Chairman of this organisation was a close associate of Murli Manohar Joshi and Director an open supporter of RSS. The Chairman Kaw wrote a booklet advocating that the problem of Kahsmir can be solved only if it becomes a Hindu majority state. He and the lady director are openly advocating Hindu chauvinist ideology. Despite repeated representation the HRD Ministry failed to take action against the Hindutva lobby in educational institutions. The teaching and non-teaching staff have decided to go on indefinite strike from 20th November 2004.

In this backdrop, we have to carry on a sustained countrywide struggle giving expression to the people's hardships and sufferings. We should get prepared to launch the movements in such form and content that we can bring changes in the direction of governance and force them to implement the pro-people promises made in the NCMP.

The working class and trade union movement have no other options but to remain ever vigilant and ready for localised, sectoral and nationwide actions to reverse the UPA Government's polices and their thrust in economic management. We have to strengthen the unity of the working class and prepare for greater mobilisation and bigger struggles to reverse the anti-people policies of the Govt.

We must prepare ourselves to launch strong countrywide movement as early as possible, powerful enough to resist every actions against the toiling people and to realise our demands on employment, income, jobs, social security and trade union rights.

While we re-affirm our above tasks I hope that this meeting of the Working Committee will study in depth the issues before us and set our guidelines for our future movements.

GREETINGS TO ALL OF YOU!

M K PANDHE
President

Centre of Indian Trade Unions

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING

Agartala

3 - 5 December, 2004

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

After the meeting of CITU General Council, held in Nasik, last July, we have assembled here at Agartala, the capital city of Tripura - which is an exemplary stronghold of left and democratic movement of the country - for the first ever meeting of the CITU Working Committee. We extend our heartiest greetings to the comrades of Tripura for taking the initiative and pain to organise this meeting. Developments in both the international and national arena during this interregnum have been of crucial significance to the working class movement is concerned.

The President in his address has quite elaborately dealt with the international developments vis-à-vis their implications and bearing on the working class movement, I shall confine here to refer to the political aspects on the national scenario.

NATIONAL SITUATION

Since the General Council Meeting at Nasik, Maharashtra Assembly elections have taken place. The BJP-Shiv Sena alliance suffered a serious defeat in this election, despite its all out efforts to push through a staunch communal line. The BJP attempted to utilise the Savarkar issue and the 'Tiranga Yatra' of Uma Bharati. The consecutive defeats in the elections have prompted Bharatiya Janata Party to become even more vociferous on its old aggressive hindutva agenda in its original RSS mould. The debacle in the Maharashtra election has thrown the 'party with a difference' into a deep crisis. Quick replacement of Venkaiah Naidu by L K Advani as the president of the party soon after the election, the recent rebellion of Uma Bharati and its fall out indicate the internal conflicts within BJP for power, as well as to the mounting pressure of the hard-line communal force within the sangh parivar to pursue the hindutva line more vigorously.

While it is natural that BJP, being basically fascist in character will have no choice other than embracing its die-hard hindutva, it at the same time faces the growing resentment among its allies in the NDA. As Advani assumed the charge of the party and has declared to take up the original agenda of the BJP, some of the constituents of NDA have started feeling uncomfortable. They have publicly expressed their uneasiness in continuing their association with BJP had the latter been determined to pursue its hindutva line in a renewed form. In such a critical juncture, we have to shoulder the greater responsibility to combat the growing threat of communalism, and isolate them altogether, as before.

The intervening period also witnessed severe unrest in the northeastern part of the country at Manipur over the role of the Central Security and armed forces posted there, while addressing the problems of terrorism. The disturbance started over killing of a woman by the armed forces, which led to the demand for repeal of the concerned legislation on the special role of the armed forces in the state administration receiving popular support there. Without going into the merits of this demand, it must be noted that the role and activities of the armed forces posted in such disturbed areas of the country many a times cross the boundary of their defined tasks and intrude the civil rights of the common people, which gives rise to such unrest and tension among the common people as ultimately serve the

divisive and fissiparous designs of the extremists and disruptionary forces. Similar excesses are also seen to have been done by the armed forces in Jammu & Kashmir also, where the army has been deployed to break the strike and suppress the trade union actions of the workers by the state government at the behest of the employers and contractors. Such happenings undermine the country's armed forces and ultimately serve the evil designs of the terrorists and extremist forces. CITU urges upon the government to exercise caution and restrain in this regard.

The people's mandate in the last parliament election was not only against the communal agenda of BJP. The mandate was also against the economic policies pursued by the NDA government. But ignoring the fact and undermining the peoples' resentment against such neo-liberal economic policies, Congress has sought to consolidate its position, post-Maharashtra election victory, utilising the UPA government at Centre and continued to push through the same policies. No doubt, the repeal of POTA, disbandment of enquiry commission on Tehelka, setting up of enquiry commission on Godhra incidence, bill for enacting the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and other measures for detoxification of the administration and other institutions are welcome measures. But, at the same time the visible bias of the UPA government to pursue the same economic policies of neo-liberalism and privatisation, much to the detriment of the interest of the people and the country is of grave concern for the working class.

Raising of the FDI cap in telecom, insurance, airlines etc., scrapping of Press Note 18, steps in direction to allow foreign banks to acquire 10 percent equity every year in private banks along with divestment of equity in nationalised banks, move towards privatisation of Mumbai & Delhi airports, non-action in restoring the interest rate on EPF are the instances of moves of UPA government in the recent time which are evidently in the line of the same neo-liberal policies that the former governments have followed and was opposed by the people of the country time and again. The steep hike of the price of petroleum products, like petrol, diesel, cooking gas in recent time particularly when the international price of crude petroleum started falling after a steep rise, ignoring the suggestions of the left parties, that have extended support to the UPA government, is deplorable. Such rise in the price of petrol, diesel and decision of price-hike of LPG will cause immense sufferings for the people of the country. Such a move has been opposed by not only the left parties but also criticised even by some of the constituents of the UPA government. The CITU not only has been opposing such move at the same time demands for roll back of the price of petrol, diesel and LPG.

The inclusion of the representatives of World Bank, ADB and the consultant firm McKinsey in the consultative group of the planning commission has been a move that not only amounts to surrender to the imperialist power but also to endangering national sovereignty. The Left parties have sharply opposed and criticised the steps and demanded the exclusion of the representative of World Bank and ADB as well as McKinsey purely for national interest. The group of eminent economists of the country, who were also the members of the consultative groups of planning commission, rightly objected to this composition and expressed their inability to attend the meetings. CITU acknowledges with deep honour this patriotic response of the eminent economists to resist the imperialist pressure and greets them.

The Prime Minister during his recent foreign visit to attend European Union summit has reiterated the commitment to pursue the neoliberal economic reform process in the country and invited foreign investment in the oil sector also. The petroleum minister has also announced setting up the regulatory authority for oil and natural gas sector of country certainly keeping the above stated aspect in mind. These moves, along with the anxious invitation of foreign investment in the core and strategic sectors undermining the national interests, are of grave concern.

All these clearly reveal that the UPA government also has been keen to adhere to the dictum of the Breton Wood institutions, which are to serve the interest of the imperialist force only, in the same line of the NDA government.

Further the UPA government has re-issued the draft national tribal policy prepared without making any change or any deliberation.

In our Nasik General Council Meeting, after reviewing the situation, it was directed: "In the prevailing situation, the working class movement has to decide its future course of action, keeping in mind the need to further isolate the communal forces led by the BJP, while at the same time mobilising the working class in defence of the rights and livelihood of the common people." The working Committee, under the above circumstances, is of the opinion that the same direction is valid today and we are to strengthen the movement further by exercising all possible effort to protect the interests of the toiling masses.

THE NCMP AND RELATED ISSUES

The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of UPA Govt., as discussed in last General Council meeting, maintains the main paradigm of economic policies followed since 1991. It, however, included, under pressure from the Left, some positive pro-peasant, pro-worker and pro-poor declaration to assuage the feelings of the vast majority of the country, who were badly affected and marginalised because of the adverse impact of the LPG policies in the name of economic reforms. The CITU had decided to pursue aggressively implementation of such positive commitments in the NCMP viz, National Employment Guarantee Act, strengthening of PDS, comprehensive protective legislation for all agricultural workers, fullest implementation of minimum wage laws for farm labour, legislation for one third reservation for women, review of Electricity Act 2003, social security schemes for unorganised sector, no change in labour laws without consulting trade unions, no privatisation of profit making public sector undertakings, revival of sick PSUs, etc. The CITU also reiterated its resolve to fight the negative aspects of NCMP, which were intended to carry forward the neoliberal economic policies like encouraging FDI in core and strategic sector, in public utilities, disinvestments of shares in profitable PSUs in the name of access to capital market for resource mobilisation, so called selective privatisation etc.

As apprehended, egged on by the finance capital, within and outside the country, the UPA government appears to be keener on carrying out some of the unfinished economic agenda of the NDA, sometimes even going ahead of NDA. Privatisation of Delhi, Mumbai airports, budget proposal to increase FDI caps in insurance, telecom and civil aviation, open sky policy, authorising private sector to lay inter-state gas pipeline in place of GAIL, equity shedding of NTPC, formation of Empowered Group of Ministers for PSU public offering etc., are some of such actions initiated by UPA government, which were opposed vehemently at the policy level by the Left parties backed up by ground level mobilisation of trade unions, mostly led by the CITU.

In this context another aspect of the recent policy measures warrants pointed attention. Recent announcements/statements by the UPA Govt regarding formation of regulatory authority for petroleum/gas or constitution of Pension Regulatory Authority and the legislative initiative in that direction are all intended to speed up the liberalization and privatization process and withdrawal/reduction of subsidies on goods and services meant for mass of the populace. We have already seen the role of various regulatory authorities already constituted by the previous government. The Electricity Regulatory Authorities formed in different states ended up in recommending steep hike in power tariff and discontinuance of cross subsidization for the people. The Telecom Regulatory Authority practically served the interests of the mushrooming private telecom operators and is playing a discriminatory role against the public sector telecom companies with tacit support of the bureaucracy. The Insurance Regulatory Authority has also been practically promoting the interests of private insurance companies and newly mushrooming pension funds with foreign participation, much to the detriment of the real interests of common people and the national economy. And now Pension Regulatory Authority is being constituted primarily with the aim of facilitating diversion of the pension funds and social security contribu-

tions of the workers to stock market with the imaginary allurements of higher return. The Petroleum Regulatory Authority is also finally intended to shift the unpopular task of periodical petroleum-price-hike from the government to so-called independent authority on the one hand and to promote the interests of the emerging private players in the oil/gas sector, both domestic and foreign. Practically the whole concept of this "regulatory authority" is the World Bank prescription to end all pro-people regulatory measures in crucial public utility sectors on the one hand and promote privatization in these areas.

Resistance of Left trade unions and Left parties on these issues are trivialised, ridiculed, misinterpreted and misquoted by media and the UPA government is under constant pressure of national and transnational corporate lobby to ignore Left's opposition/pressure on these issues so that globalisation process in India, as per their perception, does not get derailed. This tug of war between the globalisers and the working class movement has now come in the forefront in the national scenario and this can no longer be kept under the carpet as was done earlier in spite of biased media campaign against Left parties and trade unions. Such mobilisation of trade union movement against the renewed attempt to implement the same neoliberal economic policies, rejected by the people in the polls, are making the Corporate Capital jittery. No wonder, the Prime Minister and Finance Minister have to go abroad to assure global investors that economic reforms are on the move. This ongoing confrontation with the UPA government shows clearly that the class character of governance has not changed and the global scenario and globalisation process has also not undergone any change in its objective of neoliberal onslaught. What has changed in the Indian perspective is that the NCMP has given some space for the trade union movement to move forward to intensify the struggle against the neoliberal onslaught. The onslaught of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation is sought to be implemented by Chidambaram and Co. through the back door. CITU has to ensure that trade union movement remains alert and vigilant on such issues. In case of violation of the NCMP as well as against some "cleverly worded" assertions in the NCMP to carry forward the Fund-Bank policies, forthright position and struggle through organised movement would help in mobilising public opinion against these policies. The NCMP gives space for mobilising movement so that legislations assured in the NCMP are not backtracked, the indication of which has already started surfacing. If legislation on employment guarantee, agricultural workers, unorganised sector, women's reservation etc. could not be initiated in budget session because of stalling of the Parliament by the BJP "the communal fundamentalists", trade union movement has also to ensure that the same is not stalled by the "market fanatics" within the UPA, more specifically within the Congress party. The struggle against "religious fundamentalism" and "market fanaticism" are to be fought with equal vehemence. Monitoring of the NCMP and planned movement on the positive and negative issues of the NCMP creates this opportunity to mobilise and fight, which the CITU must avail effectively for organisational expansion and for advancing the united struggle.

Recent decision of UPA Govt to hike FDI cap in civil aviation from 40 to 49 per cent, its repetitive assertion to privatise Delhi and Mumbai Airport, non-seriousness in formulating the revival plans for sick PSUs, decision to form a "Group of Ministers" to sell the equities of profitable PSUs through IPO etc are all clear indications of negative swing in the policies and the trade union movement must prepare itself for a long-drawn united struggle and there should not be any illusion that dependence on Left parties would any way reduce the zeal of the "habitual reformers" and the "market-fundamentalists", to use the words of Joseph Stiglitz, within the UPA.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES BEFORE THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

The Nasik General Council meeting notes the post-election situation: "The present situation enjoins a stupendous task on the CITU. The defeat of the BJP combine in the general election and its replacement by the UPA regime at the center, supported by the Left from outside, has created a high expectation among the working people. It is unlikely that much of the expectations of the people will get positive response. In this background, the working class movement has to discharge its responsibility

of articulating the expectations of the people through vigorous countrywide mobilisation, campaign and agitation demanding implementation of pro-people commitments, as well as reversing the thrust and direction of the economic policies.... and against attempt by the communal forces to usurp the space of opposition, which can only ensure the twin task of fighting the communal forces and safeguarding the interests of the mass of the people and the working class."

The strategies have to be drawn on the basis of this understanding formulated by the last CITU general Council.

SOME IMPORTANT INTERVENTIONS

The intervening period witnessed the voicing of strong opposition by the trade unions against hiking the FDI cap in telecom, civil aviation and insurance. Sectoral mobilisations and actions in these sectors as well as opposition by the central trade unions and the Left parties played an important role in mounting and sustaining such opposition. Intervention by the Left also compelled the government to do away with the foreign consultants in the consultative committees of the Planning Commission. While doing so the Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission has disbanded the consultative committees altogether exposing his frustration. This shows that a strong pro-IMF/world Bank lobby is still active within the government, particularly in the area of financial and commercial governance. This lobby has been trying to direct the economic policy regime, in line with the dictates of those international financial agencies.

Owing to vigorous persuasion by the trade unions and the Left MPs, the Central Government allocated Rs. 517 crore towards long-outstanding wages and statutory dues of around 45000 workers of 24 sick public sector units - an issue which was being continuously ignored and denied by the previous NDA Govt. But the Govt of India, while releasing this payment has indicated closure of at least seven out of these 24 sick PSUs and privatization through joint venture route of many of the rest.

The Govt of India has announced its commitment to introduce the rural employment guarantee scheme and in the winter session of Parliament, it may be introduced. Some exercise is also going on in respect of legislation on unorganized sector workers and the Central Trade Unions have again been asked to give their comments/suggestions on the draft.

PERSISITING HOSTILITY

The vigorous pursuit of the economic neoliberalism during the NDA rule has made the industrial relations situation extremely hostile against the working people and the trade union movement throughout the country. As we had noted in the Report and the Commission discussion in the 11th Conference of CITU held in December 2003, the workplaces are being sought to be thoroughly restructured and casualised through deliberate non-enforcement of most of the labour related statutes. The inspection machinery has been forbidden or dismantled in many states by official orders from the Govts. And almost everywhere the law & order machinery is being made to work in suppressing the trade union movement in close complicity with the employers. Even after change of Govt at the center, that situation of hostility is still continuing throughout the country.

ONSLAUGHT AND REPRESSION

In Visakhapatnam Port, union leaders were suspended and charged due to their taking part in strike and campaigning for the same. In New Allen Berry factory at Faridabad, the workers enmasse were denied entry inside the factory since they refused to give a written undertaking on not joining any union activities. The same incident took place in Maruti Udyog at Guragaon Haryana and Pepsico factory at Kanpur few years ago. In Ferozabad of Uttar Pradesh, the trade union leaders in the glass-bangle

industry have been arrested and booked under Anti-gangsterism Act. In Banihal at Jammu & Kashmir, the construction workers in the Udhampur-Barnallah Railway Project have been on strike since last four-months or so facing brutal police atrocities, mass scale arrests and at the end Army has been deployed to break the strike at the behest of the contractor. And in the capital city itself, the elite management of Birla-led Hindustan Times has terminated 362 workmen of the printing press working there for last 15-20 years on 3rd October 2004 not even giving one-day's notice and the law-enforcement machinery preferred to remain a silent onlooker. These incidents signify the depth of hostility of the entire administration or in that matter the entire state machinery against the trade union movement.

LONGER WORKING HOURS, WIDESPREAD CONTRACTORISATION AND VIOLATION OF LABOUR LAWS

In the private sector establishments, particularly in the small and medium scale sectors covering more than eighty per cent of the industrial units, eight-hour working has become a matter of past. 12 hour working has become a normal phenomenon, in majority cases without any or with meager compensation much below the statutory level. In the recently growing IT and ITES sector units, the normal working hours in most of the cases is much beyond eight hours.

The wholesale contractorisation of work reflects anarchy and lawlessness indulged in by the employers in complicity with the administration. The offloading/outsourcing of work to contractors, sometimes very much within the factory premise has become a regular practice. This is totally illegal as per the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act. In any Government department, mostly in services and public utility areas, both in the center and the states and in many public sector units, contract workers are being deployed in permanent nature of jobs, side by side with permanent workers, thus encouraging worst discrimination.

In the private sector units, the exploitation is more severe where the majority of workforce have been on contract and are being denied even statutory minimum wages and made to work for 12 hours. The contract workers engaged on piece-rate basis are being subjected to more atrocities where the total earnings of a piece-rated contract worker remained much below the statutory minimum wages and with no limit of working hours. On the whole, in the liberalized policy regime, the proportion of contract workers, stripped almost of all the labour rights and social security benefits, has been increasing rapidly, thus creating conditions of virtual slavery in the workplace.

The labour departments in the center and most of states simply ignore complaints of violation of labour laws. The complaints of non-payment of wages/statutory minimum wages and for compensation for work beyond eight hours are not even acknowledged on the ridiculous plea that as per Payment of Wages Act anybody drawing more than Rs 1600/- per month cannot be considered as workmen. Successive governments have been refusing to change the obsolete wage ceilings laid down in Payment of Wages Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, Payment of Bonus Act etc. For the majority of workers on contract, any complaints on labour law violation is tackled by the employers in connivance with labour departments, with immediate dismissal/victimization of complainant workers.

Particularly in the northern part of the country, the employers are refusing entry of the workers inside the factory premises unless they give written undertaking of not joining any trade union. Such an anarchic situation in labour-law enforcement almost throughout the country is further confirmed by the fact that during recent years, most of the trade union actions by the workers in the private sector industrial units in the industrial areas of Delhi, Ghaziabad, Ferozabad, Agra, Meerut and Varanasi etc in Uttar Pradesh, Faridabad, Dharuhera, Guragaon, Panchkula and Panipat etc in Haryana, Gobindpura and Mandideep etc in Madhya Pradesh, Ludhiana and Jullundhar in Punjab, the hydel-power and other construction projects in Jammu, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and other places centred round

mainly one demand, i.e., implementation of labour laws, particularly in respect of statutory minimum wages, working hours and rights of the contract workers and in almost all the cases, the workers had to fight braving inhuman atrocities by the police who are acting as security guards of the employers. Very recently the construction workers in railway projects at Jammu had to strike for more than three-months period demanding payment of minimum wages, statutory social security benefits and recognition of the trade union rights and they have been tackled brutally by police and even by army at the behest of the contractor.

Such non-enforcement of labour laws has been depriving the workers of their rights not only in the workplaces where they are not being deliberately enforced on the most obscene plea of investor-friendliness, but also affecting the workers in other organized sector as well putting downward pressure on their wages and rights. As for example, in many of the states, the industry level tripartite wage settlement in some of the industries, such as textile-mills, earned through long drawn struggle in the past are being denied as parallelly hundreds of small spinning mill units have mushroomed in those areas where workers are being paid less than half the industry level wages.

In such a situation, the demand for enforcement of labour laws particularly in respect of Minimum wages, contract labour, Social security benefits, maintenance of employment register, workmen's compensation etc and strengthening of the Labour-inspection machinery throughout the country must be brought to focus by the trade union movement in all its activities and action plan. Towards this end all our affiliated units must work seriously to make proper documentation of labour law violation with specific instances, cases with all relevant evidences, whatever available.

Secondly, in the face of rapidly increasing contractorisation and casualisation of the workplace, we must give special attention to organising the contract workers in the trade unions. Our experience in the contract workers' movement in various industries suggests that the contract workers could be effectively organised as a force where the permanent workers' unions in the concerned industry had taken initiative in that work. In the present day situation where proliferation of contract system is injecting conditions of unorganized sector in the organized-sector workplace, ignoring the most important task of organizing the contract workers would be suicidal for the entire trade union movement. Keeping that in view, we must draw appropriate strategy both at workplace level and in the national arena to forcefully voice the demands of the contract workers. We may plan of holding all India and state and industry level conventions in phases to bring the issue of contract system and the conditions of the contract workers in the focus.

IT AND ITES SECTOR

Another area where the trade union movement has not yet been able to make much headway is the Information Technology (IT) and IT enabled Service sector, which has grown substantially during the post liberalisation period. (Here, IT and ITES sector refers to the service sector and does not include the IT-related manufacturing units.) The important factor behind the growth of the ITES sector is Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) by various foreign multinational companies for their customer care services. As per an estimate made by Tata Economic Services, the total employment in IT and ITES sector was around 10 lakh by the end of 2001, which had been less than a lakh during early 1990s. As per another estimate, the IT and ITES sector employment is expected to cross 15 lakh by the end the decade.

The work in this sector continues round the clock without any break, particularly in the call centers. Workers in these sectors are yet to be unionised and hence the usual working hours are longer than the statutory limits obviously with less than statutory compensation. Work in these sectors requires high skill and much more attention and concentration. Compared to the value created and stress undertaken by the workers in this sector, the remuneration is quite low. As per an estimate published

in the Annual Report (2003-04) of the Reserve Bank of India, "US outsourcing in India reduces cost of the US companies by 40-60 per cent, improves quality by 3-8 per cent and improves productivity by 20—150 per cent; but out of every US\$ 1.45 value created by the call centers outsourced by US companies in India, only 33 cents remains in India and rest go back to USA." Whatever remains in India includes the profit margin of the call center owners, besides the wages paid to the workers. This explains the abnormal gap between the value created by the workers and the wages earned. Because of stress after a few years of work in this sector, many workers are forced to leave the job.

As we have already noted, the trade unions are practically absent in this sector. Many of the State Governments also, under the garb of investor-friendliness, do not allow trade union formation and also refuse to monitor labour law enforcement particularly on working hours and related aspects. In this back ground CITU is required to undertake deeper study in these areas and adopt an appropriate strategy to organize trade unions in the IT and ITES sector which started playing a crucial role in the country's economy.

CHECKMATING THE PRIVATISATION DRIVE

The defeat of the BJP-led NDA in the last general elections has definitely brought relief for the public sector from the liquidating onslaught of privatisation. However, as noted in the Nashik General Council report, "the section dealing with the public sector in the NCMP has room for interpretation in negative directions. There are "windows" and "ventilators" to pursue with the disastrous path of privatisation. To be precise, the patrons of privatisation do not have dearth of pleas to justify privatisation of public sector undertakings. Therefore, there is no reason for us to be complacent. Rather we must be vigilant and active like during the previous regimes."

The UPA Government has taken certain welcome steps pertaining to public sector. These include winding up of the Disinvestment Ministry and the Disinvestment Commission, reversal of the Vajpayee Government's decision to privatise BPCL and HPCL, the release/approval of payment of outstanding dues of the employees of 24 sick public sector units' amounting to Rs.517.43 crore etc. It is noteworthy that conclusive privatisation and/or strategic sale of public sector undertakings at least at the moment, are not in the current activity-list of the UPA government.

However, there are disturbing developments too. Disinvestment of minority equity shares of 'navaratna', 'mini-ratna' and also other profit making PSUs without diluting management control are under consideration of the Government. There is proposal to enhance Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap in telecom, civil aviation and insurance sectors. The constitution of Board for the Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises has been approved. The composition and functioning of the Board must be watched.

Further, the union cabinet has approved setting up of an Empowered Group of Minister under the chairmanship of P.Chidambaram the Finance Minister to work on disinvestments of public sector equity. No positive response has been forthcoming from the UPA government on the proposed amendments on Electricity Act, 2003 submitted by the trade unions. No amendments of this Act means rampant privatisation with unfettered open access and heavy burden of sky-high tariff on the poor people eliminating much-required cross-subsidy.

The private big business in the country and abroad are continuing their game to make aggressive inroad into the important public sectors including oil, power, telecom, insurance, transport. As per media report some 15 PSUs are likely to be listed for disinvestments through IPO route. The list include BSNL, NHPC, Coal India, Powergrid, Oil India and PFC. The criterion for the PSUs to be disinvested "is a net worth of more than Rs.500 crore and a profit-making track record."

Oil PSUs has been occupying prominent place in the media these days. The sector has been witnessing extreme volatility pertaining to crude price. The other aspect is involving wide-ranging restructuring of the industry. In their pursuit to so-called diversification steps, the oil PSUs in the country have been jumping to cross functions. The up-stream companies are entering into downstream activities and the downstream into upstream sections. The questions of mega merger of oil PSUs are also hotly debated. Arguments have been put forth both in favour and against such proposal. At the same time the Reliance Industries have been exercising shocking influence in shaping Government policies in their favour and have been infiltrating into prime public sectors in power, oil & natural gas, telecommunication industries. It is a matter of serious concern that a gigantic common carrier gas pipeline project from Kakinada to Ahmedabad and from Hyderabad to Goa has been given to the Reliance Industries (GTICL) by depriving the public sector company – Gas Authority of India Limited. Similarly in the power sector also the Reliance Industries has approached the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission staking claim for power transmission project by depriving the central power transmission PSU – Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.

With the UPA in power at the centre there is absolutely no reason to be complacent about the public sector policy of the government. There is, of course, no room to underestimate the strength of the left forces to fight out anti-public sector steps of the UPA government. The editorial of the Financial Express dated 16.10.04 has rather recognised the strength of the Left when it wrote, " But clearly hamstrung by the Left constantly nipping at its heels on the issue of disinvestments, this government is planning to review the previous government's proposal to reduce its stake to below 51% in public sector."

The Nasik meeting of the CITU General Council appreciated that the people had, in the last election, rejected the public sector demolishing drive of the BJP-led NDA Government and noted: " Therefore, any attempt to go ahead with the policy of privatisation shall amount to going against the popular mandate." The CITU has been playing a pioneering role in organising the anti-privatisation united struggles and this initiative needs to be pushed forward in the current context as well. The guarantee of protecting the public sector lies in mounting effective pressure on the UPA government. In this regard, we must exercise caution against drift from our principled position towards either extreme i.e., helping or hounding the UPA government.

UNORGANISED SECTOR

The General Council meeting in Nasik has directed the subcommittee on unorganised workers formed at the Centre to prepare a note at the earliest and discuss the issue in the Unorganised Sector Coordination Committee which was to be constituted with the nominations sent from the States. (So far the Centre has received 16 names from 12 States) The Centre convened a meeting of the newly constituted Unorganised Sector Coordination Committee on 15-16 November 2004 at Delhi. 15 comrades from 12 states attended the meeting. The General Secretary of CITU along with the members of the Central Sub Committee participated in the meeting, which discussed our work among the unorganised sector workers on the basis on the note prepared by the sub committee and formulated the future tasks. All the State Committees should take up the necessary follow up action to advance our work among the unorganised sector workers.

At this meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU we have to decide the dates of an all India convention of unorganised sector workers to be held for planning campaign on the unorganised sector workers bill and related issues.

UNORGANISED SECTOR WORKERS' BILL

The UPA Government sent a draft of the Unorganised Sector Workers' Bill dated 29th September

2004 for the comments of the trade unions. Again another draft was sent on the 18th October with some changes, for comments of the trade unions. Neither of the drafts has taken into consideration the unanimous suggestions of the CTUOs in June 2003, including the suggestions of the INTUC sent separately.

The Trade Unions have suggested that there should be a separate bill for the Agricultural Workers. But the new bill proposes to cover the agricultural workers also.

The revised draft clubs the Unorganised Sector Workers' Bill and the Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Scheme. It specifies the composition of the State Boards, the rate of contribution by the worker, employer, State Government and Central Government. The bill proposes that the workers' contribution shall not exceed 5% of the monthly wages; employers shall contribute 5% of the monthly wages of the workers and in case the employers are not identifiable, the State Government shall make a matching contribution to the amount contributed by the worker; and the Central Government shall contribute 2.5% of the monthly wages of the registered workers, which amount will go to the Pension Fund, which will be constituted out of the Unorganised Sector Workers' Welfare Fund under this act. It is also proposed to merge the existing welfare boards/ welfare funds under the new welfare boards/ funds proposed under this draft legislation.

While there is no provision to protect the job of the workers, provisions have been made in the new draft for wages under the Minimum Wages Act, eight hours work, overtime wages, payment of bonus, gratuity, equal wages, crèche and maternity benefit. But while the earlier draft provides for paid maternity leave for 12 weeks for those who have worked for not less than eighty days in the previous 12 months, the new draft provides for maternity leave of only 30 days.

The new draft also provides for penal action for contravention of the provisions under the act and free legal aid to the workers to deal with cases of denial of the benefits available under the act.

On the Unorganised Sector Social Security Scheme, 2004, the Director General (Labour Welfare) himself admitted that the number of workers covered till now was only 3,500. Only self-employed persons in the age group of 18- 35 were joining the scheme and employers were not coming forward to contribute their share. The DG (LW) also admitted that without the contribution of the employers the scheme would not be sustainable.

In this context, one thing is needs emphasis. The draft bill envisages social security for unorganised workers based on contributions from workers (and employers where identifiable) with just a token contribution from central government, which also is not firmly committed. It also seeks to impose substantial burden on the state governments on several counts. We are of the firm view that no meaningful social security scheme for the unorganised sector workers can even take-off without a substantial financial commitment from the central government. Nor it is practicable to make the unorganised sector workers, who are not having regular and continuous work all the days in a month or year, to contribute for their own social security/pension schemes. At best some token contribution in the form of annual registration/renewal fee may be conceived. In the last Indian Labour Conference, CITU proposed imposing of a central cess on turnover of the corporate sector to generate the main corpus for the unorganised sector social security scheme. Similarly the Employment guarantee scheme just circulated by the Govt also suffers from various anomalies. We will be circulating the government draft bill and the concrete proposals for improvement of the central trade unions (which will be finalised shortly) to all the state committees. All the CITU units must campaign among the grass root level workers and make efforts to develop countrywide movement on the same.

On receiving the first draft the CTUOs including CITU, AITUC, BMS, HMS, INTUC, AICCTU, TUCC, UTUC and UTUC (LS) sent a letter to the Government demanding inclusion of their suggestions in the

Bill before it is finalised. The CTUOs again met on the 6th November to consider the second draft and reiterated their stand that unless there is statutory back up and the Government of India provides adequate funds for the scheme, it cannot be sustainable.

We have to take up a wide campaign among the unorganised sector workers for the immediate enactment of the Unorganised Sector Workers' Bill and the necessity of the Government providing adequate funds for its proper implementation.

WORKING WOMEN

An all India campaign was conducted on the demands of working women, focusing mainly on five major demands – equal remuneration, maternity benefit and crèche for all working women, law against sexual harassment, legal protection for home based workers and against lifting of the ban on night work for women, as per the decision of the Nasik general council meeting of CITU. Signatures were collected on a memorandum to the Prime Minister, which was met with good response from working women from different sectors. Around 2 lakhs signatures were collected from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Bihar etc. District and local level conventions were held in several states. In general this campaign evoked good response from the working women. The campaign culminated in a convention at the Ram Lila maidan in Delhi on the 17th November, in which around 900 working women from both organised and unorganised sector from 17 states – Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal – participated. The participation from the states where the coordination committees of working women were functioning and CITU state committees took initiative was generally good. While there was no participation from Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and Rajasthan, the participation from Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh could be only counted on fingers. Efforts were made by some state committees to mobilise different sections of working women while some state committees only mobilised anganwadi employees.

A workshop of working women activists was held on 18- 19 November in which 86 women from 12 states participated. The workshop was held in four sessions in which continuing the campaign on the demands of working women, developing an all India movement of the nurses, organising home based workers, domestic workers and the fishers and fisheries workers and the formation and functioning of the state and district level coordination committees and working women's sub committees were discussed.

It was decided to continue the signature campaign on the demands of working women and submit the memorandum to the state governors on the same day in all states, in February 2005. While emphasising the need to organise the private hospital employees including the nurses, particularly in the big corporate hospitals and nursing homes, the workshop felt that further discussions were necessary to take a decision on how an effective all India movement of the nurses can be developed. It was also decided to conduct survey among home based workers and give wide publicity to their exploitative conditions and their demands by holding press conferences on behalf of CITU, on the International Women's Day on 8th March 2005. The workshop decided to concentrate on the problems of home based workers, domestic workers and fishers and fisheries workers.

TRADE UNION UNITY, BROADER UNITY WITH OTHER MASS ORGANISATIONS

In our report to the General Council meeting of the CITU held in Nasik, in the aftermath of the formation of the UPA government at the centre, we had noted: "The working class movement has also to shoulder the gigantic task of continuing the fight against the communal forces." We also emphasised the need to ensure that "the trade union movement remains alert and vigilant against attempts by

communal forces to usurp the space of opposition to the pursuit of disastrous liberalised economic policy regime”.

In discharging this twin task the General Council report underlined: “We have to ensure continuance of our firm opposition to neoliberal economic policies, from wherever it comes, in a credible and visible way. In this direction we have to prioritise on consolidating and reactivating the platforms of the anti-liberalisation struggle, the Sponsoring Committee of Indian Trade Unions and the National Platform of Mass Organisations (NPMO). We had earlier noted the indifference of some of our allies in this regard. We have to patiently resist such a trend and strive to centre-stage the Sponsoring Committee and NPMO as the nucleus of secular and united platform of struggle against policies of globalisation”.

This exercise commenced with a presentation of a memorandum to the Minister of Labour of the UPA government jointly by the constituents of the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions in May 2004. But, some of our allies were keen on associating the INTUC also in the joint exercise among the central trade unions. But, after some initial association in the joint meetings, the INTUC declined to sign the joint statement of the central trade unions on the budget 2004-05. Subsequently, the INTUC leadership distanced itself on the demand for hiking the interest rate on Provident Fund – rather advocated further reduction to 8 per cent even. It may be recalled that the INTUC leadership had, even during the NDA regime, was supportive of several of the economic reforms measures, including extending unqualified support to the retrograde recommendations of the Report of the Second National Commission on Labour. (The BMS representative had submitted a note of dissent.)

At the other end, the BMS leadership had withdrawn from the united movement after the observance of the national protest day in March 2002. They had gone along with the NDA regime in respect of all the measures initiated by the then Labour Minister Sahib Singh Verma. Our report to the 11th Conference of CITU correctly incorporated our assessment of the role of the BMS in these words: “Whatever may be public postures of the BMS leadership, they are working with tacit understanding with the NDA Govt. Their occasional public protests against some of the steps taken by the Central Govt and their staying away from united trade union action on the same issues are just to camouflage their understanding with the Government. These are meant only to confuse the workers and sabotage the movement”. The recent postures of the BMS on several issues including that of the interest rate on Provident Fund are in tune with their political stance, in the post-NDA regime. Thankfully, none of our allies are, as of now, advocating association of the BMS in the joint campaign and movement.

Yet, the task of reviving the secular and united platform of struggle is not easy. Here, it may be noted that the leadership of the HMS has also been exhibiting a lukewarm attitude over joining the united movement. The HMS did not endorse the call for strike on February 24, 2004 on the issue of right to strike. Though the HMS had joined the action programme of observing the all India demands day on August 20, 2004, they had chosen to place in writing their reservations on joining further programmes.

It is in this background, we have not been able to pursue our efforts to continue the united movement beyond August. Issues like hot pursuit of disinvestment moves and the privatisation of airports in Mumbai and Delhi, reduction of PF interest rate further down to 8.5 per cent, the proposals to cut down the benefits under the Employees Pension Scheme, dithering over the legislations on Agricultural Workers, Unorganised Sector Workers and National Employment Guarantee and several other issues cry for immediate intensification of united movement.

We have to engage our entire allies in the trade union movement in a purposive dialogue with a view to urgently revive the full fledged functioning of the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions, to carry forward the struggle against the retrograde economic policies in sustained and intensified action programmes.

We had, after an in depth deliberations within our organisation, adopted a document on the "united struggles and organisational consolidation of trade union movement". It had, inter-alia, emphasised the independent ideological campaign and organisational initiative by CITU, our own independent actions and reaching out to all workers, beyond the periphery of CITU affiliates as an inevitable prerequisite to achieving our objectives of united struggles. Unless we overcome the inertia that has set in amongst ourselves in this respect, our objectives will remain as no more than pious declaration of intents.

Along with this, we have to take up with urgency the issues of immediate concern to the other mass organisations viz. agricultural workers, kisans, women, students and youth. As a prelude to revive the National Platform of Mass Organisations, we need to set in motion joint campaigns and actions along with our fraternal mass organisations. Though we initiated a dialogue with the All India Kisan Sabha and the All India Agricultural Workers Organisation on the eve of the 11th Conference of CITU, the task of identifying the issues for joint actions at the State level is yet to be undertaken with the seriousness that it deserves. Again, we had identified the issue of right to work as a fundamental right on which we have to take initiative in mobilising the workers and the unemployed in united struggle against the ever mounting unemployment problem. Similarly, on the issues of working women, particularly in the informal and home-based sectors, we had decided to launch common actions. The required initiative, both at the national and state levels, has not been forthcoming. This is a serious lapse, which requires introspection and urgent steps to overcome the lag in our efforts.

We must ingrain in our consciousness that the present challenges of taking on the communal forces as well as those on the economic front are far too grave, which cannot be met on the strength of the trade union movement alone without mobilisation of broad masses of the people. The task of building up broad unity of the trade union and mass movements brooks no further delay. We must move forward from generalisations to concrete and detailed planning and implementation.

ANALYSIS OF MEMBERSHIP

In our 10th conference, we had decided to increase the CITU membership to 40 lakhs. Though we could not advance much to extend our organisation towards reaching that target, we renewed that commitment in our 11th conference at Chennai. It was also suggested that a proper analysis of the membership based on the Annual returns submitted by our unions can be provided by the centre so that the states can have a proper profile and are able to target the priority areas for expansion. Unfortunately, we are unable to place a report since 75% annual returns for 2003 are yet to be submitted by our state committees. We are unable to say whether our state committees have made efforts to reach out to new areas for enrolling new members. CITU centre is, thus unable to assert itself and play an effective role in the matter of assessing the reasons and addressing the problems of failure. Situation offers much larger opportunities for expansion. Our state committees, therefore, has to ensure timely submission of Affiliation Fees and Annual Returns every year.

However, a profile based on the claims of the 2002 membership will provide an overview of the membership spread. You are aware that the exercise of ascertaining membership of central TU organisations is currently on. During the last verification (based on 1989 membership), the total claim made by CITU was a little above 24 lakhs and to-day after almost 15 years the membership has shown a rise of about 10 lakh only. It is interesting to note that the total claim of membership of different central TUs is above 4 crore compared to 2.5 crore last time. Total state wise breakup of membership (see table Annexure I) reveals that states supposed to be under the CITU influence are Kerala, Tripura and West Bengal only. We are yet to spread in other states although A.P, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Assam have shown some good development. As far as industry wise projection is concerned, the CITU has better control over Jute/Road Transport/ Building Construction/Port & Dock/Coir as detailed in next page.

Central TU Organisation claiming to have better control over the Industry:

CITU – Jute/Road Transport/Building Construction/Port & Dock/Coir.

BMS - Engineering/Sugar/Financial Inst./ P&T Worker.

INTUC – Textiles/Rail, Transport/Plantation/Coal

AITUC – Agricultural Workers/Tobacco/Brick Kiln

(Industry wise details of HMS are not available) BMS & INTUC both claim to have substantial influence on Iron & Steel sector/Electric Gas & Power/ Mining & Minerals, apart from Defence/Agriculture.

As per the claims made, the areas where we have tremendous scope of expanding are Textiles, Garment, Engineering, Plantation, Tobacco, Petroleum, Hotel & Restaurant, Hospitals, Electric Gas & Power, Brick Kilns and we have to consolidate and increase our strength in Jute, Plantations, Coal Mining, Building Construction, Food & Drinks etc.

Over 15 lakhs of CITU membership is from the informal sector while about 20 lakh are from Textile, Jute, Iron & Steel, Metals, Engineering, Electricity, Gas & Power, Transport Sector, Coal Mining, Chemicals, Salaried Employees, Professionals, Port & Dock etc. The informal sector covers Garment, Mining of minerals, Quarrying, Agricultural rural workers, Building Construction, Tobacco & Beedi, Hotel & Restaurants, Hospitals, Coir, Brick Kilns, etc.

The target areas can be more pinpointed when the Annual Returns are available. In the meantime we are trying to prepare a more detailed comparison of CITU's industry wise position with the other central TU organisations on the basis of the claims made by them.

While requesting the State Committees once again to ensure submission of Annual Returns for 2003 immediately, the statement in Annexure II will give a state wise picture of the submission till date. Excepting Tripura and Goa, to some extent Punjab and Assam has submitted their return. All the other states, except AP, and may be Karnataka, have to submit almost 80-90% of their returns. The State Committees, by holding back the submission of annual returns and remittance of affiliation fees etc., are also causing a severe strain on the centre's financial resources.

ON ORGANISATION

The report to the 11th conference held at Chennai referred to the condition of the CITU organisation as: "The state of organisation continues to be a major concern for us" This was again quoted in the General Secretary's report to the Nasik session of the General Council in July this year. As far as the state of organisation is concerned, the situation does not seem to have changed much during the year. It is, therefore, reasonable that we shall still have same concern about the condition of our organisation especially in the context of globalisation offensive and the consequent increased responsibility of CITU.

This concern, however, does not imply that there has not been any improvement during all these years. There has, of course, been some improvement in our organisation and functioning during the past decade. Some of the tasks laid down in the Bhubaneswar document for strengthening the organisation have indeed been implemented. A brief account of what we could achieve and where we have failed had been recorded in the report to the 10th conference and repeated in the General Council report. Presenting the balance sheet it was rightly noted that the "gap between what has been done and what remains to be done" is still wide. The 11th conference as well as the General Council,

therefore, felt the need for an overall review of the state of organisation and also of the progress of implementation of the Bhubaneshwar document. But "it must not be another repetition of a routine review, we require to go deeper," we have to find out the cause why the record of implementation of the document is unsatisfactory even after a decade of its adoption. The General Council report correctly pointed out that only on the basis of objective report from the states and the federations that a meaningful review could be carried out. It was proposed that the draft of a comprehensive review report prepared on the basis of such input would be placed before the present meeting of the working committee.

We regret that because of non-receipt of report from a number of state committees and late receipt from most others, we have not been able to prepare the proposed comprehensive draft of a serious review report. While firm decision has to be taken regarding the comprehensive review being presented at the next General Council meeting, for the present, we shall confine ourselves to taking note of only one or two aspects of our organizational position.

CITU CENTRE

It was noted at the Nasik session of the General Council that the ouster of the NDA Govt, its replacement by UPA and particularly the position of the Left vis-à-vis the power structure has roused huge expectation. This has in turn imposed additional work load on the center. Representatives of unions from all corners of the country are rushing to Delhi to represent long neglected grievances of workers to the authorities at the highest level including ministry. The center is to make arrangement and often lead deputations. Besides the center has to make fresh effort for activating and giving proper direction to labour related machinery of the administration as well as for genuine pro-labour stance in proposed labour legislation and so on. This has to be managed with the existing strength.

The CITU Secretariat announced at the General Council meeting at Nasik its decision that as a part of the BTR birth centenary celebration programme the center would publish booklets and organise trade union schools. Accordingly the center published a booklet on the life and teachings of Com. BTR authored by M K Pandhe. The centre also organised three TU schools for three regions covering all the states. This was the first time that the centrally organised TU classes were held. A detailed account has been presented elsewhere in this report.

Further the centre is making serious effort to acquire land for establishing permanent TU School in the name of Com. P Ramamurthy, our founder general secretary. A call has been given for collection of the required fund.

Apart from the shortcomings revealed in the course of the TU classes, several others enlisted in the Bhubaneshwar document and discussed in conferences and other meetings still persists partially or fully. These will receive due attention in the comprehensive review report.

MEMBERSHIP

One important aspect of our organizational problem relates to membership. Membership is of course an index of the strength of any organisation certainly of a trade union. In the course of decade long exercise on organisation due emphasis has been laid on membership with which is also related the question of expansion. In the central workshop the importance of expansion was specially stressed. Let us have a glance at the situation relating to membership and expansion. Since reports have not been received from all state committees, the picture will not be complete but it will be possible to note the trend.

1) (a) We should recall that we had set ourselves a target of 40 lakhs. We are still far behind it. In 1999

sectors having strategic importance on the economy of the country must be understood by us.

We have before us the experience of organising and functioning industrial federations consisting of trade unions of different affiliations and also the unaffiliated ones. Keeping in view the perspective of realizing greater unity and higher level of industry wise consciousness of the industrial workers organizing such united federations should be the ideal approach. Of course major industries have already in place federations of particular affiliation thereby obtaining a situation of multiple industrial federations within one industry. Obviously such situation is not befitting to the aims and objectives of organizing industry wise federations.

The question of industry-wise independent united federation has been dealt with in the Bhubaneswar document thus: "In some such cases urge among the common workers for having one independent industry level federation of unions of different affiliation is being noticed. The CITU welcomes this urge for unity, but it is necessary for the CITU unions to see that such united independent federations become the genuine democratically run platform of struggle in defence of the interest of working class."

We must not miss to comprehend that the Bhubaneswar document has put distinct emphasis on the prerequisites before embarking on the path of launching industry level united independent federations. It has to be ensured that CITU unions within such federations would continuously have the organizational strength to effectively contribute in running the federation under the lofty ideal of 'unity and struggle'. It must strictly adhere to the cherished principle of trade union democracy in conducting the activities. Above all such federations must consistently champion the causes of the workers without any compromise.

Compared to the total strength of workmen in the different respective industries where our federations are functioning, our membership strength on an average is around 10% of the total workforce. The profile and composition of membership and its spread over various states also show extreme unevenness even in respect of the active and regularly functioning federations. Our weakness in this regard has been continuing since long and in almost all the federations, the issue of expanding the membership base, both in the stronger and weaker areas, has not yet surfaced as a serious agenda for discussion and action plan.

There is an urgent need to improve coordination between industry wise federations and the concerned state committees. The state committees have important role to play in supervising the function of the concerned federated union in the state. Some state committees have complained that the concerned federations do not maintain effective liaison with them. The result is that they are unable to supervise and monitor implementation of decisions of the federation by the concerned federated union in their state. On the other hand despite repeated circulars from CITU centre with copies to state committees and the federation, some units of some major industry-wise federations could not be made to submit even the affiliation fees and annual return to CITU centre in time. Similar complaints also have been made in the federation reports regarding tardy response of the some units in paying federation dues in time.

The question of close co-ordination and co-operation amongst the federations and the CITU state committees is of paramount importance in organising and consolidating the branches of the federations in the different units/plants of the industries located in the states. The basic role of the central leadership in the functioning of the industry-wise federations is definitely a priority importance. Nevertheless, the co-coordinating role of the state bodies of the CITU is inseparable. The federation headquarters must effectively liaise with the state committees where federation units are located. The state committees also should take more interest in proper functioning of the concerned affiliated union and its liaison with the federation headquarters. Through greater co-operation and co-ordination, it is obvi-

ous that, both the federation in a particular state and also the concerned state committee will be benefited in terms of membership and organisational strength so far developing a movement is concerned. This aspect has to be noted very seriously by us.

Regarding the weakness prevailing in the matter of active coordination between some state committees and the units of the concerned federations situated in the respective states, it must be mentioned that similar weakness is prevailing when it comes to the question of liaison between the federation leadership and the CITU center in the collective sense. We cannot claim that collective involvement of the CITU secretariat has been realized in various important organisational aspects including strategic planning of activities, sharing of information and reviewing of the progress concerning some industrial federations. Often it is a case that the federation/trade union activities of the industry become the preserve of the concerned Secretariat member looking after the activities of the particular federation. Such faulty practice has been seriously impairing the all round development of the federations concerned on the one hand and collective understanding of the center on the concerned industry and movement. Such wrong practice goes against the aims and objective with which the federations have been organised. This problem can be looked from multiple angles, for example: while the federations cannot be the domain of one or a few leaders, nay even the leadership of the industry concerned, the CITU state committees and the central Secretariat cannot be very occasional guests playing the role of passive onlookers. Weakness in approach, initiative and understanding is prevalent in both the sides. And owing to these weaknesses, in the case of certain industries of crucial and strategic importance, the industry wise movement could not be effectively aligned with the mainstream movement and action programmes on national level.

In the background of the above understanding, comrades may put forward concrete steps the CITU centre should initiate to undertake the check-up of the activities the federations, one by one in a time bound schedule. The CITU centre will have to interact with each industrial federation. A start was made with the All India Coal Workers Federation. This has to be extended to all the other federations.

TRADE UNION SCHOOL

Education and training of the cadres constitute a major responsibility of any serious trade union. As the Bhubaneshwar Document rightly stated, "without sustained education of cadres and activists, TUs will not be able to discharge their duties effectively." The document, however, added: "...the CITU centre has not organised a single central TU school during the last 23 years of its existence." And, what is worse, even during the decade that followed the adoption of the Bhubaneshwar document, very little was done in regard to trade union education. Although there was persistent demand for classes, for syllabus and for lecture notes, organisation of trade union class for the Hindi region and circulation of a draft syllabus and three lecture notes to the state committees and general council members for their comments and suggestions – this is all that could be done by the center during these 10 years. It was only in the context of BTR birth centenary celebration programme and as a part of it that the secretariat took a firm decision to organize through trade union schools for three regions. Southern region comprising Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, Hindi region that included Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Punjab besides all the Hindi speaking states and the Eastern Region comprised of Orissa, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. The decision was ratified by the General Council in its meeting at Nasik in July '04.

The classes were planned to be somewhat different from the conventional ones. They were conceived as interactive sessions in which a facilitator would introduce the subject and the attending comrades would have scope for full-fledged participation in discussion. It was also decided that the participation would be confined mainly to state level leadership including the presidents and general secretaries of the state committees.

It was decided that there would be five sessions spread over three days. The subjects chosen were: (1) Present day capitalism and Globalisation (2) Revolutionary trade unionism in present day context (3) Communalism and Casteism (4) Organisation and (5) Present situation and our tasks. Besides, a session for evaluation of the entire exercise was also planned. The first subject is predominantly theoretical, albeit with important practical implication. The other three subjects, the enormous importance of which is obvious, have been discussed more or less widely in different forums of CITU and elsewhere and urgent tasks in respect of them have been formulated in clear terms. But review of our work exposes serious lag in implementation. One major consideration in choosing these subjects was that in the course of interaction, hopefully, more light would be thrown on the problems of implementation.

The classes were held as per schedule. The classes for the southern region comprising Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra and Karnataka was held at Thiruvananthapuram on 6-8 August; for the Hindi speaking states and Maharashtra and Gujarat was held at Delhi on 11-13 August; the eastern region class was held at Kolkata on 8-10 September, attended by comrades from Orissa, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. The logistics was taken care of by Kerala (for Thiruvananthapuram, attended by 57 comrades including 7 women) and West Bengal (for Kolkata - 37 comrades, including 4 women) State Committees and the CITU centre (for Delhi - 60 comrades including 9 women). The State committees of Kerala and West Bengal made excellent arrangement for the classes. The arrangement for Hindi region made by the center was admittedly not at the same level.

In the class for the southern region, M K Pandhe, introduced the subject on present day capitalism, besides presenting the present situation and our task. Kanai Banerjee presented the subjects on revolutionary trade unions and communalism and casteism. K. Hemalata introduced the subject on Organisation. Pandhe also supplemented the presentation on revolutionary trade unionism.

In the class for Hindi belt, Tapan Sen, Kanai Banerjee, S Deb Roy and M K Pandhe made presentations. In the eastern region class, Chittabrata Majumdar, Sukomal Sen, Shyamal Chakraborty, Kanai Banerjee and Pandhe presented the subjects.

Expectedly, many comrades participated in the discussions in all the three classes, which was quite lively. Comrades came up with many valuable points on the subjects. Comrades also came up with a lot of constructive criticism. Most of them are undoubtedly valid. It cannot, however, be expected that every criticism made in the sessions will be equally constructive and will be accepted as valid by every one else. Besides, though the CITU has its own broad line on all the issues, there of course is room for some divergence of views, when it comes to details. Criticism was also some times very sharp. But all this contributed towards making the sessions lively.

This is the first time that high-level trade union classes have been planned and organised by the CITU Centre. The exercise as a whole had many shortcomings, as correctly pointed out by the participants. The centre itself was conscious about some of the shortcomings and had expressed its regret at the very beginning. Those were not in all cases avoidable but that does not make them condonable either. We note some of them here.

In high-level classes, taking up serious subjects, circulation of lecture notes is essential. Notes could not be circulated (only in the eastern region classes, a printed note was circulated for the session on communalism and casteism). This was a common point of criticism justifiably made in all the classes.

Besides, there was deficiency in some of the presentations also. In some classes, the participants found them to be lacking in structural balance, i.e. balance between space devoted to different aspects dealt with, some aspects having been dealt with more elaborately than others which deserved more attention. This is also among valid criticisms. In some cases some important aspects were totally

or partially ignored. All the shortcomings, the participants felt correctly, were mainly due to lack of preparations.

The participants had expectation for richer theoretical content and better form of presentation on all subjects, and some participants had candidly expressed their disappointment.

All these shortcomings are attributable to the utter lack of preparation for the classes. In fact it was decided that notes would be prepared and would be given final shape through collective discussion at the center. The presentations were to be made strictly on the basis of notes so finalized. But this decision could not be adhered to. Some comrades failed to prepare the notes for drafting of which they were responsible, no collective discussion could be held on the subjects. These failure and similar others have drastically detracted from the value of the classes.

Class with the state leadership was undoubtedly an ambitious programme. This gross lack of preparation, unmistakably points to the fact that this highly important programme was not taken with the seriousness it deserved. The center will have to take proper lessons from the experience of this round of classes so that shortcomings may not recur in future.

All these shortcomings notwithstanding the comrades have generally hailed the effort of the center as a "good beginning." At least some comrades felt they have been benefited from the classes. Most comrades emphasized the need for continuing this effort. The center is self-critically reviewing the programme in all details. As emphasized by comrades, the present initiative must not get stuck up with the completion of the present round and it must be ensured that the future programmes will be free from most of the shortcomings.

At the same time it necessary to reiterate that in spite of various weakness the present round of classes tried to bring to the fore some very important issues. While it aimed at deepening our understanding about the nature of present day capitalism and the meaning of globalisation in that context, it tried to focus on some issues of outstanding long-term importance crying for implementation of tasks that have been formulated in respect of them over the years.

The classes aimed at emphasizing (1) the need for consciously planned effort for creating socialist consciousness among workers (2) the urgent need for planning action for fighting communalism as a part of day to day trade union activity with emphasis on working class itself as a largest group. (3) the urgent need for implementing the Bhubaneshwar document.

It will be the responsibility of the state committees as well as the center to properly attend the issues.

BTR BIRTH CENTENARY

The eleventh conference of CITU held at Chennai on December 9-13, 2003 had decided upon year-long celebration of Com. BTR's birth centenary: the centenary year would commence on 19 Dec 2003, the day of Com. BTR's 99th birth anniversary, and would be concluded on 19 Dec 2004 with the completion of the 100th year of his birth. The conference decided that all units of CITU during the year would organize mass meetings, popular lectures, conventions, seminars, trade union classes, exhibitions, cultural function, etc, and bring out publications with materials on Com. BTR's life and teachings as well as selections from his own writings for wide dissemination of Com. BTR's teachings. Elaborate discussion on programmes for centenary celebration also took place at the Nasik session of the General Council.

On 19 Dec 2003 the inaugural function of the national programme of year long celebration was organized at Kolkata,. Thousands of workers and admirers of Com.BTR gathered at Netaji Indoor Sta-

dium, Kolkata, to pay tribute to the great leader and teacher of the workers and the toiling masses. Eminent trade union and political leaders including Jyoti Basu and .M K Pandhe addressed the gathering. The concluding programme of the yearlong celebration will be held at Mumbai.

In terms of the 11th conference decision, besides organizing a celebration meeting on 19 Dec 2003, the CITU centre has published early this year a booklet titled "BT Ranadive his life and teachings" authored by M K Pandhe. The booklet has been translated and published on massive scale in several local languages, besides Hindi. This apart, a full-page excerpt from Com. BTR's writings is being printed in every issue of 'The Working Class' and 'CITU Mazdoor'. Apart from this, the centre organised three central trade union schools, details of which had been noted earlier.

During the year different state committees have also organized various programmes in celebration of the Com. BTR's birth centenary. The centre is yet to receive reports on celebration from most of the states. It is therefore, not possible to present a complete report of celebration so far organised by the states. However, the few reports, which have been received so far, are presented here in outline. Apart from the massive gathering held on 19 Dec 2003, during this year, region and district wise seminars were organised by many districts in Bengal. The State Committee has published Bengali version of two booklets by Com. BTR and also Pandhe's booklet on his life and teachings. Moreover, since Dec 2003, the monthly organ of the State CITU (Bengali) has been publishing Bengali renderings of one article by Com. BTR in each issue. A special combined issue on Com. BTR and November revolution has since been published.

Tamil Nadu State Committee organised six regional classes covering all districts. It has published Pandhe's booklet in 15,000 copies. A district level seminar and cultural programme was organized at Coimbatore. Area level seminars and lectures were organized at some centres. The state committee has decided to organize BTR-AMG centenary programmes first in the districts and finally at Chennai on 18/19 Dec 2004.

The AP State Committee has so far held conventions/seminars in several districts. It has published a Telugu booklet "On BTR teachings". The state committee has decided to organise seminars/conventions in all the districts before Dec 2004.

In UP BTR centenary observance committee has been formed. In the 1st Sept anti-imperialist day programme, Com. BTR's teaching on the role of the working class in anti-imperialist struggle had been explained. One trade union school on Com. BTR's teaching was organised by medical and sales representatives organisation. Programmes were organised at several other places. Pandhe's booklet have been published and sold in thousands of copies.

Bihar State Committee organised a seminar at Patna. Sales representatives union organised a largely attended convention on BTR's contribution to trade union movement. The union is also holding classes in several places. A big rally is being planned to be held at Patna on 19 Dec 2004.

As stated, our yearlong celebration will be concluded on 19 Dec 2004. The concluding programme will be held at Mumbai where Com. BTR began his activity in the working class movement. The Maharashtra State committee is preparing in right earnest to organize the programme in a befitting manner.

The programme of centenary celebration was not decided as a matter of ritual. Our aspiration was to carry the teachings of Com. BTR to every single CITU member and beyond. It is yet to be known how far it has been fulfilled. Though duly called for, no report has been received from any other state. That does not, of course, mean that BTR centenary programme has not been organized anywhere else. There can be no doubt that most other states have organised programmes. However, habits die hard, so they have failed to send reports. It will be premature to attempt a review of the programme so far

organized. But it will be our important task to seriously review our performance after the completion of the year.

RIGHT TO WORK CONVENTION

In the 11th conference of CITU at Chennai, one of the suggestions made by the Commission on 'Unemployment – a trade union perspective' was that the CITU centre must take urgent steps to organise a Durgapur type all India convention on "Right to Work" at the earliest. (It may be recalled that the Durgapur convention was held on 2-3 April, 1990 and was attended by 1010 delegates drawn from trade union activists). Later on, in the Nasik General Council meeting it was decided to hold an all India convention on Right to Work in the month of November or December, 2004.

Now, it is almost certain that the convention cannot be organised before the end of this year for various reasons. Given our other commitments, it cannot be held immediately but we should organise this workshop as early as possible, either in March or May 2005. As we have already conceived this convention to be as broad based as possible, considering the participation, it should be for two days.

Right to work slogan has its appeal not only to the working class but also to the millions of youngsters who enter the job market every year. Unemployment situation has become worse now. Internationally also unemployment problems and demand for job are becoming focal point in the political developments. Particularly as per ILO studies now global rate of youth unemployment is highest ever.

It is becoming imperative now on our part to take the lead with due sincerity so that, beginning with this workshop, we unite other forces not only to highlight the issue of unemployment and right to work but also to develop it into a movement strong enough to intervene in the policy decisions of the ruling classes.

The situation demands that we finalise a road map with clear-cut objectives while we take the first steps to organise the convention. Our duty is to take a leadership role, take initiative to bring our fraternal forces in the movement, to try to enlarge and encompass other democratic forces to join the mainstream of struggle for jobs.

Keeping the above in view a decision has to be taken in this meeting of the CITU Working Committee.

TASK AHEAD

After detailed discussion on the Report of the General Secretary, the Nasik General Council concluded: "The defeat of the BJP combine in the general election and its replacement by the UPA regime at the Centre, supported by the Left parties from outside, has created a high expectation among the working people. Given the class character and inclinations of the parties in the ruling combine headed by Congress to the continuity of the liberalised policy regime, it is unlikely that much of the expectations of the people, as reflected in the electoral mandate will get positive response, notwithstanding the dependence of the government on the Left parties for continuing in governance. We have to watch how the new government goes about implementation of several of the pro-people commitments made in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). The budget 2004-05 recently placed by the Union Finance Minister, P. Chidambaram, despite containing some positive measures, brought home this reality. In this background, the working class movement has to discharge the responsibility of articulating the expectations of the people through vigorous countrywide mobilisation, campaign and agitation demanding implementation of pro-people commitments, as well as reversing the thrust and direction of the economic policies."

It further emphasised: "The working class movement has also to shoulder the gigantic task of continu-

ing the fight against the communal forces, the dimensions of which had earlier been deliberated and tasks outlined”

From the review of the situation after the Nasik General Council it is observed that the UPA government is more and more pursuing the same economic policies, which are much detrimental to the interests of the people and the country. Their attack on the working class is also being intensified day by day.

The present political reality is that the communal and disruptive forces that have been ousted from power at the centre are eagerly waiting in the wings greedily looking for the earliest opportunity to stage a come back. The working class keenly desires the UPA government to take measures, which would frustrate these attempts. But, the working class and the trade union movement cannot remain onlookers to such actions of the government, which negate the people's verdict and cause serious discontent among them. Under these circumstances, resistance to the anti-people and anti-worker measures of the UPA government, which are more in tune with the retrograde policies of economic liberalisation has to mature from protest actions to more and more strong, united and sustained struggles of the working class.

The era we are passing through is a difficult one, where we have to be much more cautious to build our movement. We are for the cause of the working class, as well as for the cause of peasantry and the common people. To make our mission successful, we must strengthen the unity of the working class, which is the primary task to succeed. We have also to work to bring the broader mass besides the working class in this struggle.

Unless the unity of the working class is strengthened, the task of bringing broader mass besides the working class in struggle cannot be effective. The task of building unity of the working class is also a difficult one. Historically the working class in India is divided into various trade unions under different political views. Naturally, some of the trade unions are negative towards TU struggles. Even those who are apparently positive in developing struggles of the working class, have different views on the unity of the working class and the path of building struggles.

Here lies the importance of strengthening the CITU and expanding our independent activities among the mass of workers. If we could strengthen ourselves and take a dominant role in building struggles, that will help the working class and the trade unions to overcome vacillations and join to strengthen the struggle in proper directions.

On the question of building unity and strengthening of the united struggles, we are to emphasise on the industry wise united struggles conducted by various industrial federations and trade unions. We have to encourage and support every struggle by the industrial federations against globalisation and attack on trade union rights.

Under the circumstances, there is no question of giving up the tasks formulated by the Nasik General Council. Over and above, considering the increasing threat to the working class and the people from the UPA Government, we are to take up the tasks as under:

1. Countrywide independent campaign on the issues detailed in the joint memorandum of trade unions to labour minister and CITU memoranda to the Finance and the Prime Ministers. While campaigning for countrywide struggles we should focus specifically on issues like legislations for agricultural workers as well as unorganised sector workers, with a meaningful state funded, benefit defined social security scheme, National Employment Guarantee Scheme, revival of sick Public Sector Units, reviewing the Electricity Act, 2003 and welfare schemes for women as incorporated in NCMP.
2. (a) Demand implementation of the pro-people commitments in the CMP and press for a directional

change in economic policies; (b) resist the move for unwarranted dilution of government stake in the PSUs, privatisation of airports and allowing higher dose of foreign participation in telecom, civil aviation, insurance, banks or in other strategic sectors of the economy; (c) oppose de-reservation of the items reserved for small scale units; (d) press for roll back of the price-hike of petrol, diesel and cooking gas.

3. Organise joint trade union campaign and struggle against reduction in rate of interest on provident fund and other savings and perpetuation of the new defined contribution pension scheme for new central government employees, besides imposition of tax on the terminal benefit under the scheme.
4. Pay more attention on the unorganised sector workers and form sub-committees and co-ordination committees at the state and district levels.
5. Take up the issues of the working women and build struggle at TU level.
6. Take initiative to encourage and develop industry wise struggles of various industrial federations.
7. Organise independent campaign against communalism and other divisive trends and linking them with day-to-day trade union struggles at all levels of the organisation and equipping the cadres and activists for such campaign
8. Prepare for holding a massive all India convention on "Right to Work" during March/May, 2005.
9. Organise trade union schools in the States to cover up to the working committee members of the affiliated unions as per decision of the 11th conference.
10. Redouble initiative for reaching the target of 40-lakh membership at the earliest, through consistent and vigorous membership drive.
11. Make serious effort to activating the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions and the NPMO to organise massive mobilisations throughout the country

Comrades,

The working class in our country has to play the vital role in changing the society. To achieve this goal: they are to fight every attack of the exploiting class and the government on the workers and the common people. Today, we are facing various types of new attacks and the working class, despite weaknesses among them, is also challenging those. Apart from success in achieving material gains, our main success is in involving more and more new forces in these struggles. We have to defend the gains of such advance and carry the struggle further forward. The CITU committees and units at all levels must prepare themselves organisationally and ideologically and take swift initiatives in this direction.

GREETINGS TO ALL OF YOU!

Chittabrata Majumdar
General Secretary

**STATEMENT SHOWING MEMBERSHIP OF CENTRAL T.U.ORGANISATIONS
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP CLAIM-VERIFICATION 2002**

SL.NO.	STATE	CITU	AITUC	BMS	HMS	INTUC
1	ANDAMAN	2417	1699	1346	0	1815
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	243799	590138	1591242	258436	306354
3	ASSAM	58726	39445	163596	60200	739606
4	BIHAR	23317	1122909	417903	177929	358363
5	CHHATISGARH	17276	38595	265578	94468	483781
6	DELHI	28308	71514	526571	249715	407635
7	GOA	1147	34076	73253	6881	7416
8	GUJARAT	7599	25909	211369	78574	331825
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	13242	27997	94657	0	113590
10	HARYANA	25321	43672	158136	39904	77681
11	JAMMU & KASHMIR	910	61639	30324	13780	83171
12	JHARKHAND	38181	184871	398637	624064	217860
13	KARNATAKA	99044	137382	66307	172867	142146
14	KERALA	1019507	341872	202154	485106	663472
15	MADHYA PRADESH	25220	60781	798516	56970	221211
16	MAHARASHTRA	63355	134336	572226	643472	1216101
17	ORISSA	31749	168124	538450	822296	407460
18	PUNJAB	32915	259844	275149	65800	223815
19	RAJASTHAN	28959	187023	598976	265803	83596
20	TAMILNADU	278378	353893	100506	187034	412847
21	TRIPURA	80363	77	4006	0	13083
22	UTTAR PRADESH	23833	61783	653661	577047	399991
23	UTTARANCHAL	11704	9950	109101	2886	21373
24	WEST BENGAL	1276248	610519	238569	446569	909447
25	Manipur/ Megha/Pon		44409			
	TOTAL	3431518	4612459	8318348	5350441	7868192

States supposedly under the control of :

CITU--Kerala/ Tripura/ West Bengal.

AITUC-AP/Bihar.

BMS-Delhi/Haryana/MP/Maharashtra/Punjab/Rajasthan/UP/Uttaranchal.

HMS-Jharkhand/ Karnataka/ Orissa.

INTUC-Assam/Chattisgarh/Gujrat/H.P./Tamil Nadu/J&K

STATEMENT SHOWING STATEWISE MEMBERSHIP AS PER ANNUAL RETURNS RECEIVED TILL 20.11.2004

Name of the State	Unions Submitting Returns			Position of membership according to Annual Returns		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
Andaman & Nicobar	5	9	1	1807(-)	2417(-)	173(-)
Andra Pradesh	671	758	193	172358(30972)	243594(40902)	55142(4362)
Assam	78	81	75	56531(21066)	58726(26083)	54953(25618)
Bihar	14	20	2	15020(623)	23717(5061)	3806(21)
Delhi	75	73	2	32208(1461)	28308(1135)	605(88)
Goa	7	7	7	1168(183)	1147(162)	1174(116)
Gujrat	14	18	1	7784(1225)	7599(1046)	573(135)
Haryana	22	28	16	20694(4928)	25321(9476)	3836(538)
Himachal Pradesh	25	27	19	12398(6032)	13242(6735)	3232(38)
Jammu & Kashmir	1	2	1	398(12)	910(-)	338(24)
Karnataka	111	115	53	91284(50213)	99044(52414)	51594(16838)
Kerala	860	891	1	947045(268058)	1019507(296028)	110(40)
Madhya Pradesh	26	71	12	10915(1738)	25220(3907)	3839(234)
Maharashtra	58	69	4	56589(6222)	63355(19386)	13034(79)
Orissa	53	69	27	25644(3167)	31749(6010)	13995(2556)
Punjab	72	81	64	64420(6700)	32915(1255)	57648(2288)
Rajasthan	78	73	6	31225(649)	31840(2453)	1890(-)
Tamilnadu	440	485	235	254553(35868)	278745(34407)	157960(18052)
Tripura	32	36	30	68932(11290)	80363(16249)	98646(21821)
Uttar Pradesh	83	106	46	16841(190)	24350(358)	7798(213)
West Bengal	963	942	3	1195233(146103)	1276360(142649)	504(55)
Uttaranchal	35	41	0	9049(425)	11704(516)	0
Chhatishgarh	13	18	15	16385(637)	17968(1618)	11202(1021)
Jharkhand	14	17	0	37702(2697)	38181(3789)	0
Total	3750	4037	813	3146183(600460)	3436282(671640)	542052(94137)

Year	No. of Unions	Membership
1983	1854	1890993
1984	2005	1575655
1985	1717	1716457(132536)
1986	2412	1844273(209348)
1987	2350	1680884(206482)
1988	2618	1919280(264507)
1989	3114	2425000(247388)
1990	2934	2095550(245060)
1991	2783	2088218(291228)
1992	3343	2381012(321620)
1993	3156	2371405(306344)
1994	3198	2470131(261980)
1995	3523	2784050(358188)
1996	3645	2805127(435285)
1997	3804	2917200(506097)
1998	3502	2881478(483373)
1999	3929	3296808(550583)
2000	3754	3124996(646618)

Name of the State		Union Submitting Returns		Number of membership according to Annual Returns	
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Andhra Pradesh	1	1	1	1	1
Assam	1	1	1	1	1
Bihar	1	1	1	1	1
Chhattisgarh	1	1	1	1	1
Goa	1	1	1	1	1
Gujarat	1	1	1	1	1
Haryana	1	1	1	1	1
Himachal Pradesh	1	1	1	1	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1	1	1	1	1
Karnataka	1	1	1	1	1
Kerala	1	1	1	1	1
Madhya Pradesh	1	1	1	1	1
Manipur	1	1	1	1	1
Orissa	1	1	1	1	1
Punjab	1	1	1	1	1
Rajasthan	1	1	1	1	1
Tamil Nadu	1	1	1	1	1
Uttar Pradesh	1	1	1	1	1
West Bengal	1	1	1	1	1
Chandigarh	1	1	1	1	1
Delhi	1	1	1	1	1
NCT of Delhi	1	1	1	1	1
Total	3750	4031	4113	4185	4251

Year	No. of
Union	Members
1983	1804
1984	1904
1985	1914
1986	1924
1987	1934
1988	1944
1989	1954
1990	1964
1991	1974
1992	1984
1993	1994
1994	2004
1995	2014
1996	2024
1997	2034
1998	2044
1999	2054
2000	2064

Centre of Indian Trade Unions

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING

Agartala

3 - 5 December, 2004

WORK REPORT

The CITU Secretariat has this time decided to place a separate work report, apart from the report of the General Secretary. Accordingly we are presenting hereunder a work report covering a brief account of the activities and programmes undertaken by different units, federations, states and our allied organisations in the intervening period, based on information made available to the CITU Centre.

The Nasik General Council meeting has given us an outline of our tasks and the programmes to be undertaken both at the central level as well as state level and down below.

Emphasis was given on the fact that firstly peoples' and workers' expectation has gone up after the formation of UPA Government at the center. The situation enjoins upon us a duty to intensify our mass contact as well as lead the struggle of the workers from the front so as to ensure that whatever may be the achievement that must come through mass actions.

It was pointed out that complacency might be generated after the ruling United Progressive Alliance government adopted the National Common Minimum Programme, broadly endorsed by the Left parties extending support from outside. Expectations might rise, with the notion that the pro-globalisation, pro-privatization forces in the UPA govt. would follow the NCMP and abandon the path of economic reforms, at least to the extent they have accepted the views of the Left. Nasik meeting has rightly warned that without massive countrywide campaigns and struggles, neither the peoples expectations can be fulfilled nor the reversing of economic policies be ensured.

Nasik meeting also highlighted that the defeat of NDA Government does not mean a defeat of the communal and fundamentalist forces. The working class has to shoulder the gigantic task of continuing the fight against these forces. This implies that continuous heightening of mass movement is imperative to isolate those forces from people. Our activities have to be geared to face the big challenges posed by them.

Andhra: During the General Council meeting in July 2004 there was a spate of demonstrations in Andhra Pradesh by Electricity Contract Workes, sugar and dairy workers and also Anganwadi workers to highlight their grievances.

Against removal of employees from the Primary Agricultural Co-op Societies thousands of employees organized rally before Assembly on 26th July. In 8 districts, collectorates were picketed, employees were lathi-charged and many were arrested. On 10th Sept district co-op central banks were put under seize. The removals from service were halted for the time being.

On 25th Oct more than 17000 village servants participated in dharna before the collectorates in districts highlighting their long pending demands. On 1st Oct thousands of multi purpose extension officers conducted rallies in district headquarters along with peasants against their removal by the new

state government. In addition, Hamali workers, railway vendors and helpers and other workers in contract system, like agro-market security guards are conducting continuous agitation.

Assam: Workers of Amguri Oil Field and the local people in Sivsagar district, under the leadership of "Sivsagar and Amguri Oil Field Protection Committee" staged a dharna, blocked main road and the entire area observed a 'bandh' when the representatives of Canadian oil company, CANARO, along with officials of ONGC came there to take over the Amguri Oil Field by CANARO.

On 20th Aug all India protest day was observed by organizing dharnas, processions in all big towns like Silchar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Kokrajhar and Nagaon. Prior to that during campaign week from 9-14 August demonstrations were held in many district headquarters and also one big rally at Guwahati.

On 1st Sept, anti-imperialist day was observed throughout the state.

Because of serious flood situation, many a programmes had to be abandoned but a demonstration in Guwahati under the banner of NPMO demanding flood problem of Assam to be declared as a national problem and for relief. Large number of workers joined the rally.

Bihar: Road transport workers from all over Bihar held a big demonstration in Patna on 21st September 2004 demanding a National Transport Policy to be in place and implementation of welfare and social security measures immediately. It was highlighted that drivers and helpers are hapless victims of physical attacks, extortions by anti-socials, terrorists and even the police. Though they maintain the main supply line, their life is most unsecured. They demanded proper security for their lives. They went in a procession in the city and held a mass meeting.

Beedi workers from many districts joined a rally in Patna on September 23, 2004 where they demanded implementation of statutory minimum wage, issuance of identity cards to all beedi workers and implementation of social security and welfare measures, as well as end of goonda raj, who exploit the poor village beedi workers in connivance with the employers.

At the call of FMRAI the Bihar-Jharkhand unit of Medical & Sales Representatives organisation held a demonstration on 25th Sep at Patna demanding reduction of price of medicines, end of black-marketing, and implementation of SPE Act. It was an impressive gathering.

Delhi: Thousands of workers in Small scale industries in Delhi demonstrated at Rajghat on the Ring Road blocking the road for hours against the sweeping orders by Delhi government to close down small scale industries in Delhi taking advantage of a High Court order. The workers demanded a change in Delhi Master Plan and ensure the livelihood of 2 lakh threatened workers. Some employers also joined the programme.

Jammu & Kashmir: Railway construction workers in Udhampur-Baramullah project have been subjected to unprecedented brutality by local police, administration, the goondas of construction company (HCC), a sub contractor of IRCON, and now by the military. HCC has flouted all labour laws and safety norms. When the workers failed to get justice after months of persuasion, they went on continuous strike from 2nd August 2004. HCC management tried all their tricks to break the strike even by arresting the leadership by the police as 'terrorists' but failed to break the strike.

On 6th Sept the management refused to attend a meeting on the plea that the union had no locus standi. Fortunately, on 9th Sept an election was held under govt supervision to elect the leaders. The USB Railway Project Workers Union (CITU) leaders were elected unanimously. But this time the administration changed their stand completely. They refused to recognise the union representatives but resorted to firing, driving away the workers from the sites on 10th Sep. 62 workers were injured and

Md Hanif, one activist succumbed to his injuries.

On 11th Sep there was bandh in Banihal. Dul Hasti and Baghliar project workers also went on strike. The workers and villagers blocked Jammu Srinagar highway. In support, Hydel project workers in Himachal Pradesh demonstrated in huge numbers.

The strike is still continuing. Basudeb Acharya met the workers on 14th Sept. Still now the workers were being hounded out by the police and military. Pandhe, Jibon Roy, Amitava Nandi and Sudhangshu Sil went to the site on 20th & 21st October. On that day a delegation from CITU with Tapan Sen, S Deb Roye and Dipankar Mukherjee met the Chief Minister, Mufti Md Sayeed, J&K at New Delhi, demanding withdrawal of police atrocities, compensation for the martyrs and injured and restoration of normalcy with a settlement with the union through dialogue. But the situation has not changed so far. The workers are being attacked still now.

Karnataka: In Bangalore on 2nd September, 2004 more than 20,000 workers including 12000 women workers from all over the state demonstrated before the Vidhan Soudha with the demands, such as expeditious revisions of wages of sugar workers; anganwadi workers and helpers, village panchayath workers, Hamali workers; reversal of anti-worker policies of the govt, withdrawal of the circular to hand over anganwadi (ICDS) management to panchayaths; enactment of "Unorganised Workers Regulation of Services and Welfare Bill."

Kerala: Congress led UDF govt in Kerala is going ahead to close down 41 factories out of 69 govt undertakings or to sell it to private owners. The entire 111 public sector institutions are going to be dismantled. All unions including INTUC have formed "Save Public Sector" forum and are organizing continuous campaigns against the UDF govt policies.

From 26th July onwards for 5 days public sector workers belonging to all unions excepting INTUC and BMS organized dharna before the state Assembly, protesting against the move to dismantle PSE's in Kerala by the UDF Govt. Nearly one thousand employees sat in the dharna and workers/employees from trade unions and service organisations came in processions to greet them. The programme had a good impact on the workers and employees.

Plantation workers' grievances were pending for long as the Plantation Labour Committee did not function and the state government was silent on it. Thousands of plantation workers (barring coffee and tea gardens) went on a indefinite strike from 13th Sept which went up to 22nd Sept, when the Plantation Labour Committee was forced to sit under presidentship of State Labour Minister. A settlement was reached. Planters will settle the disputes regarding wage and service conditions in a month and in the interim period wage for workers was increased by Rs 5 per day.

Workers protested against privatisation of Steel Industries Ltd Kerala (SILK) in Alapuzha district in a massive way. When the new Chief Minister took over, he hurriedly privatized SILK though the workers and people are agitation against it for long. There were several dharnas and secretariat march to prevent SILK and Autokast, a subsidiary of SILK being privatised.

Unorganised Sector workers are leading sustained movement programmes against the retrograde policies of the UDF government, where workers from traditional industries like coir, cashew, handloom, fishermen, toddy-tappers and also Anganwadi and Beedi workers joined in thousands. Similarly workers from KSRTC, KSPB, water supply etc, public utility services also are conducting continuous programmes against the anti-worker policies of UDF govt.

Maharashtra: Public Sector Employees Coordination Committee organised a big trade union convention on 21st August where trade union leaders from Railways, Airlines, Banks, Seamen, Airports,

shipping, Port & Dock and Hotel industry attended in large numbers. The convention demanded immediate stopping of privatization drive of airports and seaports and reversing the decision to increase FDI limits in telecom, insurance, civil aviation and banking sector. It was a joint convention where central leaders from CITU, AITUC and Kamgar Aghadi attended and addressed the gathering.

In Maharashtra there has been a new initiative to organize domestic workers most of whom are women. Several district committees have been formed and in Pune there was a demonstration on 23rd July 2004 where more than 1000 workers organized a convention and met the collector in a procession. They demanded that there should be statutes to guide their service conditions and social security.

On 26th August 2004, ten thousand workers from unorganized sector assembled at a huge rally in Mumbai demanding jobs, guaranteed living wages and social security for all. Participation by women in large number was a notable feature. They represented industries like Beedi industry, anganwadi, home-based industry as well as employees from schools, colleges who protested against contract system in educational institutions.

Orissa: On 28th July, 2004 a dharna was organized before the state assembly at Bhubaneswar against the anti-labour policies of BJP-BJD govt in Orissa. Thousands of workers from different parts of the state staged a dharna demanding payment of Rs 100/- as daily minimum wage, halting of privatization of public sector units, implementation of social security measures, inclusion of CITU representatives in tripartite committees and advisory boards, ending of police repression on normal TU activities.

In another demonstration in Bhubaneswar in July 2004, thousands of Beedi workers demanded identity cards for all workers carrying the name of the employee and also the name of the employer or the company. They demanded implementation of welfare schemes and also ending of exploitation of workers by middlemen and goondas.

Punjab: Thousands of workers in cycle industry in Ludhiana in Punjab demonstrated on 15th August, demanding implementation of all labour laws in respect of minimum wage, PF, ESI, industrial safety, leave, etc. The workers are being forced to work extra hours without wages in violation of Factories Act. In retaliation the owners have resorted to mass scale victimization and threats to workers. The workers are braving all these attacks through mass actions.

In DCM Oswal Agro industries CITU leaders were attacked by goondas engaged by the owners and 16 leaders of CITU were implicated falsely under section 307 in collusion with the police.

Brick Kiln industry workers are in serious crisis and they have started massive agitations everywhere because the govt has notified compulsory use of fly-ash from power plants in making bricks and the brick-kiln owners are refusing to do it. In this situation lakhs of brick workers will lose jobs. They are organizing themselves and conducting agitational programmes in district centres and in the capital.

Tamil Nadu: On 5th Sept thousands of workers opposing the move to privatise Tuticorin Port demonstrated in a rally at the old harbour gate. N Sankariah addressed them. The demonstrators led a huge procession that declared to continue the struggle more intensely in future.

A campaign week was observed throughout Tamil Nadu from 15-22nd Sept demanding amendment of Bonus Act, repealing of Electricity Act, restoration of 12% interest on PF and revival of PSUs and cooperatives' and demanding right to strike.

Three sectors in public undertakings in T Nadu registered a partial victory when they decided to go on strike demanding wage revision which is pending for years and annual bonus. Interim relief has been

agreed in State Transport and electricity board employees, though not for the entire period of the new agreement, to be effected. They and Civil Supply Corporation are to get 10% bonus this year. But employees of many other undertakings were denied bonus. Joint Action Committee organized a convention on 24th October demanding bonus for all workers of undertakings and settlement of other issues.

Meanwhile govt of Tamil Nadu was forced to concede some of the facilities, benefits that were withdrawn for the State Govt employees and teachers. Most importantly the union recognition was restored under pressure from the employees. Campaign for other issues and demands are going on.

More than 30,000 motor pump operators and 20,000 sweepers in village panchayaths have demonstrated in all district collectorates demanding implementation of the Labour Commissioners order to increase their wages from Rs 400 per month to Rs 1980 per month.

On 11th Oct, sugar workers joined a mass fast demanding their wage settlement and bonus. The old agreement expired in March 2003. They have formed a Joint Action Committee of all central TUs.

On 16th Oct medical representatives under TNMSRA organized a rally demanding a people oriented drug policy and on the demands of the medical representatives.

On 9th Sep there were rallies by unorganized sector workers in all districts. In Kanyakumari and Coimbatore the participation was particularly good.

Joint demonstrations are being continuously held demanding increase of PF rate of interest.

Uttar Pradesh: On 27th August 2004 Lucknow witnessed a big demonstration before the Assembly by workers from different parts of the state. They demanded enforcement of labour laws, opening of closed factories, enhancement of statutory minimum wage. Later, the Chief Minister invited the leaders where a detailed memorandum was submitted to him.

More than two lakh workers in glass bangle industry in Ferozabad have been fighting for long for implementation of labour laws, payment of statutory minimum wage, social security benefits but without results.

On 5th October 04 thousands of workers staged a dharna in Ferozabad when police resorted to brutal lathi charge and then started firing teargas shells and then the bullets. Several people were injured and many more were arrested. Firing continued on the second day also. On the 6th October 2004, a huge gathering of workers blocked the railway traffic for several hours; on the 11th October again several thousand workers demonstrated defying prohibitory orders. Jibon Roy visited Ferozabad on 8th October. CITU is taking initiative to organize the huge number of workers in Bangle, ceramic and other industries in that area.

On 30th Sept Ghaziabad has witnessed death of at least 10 workers, all on contract, because the unscrupulous owners of M/s Bhusan Steel had imported live ammunitions as scrap to be melted in the furnace to make steel. This was the third accident in two years. On 1st Oct thousands of workers demonstrated at the gate of Bhusan Steel demanding enquiry. On 5th Oct, the industrial workers observed total strike in that area. The district administration was forced to declare Rs 5 lakhs as compensation to each family of the deceased.

West Bengal: A massive rally was held at Kolkata on 1st October 2004 under the banner of NPMO. Several thousands of workers-peasants-employees-students-youths and women joined the rally. They demanded reversal of economic policies of NDA regime and fast implementation of pro-people

programmes and policies as committed in the UCMP. Senior CITU leaders like Shyamal Chakraborty and Kali Ghosh and others addressed the rally and Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya supported their 22-point charter of demands.

Massive campaigns were organized in 19 districts on 10-point demands on 9 -14 August. On 13th August 2 hours rail roko was organised by Rail Hawkers Union, Mutia Mazdoor Union Newspaper Sellers Union and Railway Contractors Workers Union to highlight their demands.

On 1st Sept mammoth rally and procession was organised on Anti-Imperialist Day. Thousands of workers joined the rally. There were rallies in many districts also.

Bank Employees' Strike: On 24th August, 2004 more than a million bank employees and officers observed one day's strike crippling bank services all over the country. United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBA) gave the call. Bank officers also joined the strike. The major demands were revision of wages and settlement to be effected from 1st November 2002 and improvement of other service conditions. Reserve Bank Employees Association also extended support to this strike and organized solidarity actions.

All India Reserve Bank Employees Association has objected to the increase of foreign institutional investment in public sector banks from 20% to 40%. The Association demanded that instead of increasing the foreign participation it should be brought down to zero.

Insurance: On 7th October 2004 Insurance employees throughout the country observed 1-hour walk out strike demanding wage revision and fresh recruitment in insurance sector. It was the beginning of a long drawn struggle. Participation was 73% in Western, 80% in Central, 81% in South and 86% in North Zones.

NABARD: On 5th October, 2004 about 5000 employees of NABARD along with the officers went on a total strike demanding PSU status for NABARD as a Development Financial Institution. They also demanded concessionary fund to NABARD to facilitate credit flow to rural economy. They also demanded parity of their pay scales and service conditions like those of Reserve Bank employees and officers.

Road Transport Workers Federation: Road transport workers both in heavy and light vehicle sections are vigorously campaigning against price rise of petroleum products on the last two occasions.

On 18th Aug light motor workers day was observed on an all India basis, so also on 2nd Sep Demand Day was observed all over the country. On 18th Oct public sector transport workers observed "Save State Transport Undertakings", Participation was good but not uniform as in some of the states the organisation has just started growing.

All India: As decided jointly by central trade unions and All India Employees Federations demonstrations were held on 20th August in all the states and industrial centres with the following demands:

1. Against reduction of interest on PF
2. Against enhancement of FDI in telecom, insurance, civil aviation industries
3. Against move to privatize airports
4. Against dereservation of 85 items from small scale sector
5. Demanding comprehensive legislation to ensure employment and social security benefits to unorganized sector workers and agricultural workers.
6. Revival of sick PSUs
7. Proper enforcement of labour laws

8. Clearance of statutory dues of workers
9. Enforcement of minimum wage.

Central demonstrations were held in all the states in the state capitals and as per our report in almost all the districts in the country.

Conference of All India Beedi Workers Federation was held in Mangalore on 3rd November, 04 where a concrete action plan has been drawn to organize and carry forward the struggles of the beedi workers all over the country. This conference dealt specially on those problems arising out of the law and gradual enforcement of ban on smoking.

Along with this I should mention that at all India level several actions are being planned including strikes in the coming months in the industries like Coal, Cement, Port & Dock, Bank, Insurance, Beedi, Anganwadi and other unorganised sector industries like Brick field, Transport and in different sectors of small scale industries etc. Preparatory work is going on in these areas. In majority of the cases the actions are likely to be united form of struggle with other unions.

In assessing our activities in the intervening period, we also should analyse certain characteristics in our programmes and take steps to correct our activities in future.

In the post-election scenario when we are to play the main opposition role against the economic policies and the conditions are, even marginally, in favour of us, our efforts to strengthen either NPMO or the Sponsoring Committee were not sufficient or fruitful.

Similarly, when our understanding is that, to implement the pro-people commitments made in the CMP our struggle in the Parliament and at the political level, as well as mass movements at the base, have to be strengthened at all levels and our fraternal organizations have to be taken along to fulfill the objectives, but in actual practices there has been little progress in that direction. Greater understanding with our fraternal organisations to ensure their participation is necessary.

It is observed that there is a growing trend among ourselves to take the Parliamentary route to highlight the suffering of the people or to solve their specific problems with the help of MPs. At the same time, it will be wrong to ignore that in some pockets our activities have been intensified and our leadership in many areas are leading the workers against tremendous repression to fight the injustices they have suffered in the past few years.

On the whole this period did not witness activities at a uniform or at desired level. Many factors have contributed to this situation including the season of festivals. Comrades may discuss the issues and enrich it with their observations and information.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Since inception, CITU has built up a close relationship with trade unions of different countries. During the period under review, our leadership were invited to join several international conferences. Shyamal Chkraborty visited Japan to attend the conference of ZENROREN. Amitava Nandy attended World Conference against Atom & Hydrogen Bombs in Japan. M K Pandhe led a high powered joint trade union delegations to China where Kashmira Singh accompanied him as part of the delegation. At the invitation of VGCL of Vietnam, S Veeriah, Prakash Rajkhowa, J. Mercy Kutty Amma visited Vietnam under the leadership of Md. Amin. At the invitation of Nepal Trade Union Federation, Arun Mishra visited Nepal. Bijan Behari Das and Jitendra Deshmukh attended an international conference of medical representatives in France. At the call of Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), Ardhendu Dakshi attended regional workshop against Korea-Asean FTA at Seoul. To consolidate international

relationship in between trade unions working in Oil, Gas & Electricity Industries, Swadesh Dev Roye visited Bangladesh. M.K. Pandhe attended a seminar on hazardous impact of use of asbestos in Japan and presented a paper.

Centre of Indian Trade Unions

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING

Agartala

3 - 5 December, 2004

RESOLUTIONS

ON CONDOLENCE

YASSER ARAFAT

This meeting of the CITU Working Committee being held at Agartala (Tripura) on 3-5 December 2004, expresses its deep grief at the passing away of legendary revolutionary leader and President of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat, who led the struggle for Palestinian homeland for more than six decades.

A towering personality, he was an embodiment of unity of the struggling population of Arab world who faced the most powerful oppressors like the US imperialists and its cohort, Israel with extreme courage and conviction.

The crimes committed against the people of Palestine first by the British and then by the US imperialism have no parallel. Hundreds of thousands of people living between river Jordan and Mediterranean Sea for generations were evicted at gunpoint from their homes and the land was given to Jews from all over the world, who had nothing to do with this land. They got their state of Israel but the Palestinians are still homeless and stateless.

Yasser Arafat stood against this grave injustice but also was a prudent statesman who made several courageous attempts to make compromises between reality and emotions but every time he was betrayed by the rulers of Israel and the United States. There were several attempts on his life by the Israeli regime, which adamantly defies the world opinion.

This meeting records with deep appreciation his contribution to world peace and pays homage to the departed leader. He was a great friend of the people and working class of India.

The CITU hopes that in his absence, the Palestinian people and leaders will carry forward their struggle and achieve their goal for which Yasser Arafat had dedicated his life. The CITU expresses its solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle.

ON CONDOLENCE

This meeting of the CITU Working Committee being held at Agartala (Tripura) on 3-5 December 2004, expresses its deep grief at the passing away of veteran communist leader and a brilliant historian Com. Hiren Mukherjee, who died at the age of 97. Despite his old age and failing health he worked and wrote relentlessly and made important contribution to the defence of scientific socialism with a firm conviction of its final victory. He was one of the founders of Progressive Writers Association and founder President of IPTA. The meeting conveys its heartfelt condolence to the family members of the deceased leader.

This meeting condoles the death of Sri Dattopant Thengadi, founder member of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. He strongly opined against senseless drive for globalisation. CITU remembers his preparedness to join hands with the TUs on issues of common interest and pays its respectful homage to the departed leader.

This meeting also mourns the death of Sri Chandidas Sinha, Secretary of INTUC who in his own way contributed to further the cause of TU movement. The Working Committee records its condolences on the sad demise of Com. Braja Mohan Sharma, a popular social activist and General Secretary of Assam unit of All India Lawyers Union.

ON HOMAGE TO MARTYRS

This meeting of the CITU Working Committee being held at Agartala (Tripura) on 3-5 December 2004, respectfully remembers the courageous sacrifice of those leaders, cadres and activists of the trade unions, peasants, agricultural labour, youth, student and women's movement who laid down their lives in the struggle championing the cause of the toiling people as well as against separatist, divisive and communal forces safeguarding the unity of the people and integrity of the nation.

This meeting recalls the firm determination with which innumerable comrades of the democratic movement embraced martyrdom confronting the heinous and ghastly attacks of the political gangsters, the police and the employer nexus and severely condemns the barbaric act.

This meeting offers homage of respect to the brave martyrdom of com Md Hanif who laid down his life confronting the police firing on the picket line of the striking construction workers at Banihal in J&K in the Udampur Barmullah railway project. It expresses grave concern at the naked police firing on the peaceful dharna of the workers there on 10th September 2004 and demands stringent punishment to those responsible.

This meeting records its deep sense of sorrow at the loss of innocent lives and cattle in different parts of the country due to devastating floods. It also expresses deep grief at the death of 87 innocent school children in the fire in a primary school at Kumbakonam (Tamilnadu) and demands adequate relief to the affected families.

GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE AND WORKING CLASS OF TRIPURA

This meeting of the CITU Working Committee being held at Agartala (Tripura) on 3-5 December 2004, extends its warmest and heartiest greetings to the hundreds of thousands of workers and other toiling masses of Tripura who have been valiantly fighting against the terrorist and separatist forces since the last several decades. Hundreds of men and women activists of CITU and other mass organisations have laid down their lives in this struggle to protect and unity of the tribal and non-tribal peoples of the state and the unity and integrity of the country. The CITU dips its banner and pays its homage to these heroes and heroines who refused to be cowed down by the threats of the terrorists and separatists and others who worked in tandem with these anti national forces. Their courage and sacrifice are sources of inspiration to the working class and the democratic people in the entire country.

In spite of the enormous difficulties, the working class of Tripura has been responding with tremendous enthusiasm to all the calls of CITU. While braving the continuous offensive and disruptions of the extremist forces abetted by imperialist powers, the working class of Tripura did not fail in expanding the horizon of the trade union movement involving more and more workers and toiling masses in the struggle against exploitation and anti-people policies of neoliberalism. This is no small achievement. The activists of the trade union and democratic movement in Tripura have to work in an extremely abnormal situation - combating the extremist and divisive onslaughts both physically and ideologically,

risking their lives at every step on the one hand and mobilizing the toiling people in the mass struggles and strengthening the organizations on the other. This speaks of the supreme dedication and commitment of our activists and workers in general in the state in discharging the most crucial political responsibility of isolating the extremist and divisive forces while advancing the mainstream struggle of the toiling people in all the fronts. The CITU Working Committee remembers with great respect the supreme sacrifices made by our comrades, activists and sympathizers in Tripura in keeping the flag high and struggle undaunted and expresses pride for reckonable achievements in organisation and struggles by our comrades in an extremely difficult situation.

This meeting salutes the working class and people of Tripura for their unswerving support to the Left front and electing the Left front candidates with increasing margins in all the recent elections, be it to the Assembly, Lok Sabha or the local bodies. It also greets the Left Front government of Tripura for its commitment to the welfare of the workers, peasants, agricultural workers and the poor and doing its best to ameliorate the problems of these sections in spite of its sparse resources and the continuous pressure from the Government of India to implement the neo liberal policies of globalisation and toe the line of the World Bank and IMF.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS, NEW DELHI
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 2003

LIABILITIES		AMOUNT		ASSETS		AMOUNT	
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>				<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>			
Opening Balance		6380455		(As per Schedule attached)			1528072
Add: Trd. from Special fund		1369212					
Add: Surplus from Income &		1212671		<u>INVESTMENTS</u>			
Expenditure account			8962338	Fixed Deposits with Banks		4267371	
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS</u>				<u>CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS AND ADVANCES</u>			
a) Current Liabilities				a) Current Assets			
T.N. State Committee Fund		2073		Balance with Banks		2447038	
Gujrat Earthquake Relief fund		11857		Cash in hand		127993	
Transport Seminar Fund		30000		b) Loans & advances		694334	3269365
Gujrat Riot Relief Fund		53140		(Advances recoverable in cash or kind for which value to be received.)			
Audit fee payable		5400	102470				
TOTAL (Rs.)			<u>9064808</u>	TOTAL (Rs.)		<u>9064808</u>	

Note : Figures have been rounded off to the nearest of rupee.

For CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

(PRESIDENT) (SECRETARY) (TREASURER)

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 16-07-2003

AUDITORS' REPORT
As per our report of even date attached.
For B.M. SHARMA & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

(B. M. SHARMA)
Partner

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS, NEW DELHI
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2003

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	INCOME	AMOUNT
<u>MAGAZINES EXPENSES</u>		<u>SALE OF MAGAZINES</u>	
CITU Mazdoor Expenses	159389	CITU Mazdoor	167336
Voice of Working Women Exp.	172535	Patrika Income	6407
Working Class Exp.	156109	Voice of Working Women	139010
<u>MEETING, RALLY & SEMINAR</u>		<u>Working Class</u>	<u>180751</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>			493504
CITU meeting	12441	Publication Expenses	36479
Working Committee Meeting	10940	Affiliation Fee	2889469
General Council Meeting	23018	Bank Interest	69085
26th Feb. Programme Exp.	633620	Donation	538222
Travelling & Conveyance Exp.	145899	Interest on F.D.R.	401064
Vehicle Expenses	107287	Miscellaneous Income	2279
Bank Charges	7261		
Building Maintenance Expenses	61806		
Electricity & Water Expenses	14475		
Medical Expenses	41065		
Miscellaneous Expenses	42452		
Communication Expenses	149275		
Publication Expenses	36331		
Rent & Taxes	37132		
Repair & Maintenance	136983		
Printing & Stationery	65966		
Tea & Teffin Expenses	38528		
News Papers & Periodicals	22585		
Wages	606100		
Internal Audit Expenses	5770		
Audit Fee	5400		
Depreciation	525064		
Excess of Income over Expenditure	1212671		
tfd. to Balance sheet			
	<u>4430102</u>		<u>4430102</u>

Note : Figures have been rounded off to the nearest of rupee.

For CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

(PRESIDENT) (SECRETARY) (TREASURER)

Place : New Delhi

Dated : 16-07-2003

AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date attached.

For B.M. SHARMA & ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

(B. M. SHARMA)

Partner

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS, NEW DELHI

RECEIPT AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2003

[illegible]

Note : Figures have been rounded off to the nearest of rupee.

For CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date attached.

For B.M. SHARMA & ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

sd/-
(PRESIDENT)

sd/-
(SECRETARY)

sd/-
(TREASURER)

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 16-07-2003

sd/-
(B. M. SHARMA)
Partner

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS, NEW DELHI
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 2004

LIABILITIES	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	ASSETS	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>		1253084
Opening Balance	8962338		(As per Schedule attached)		
Add: Surplus from Income & Expenditure account	3296540				
		12258878	<u>INVESTMENTS</u>		9370734
			Fixed Deposits with Banks		
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS</u>			<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
a) Current Liabilities			<u>LOANS AND ADVANCES</u>		
T.N. State Committee Fund	2073		a) Current Assets		897397
Advance from AFFI	1283		Balance with Banks		115615
Transport Seminar Fund	30000		Cash in hand		666887
U.P. State Committee	683		b) Loans & advances		1679899
Audit fee payable	10800	44839	(Advances recoverable in cash or kind for which value to be received.)		
TOTAL (Rs.)		12303717	TOTAL (Rs.)		12303717.1

Note : Figures have been rounded off to the nearest of rupee.

For CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

(PRESIDENT) (SECRETARY)

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 09-07-2004

(TREASURER)

(B. M. SHARMA)
Partner

AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date attached.
For B.M. SHARMA & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS, NEW DELHI
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2004

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	INCOME	AMOUNT
Magazine Expenses	407352	Sale of Magazines	581013
Meeting, Rally & Seminar Expenses	44516	Publication Income	20113
Travelling & Conveyance Exp.	161778	Affiliation Fee	4929099
Vehicle Expenses	114101	Bank Interest	57269
Bank Charges	10160	Donation	314766
Building Maintenance Expenses	132852	Interest on F.D.R.	145012
Electricity & Water Expenses	16992	Miscellaneous Income	1898
Medical Expenses	49117		
Miscellaneous Expenses	47899		
Communication Expenses	145632		
WSF India Trust A/c	18033		
26th Feb.. Convention	6000		
AICCWW Conference	22659		
XI Conference A/c	172077		
Relief & Subsidy	12106		
Staff Welfare	4670		
Rent & Taxes	78277		
Repair & Maintenance	139241		
Printing & Stationery	121495		
Tea & Teffin Expenses	38496		
News Papers & Periodicals	30888		
Wages	616350		
Internal Audit Expenses	3082		
Audit Fee	5400		
Depreciation	353457		
Excess of Income over Expenditure	3296540		
tfd. to Balance sheet			
	<u>6049170</u>		<u>6049170</u>

Note : Figures have been rounded off to the nearest of rupee.

For CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date attached.
For B.M. SHARMA & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

(PRESIDENT)

(SECRETARY)

(TREASURER)

Place : New Delhi

Dated : 09-07-2004

(B. M. SHARMA)

Partner

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS, NEW DELHI
RECEIPT AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2004

RECEIPT	AMOUNT	PAYMENT	AMOUNT
<u>OPENING BALANCE</u>		Magazine Expenses	407352
Cash in hand	127993	Meeting, Rally & Seminar Expenses	44516
Cash at Banks	<u>2447038</u>	2575031 Travelling & Conveyance Exp.	161778
Sale of Magazines		581013 Vehicle Expenses	114101
Publication Income		20113 Bank Charges	10160
Affiliation Fee		4929099 Building Maintenance Expenses	132852
Bank Interest		57269 Electricity & Water Expenses	16992
Donation		314766 Medical Expenses	49117
Interest on F.D.R.		145012 Miscellaneous Expenses	47899
Miscellaneous Income		1898 Communication Expenses	145632
Decrease in Loans & Advances		33874 WSF India Trust A/c	18033
Advace AFFI (AP A/C)		1283 26th Feb., Convention	6000
U.P. State Committee		683 AICCWW Conference	22659
		XI Conference A/c	172077
		Relief & Subsidy	12106
		Staff Welfare	4670
		Rent & Taxes	78277
		Repair & Maintenance	139241
		Printing & Stationery	121495
		Tea & Teffin Expenses	38496
		News Papers & Periodicals	30888
		Wages	616350
		Internal Audit Expenses	3082
		Addition to Fixed Assets	78470
		BTR Trust	6426
		F.D.R. with Banks	5103363
		Gujrat Riot Relief Fund	53140
		Gujrat Eqrthquake Relief Fund	11857
		<u>CLOSING BALANCE</u>	
		Cash in hand	115615
		Cash at Banks	<u>897397</u>
			1013012
	<u>8660041</u>		<u>8660041</u>

Note : Figures have been rounded off to the nearest of rupee.

For CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date attached.

For B.M. SHARMA & ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

(PRESIDENT)

(SECRETARY)

(TREASURER)

Place : New Delhi

Dated : 09-07-2004

(B. M. SHARMA)

Partner